



**Summary of Board Meeting #8
Held Tuesday, February 26, 2008**

A. O Canada:  (6:00 p.m.) – *District O Canada Video*

B. Roll Call: All trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The board chair advised that Edmonton Public Schools' 44th Night of Music will be held at the Jubilee Auditorium next week – Wednesday, March 5, 2008. The purpose of this event is to promote the importance of music education and recognize the musical accomplishments of our students. This year's theme is *A World of Music*.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent advised that yesterday, February 25th, he and the Assistant Superintendents, the AISI Project Leadership Teams (including teachers, consultants, and principals – approximately 70 people) spent a day with Dr. Michael Fullan.

Dr. Fullan is an eminent Canadian educational researcher, well known internationally for his research and his current work in the area of system-wide change and improvement. He is currently advisor to Premier McGinty of Ontario providing support, advice and expertise for the educational reforms being undertaken in that province.

It was gratifying to hear Dr. Fullan encourage our AISI project work and acknowledge some of the strengths that this approach has in our district. He also provided solid advice and recommendations for our consideration as we develop our educational plans for the next planning cycle. It was a very valuable day. Dr. Fullan has indicated his interest in continuing to work with us, and we are considering this possibility.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #7 – February 12, 2008 – Approved as printed.

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement at Donnan Elementary/Junior High School

Received for information.

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. Victoria and Balwin Schools Updates

Received for information.

4. Framework for Involvement in Site-Based Decision Making

Received for information.

5. Presentations from Staff Group Representatives re the Proposed 2008-2009 Budget

a) Received verbal reports for information.

b) Heard presentations from Edmonton Public Teachers and a representative of the district's exempt staff.

- Copies of the presentations are available at:

http://www.epsb.ca/board/feb2608_agenda.shtml

c) CUPE Local 474 (custodial staff) will make a presentation at the March 11, 2008 board meeting.

d) CUPE Local 3550 (support staff) will make a presentation at the March 25, 2008 board meeting.

e) CUPE Local 784 (maintenance staff) has declined to make a presentation this year.

f) A copy of the response to the presentations and the presentations themselves will be disseminated to principals and decision unit administrators.

6. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

a) Received for information.

b) Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding what is the largest and smallest high socio-economic needs allocation (TT#56 – page 2).

- c) Trustee Ripley asked that the list of high needs schools in rank order be provided (TT#56 – page 2).
- d) Trustee Huff requested that the writers' only data referred to in Table 2 of the response to TT#57 (page 4) be provided.
- e) Trustee Colburn requested a breakdown of the array of programs offered in the small and large schools listed in Table 5 in response to TT#57 (page 5). Did the programs or students come first in the larger schools?
- f) Trustee Fleming asked that information be provided regarding whether students achieve at a higher standard in smaller school versus a larger school.

7. Bereavement

Received with regret.

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports:

8. Report #5 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held February 19, 2008)

Approved the following amended recommendation: *That the Trustee Protocols first be used for six months and then reviewed by the Community Relations Committee before recommending inclusion in the Trustees' Manual to serve as a guide for future Boards be approved.*

I. Other Trustee Reports – None.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The board heard from the following speakers who spoke on behalf of keeping Woodcroft School open:

- Ms Paty Guajardo Honegger, parent of children attending Woodcroft Elementary School
- Mr. Reg Appleyard, Executive Director for Meadowcroft Housing Society of Edmonton – *Mr. Appleyard will provide information regarding his proposal with respect to Brentwood Homes to the board.*
- Ms Patricia Grell, President Woodcroft Community League
- Mr. Claire Peters from the High Park community – *Mr. Peters will provide information regarding his post-school closure experience to the board.*
- Ms Madeline Rainey spoke regarding Table 2 (page 4) and suggested that the board needs to address the 20 percent of students not meeting the acceptable standard of achievement.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Shipka referred to the public consultation meeting held last night with respect to the possible closure of Ritchie School and asked that responses to the following questions be brought to the next board meeting:
 - Where would the money come from to upgrade Ritchie School?
 - What would the net savings to the district if Ritchie School?
 - Where would the money saved be used; e.g., could it be used for free transportation to designated schools?
2. Trustee Colburn requested a report comparing Coronation, Grovenor and Woodcroft schools, including an explanation as to why Woodcroft is being recommended for closure while the other two schools are not.
3. Trustee Fleming referred to the KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) being used in some American Charter Schools for underachieving students and asked that the following information be provided:
 - An analysis of the effectiveness of the program.
 - What are the possible applications in the district?
 - What would be the challenges and opportunities of offering this as an alternative program in the district?
4. Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding the financial details of closure savings contrasted with the current cost of operating Ritchie and Woodcroft including items such as salaries, transportation and the transfer of dollars to designated schools.
5. Trustee Huff requested that the administration confirm or correct the information regarding the cost per weighted students in small and large schools and report back to the board.

L. Notices of Motion – None.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

N. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.