

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #7 -

Minutes of the board meeting of the trustees of the Edmonton School District No. 7 of the Province of Alberta held in McCauley Chambers in the Centre for Education on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Sue Huff

George Rice
Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock
Bruce Coggles

Ron MacNeil
Tanni Parker
Betty Tams

Rod Kostek
Dean Michailides
Kathy Muhlethaler
Judy Toews

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Employee Representatives:

CUPE Local 3550 – Trudy Grebenstein, President

A. **O Canada** – 

B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood reported that all trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The board chair noted that February 11th to 17th is Random Acts of Kindness Week. The board has endorsed and recognized Random Acts of Kindness Week since 1996. The board encourages everyone to recognize and participate in random acts of kindness week whether it be to help a needy friend or anonymously shovel a neighbour's sidewalk. Hopefully kindness is something we practice throughout the year.

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The board chair noted that on March 3rd Albertans will elect a new provincial government and that February 18th is the deadline for candidates to register for the election. She will send an e-mail message on February 19th, on behalf of the board, to all provincial election candidates, inviting them to respond to a set of questions developed by the Board of Trustees.

The Board has initiated the questionnaire to help ensure public education receives the attention it deserves from the candidates running in the provincial election.

The Board hopes that the responses to the questionnaire will give voters a sense of where the various candidates stand on important educational issues. The list of questions is available on the district website at www.epsb.ca

The candidates' responses received to date will be posted starting February 27th and every effort will be made to post those responses received after that date. The board of trustees urges parents and members of the general public to review the responses so they can discuss them with their candidates.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #6 – January 29, 2008

Trustee Shipka noted on page 7 of the minutes that the next board meeting date should have read February 12, 2008.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #6 held January 29, 2008 be approved as amended.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement at Crawford Plains

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement at Crawford Plains’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Recognition:

3. “An Act to Follow” Staff Recognition Program

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘An Act to Follow Staff Recognition Program’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

H. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

4. Aboriginal Education Policy and Regulation: Implementation Plan

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the report entitled ‘Aboriginal Education Policy and Regulation – Implementation Plan’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Teaching and Learning with Technology

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the report entitled ‘Teaching and Learning with Technology’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The board took a short break at this point.

6. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the report entitled ‘Responses to Trustee Requests for Information’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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I. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

7. Report #2 of the Audit Committee (From the Meeting Held February 5, 2008)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “1. That Report #2 of the Audit Committee from the meeting held February 5, 2008 be received and considered.
2. That the appointment of KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants, as auditors of the Edmonton School District No. 7 for the fiscal year September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008 be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

8. Report #4 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held February 5, 2008)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “1. That Report #4 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held February 5, 2008 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “2. That subject to the approval of the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation and the Minister of Education, a land dedication to the City of Edmonton of 2288.2 m2 of the Ellerslie Campus site, for consideration in the amount of \$80,088.26 be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “3. That the following be confirmed:

That a change order be issued to Binder Construction in the amount of \$1,119,878 for the glazing and aluminum window sub contract to increase the contract value to \$26,556,190 for the Lillian Osborne High School.

That the funds to cover the change order initially come from within the contract contingency amount of \$752,743 with the balance coming from the furniture and equipment allowance for the school.

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That the District request of Alberta Education funds to restore the contingency and furniture and equipment account and that failing approval from Alberta Education to provide the funding that the District request Ministerial approval to use funds from the District's deferred capital allocation reserve."

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

"4. That the administration be authorized to fund from the District's Deferred Capital Allocation account the construction of the District's portion of the shared access road and the parent drop-off bays at Lillian Osborne High School." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

"That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m."

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Gibeault, Gibson, Huff, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustee Fleming

The Motion was CARRIED.

9. 2008-2011 District Priorities

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

"That the 2008-2011 District Priorities be approved."

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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10. Motion re District-Level Foundation

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That the Board establish a district-level foundation as outlined in the April 10, 2007 Board Report – Framework for a District-Level Foundation.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Huff, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustee Fleming, Gibeault and Gibson

The Motion was CARRIED.

- **Other Trustee Reports**

Trustee Gibson advised that he and Trustee Ripley attended a forum sponsored by Public Interest Alberta on early childhood development. He commended Trustee Fleming, who was one of the panellists, for his powerful speech on the district’s support of early childhood development as well as the relevance of public education to respond to local need.

Trustee Colburn relayed the experiences of Delwood School Principal Bob Boruszczak when the school moved to Newton School following the fire at Delwood. Principal Boruszczak commended the collaborative efforts of staff and the community.

Trustee Huff reported that on January 31, 2008 she handed out student recognition awards for citizenship at James Gibbons School.

Trustee Huff reported that on February 1, 2008 she was one of the judges at the Westlawn social dance competition.

Trustee Huff reported that on February 6, 2008 she participated in the winter walk at Westglen School.

Trustee Huff reported that on February 7, 2008 she attended a meeting of the police department for west division which overlaps with Ward C. The Police Chief gave a presentation about their work and how they use public consultation to improve the services of the police to meet the needs of the community.

Trustee Huff reported that on February 11, 2008 she went to Laurier Heights School to meet with the Parent Council.

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Trustee Esslinger reported that on January 30, 2008 she and Trustee Colburn attended a meeting with Former Prime Minister Paul Martin at Amiskwaciy regarding the sponsorship of his business enterprise centre.

Trustee Esslinger reported that on January 31, 2008 she and Trustee Ripley attended the Alberta Computers for Schools celebration. They have donated 100,000 computers to Alberta organizations.

Trustee Esslinger reported that on February 2, 2008 she and Trustees Gibeault and Ripley attended the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual New Year Celebration.

Trustee Esslinger reported that today she and Trustees Ripley and Shipka attended the Kids Help Phone luncheon at City Hall.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The board heard from the following people who urged the board not to close Woodcroft School:

- Ms Marlene Priest, a Woodcroft resident, spoke about the economic development in the Woodcroft area and the collaboration they are undertaking to increase student enrolment.
- Mr. Alan Bolstad, Executive Director of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and a member of the Sherbrooke community, provided his experiences regarding the closure of Sherbrooke School.
- Mr. Jens Biederstandt, parent of a Woodcroft student and recent immigrant to Canada, expressed concern about the lack of information to the community.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Fleming requested that information be provided regarding the current annual costs for health care premiums so that the board can consider what use it can make of those funds should health care premiums be eliminated.

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding the anticipated impact of the 9 ASAP schools on district space:

- Which sectors will see the sharpest increase in unused space?
- Which schools will be impacted in terms of declining enrolment?
- How might this translate into projected school closures by sector?

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Trustee Ripley requested that the following information be provided to assist the board in assessing the Woodcroft situation:

- What are the challenges that low-income families face in supporting their children in the school setting; e.g. busing costs, field trips, school fees, homework challenges, food?
- Educationally, what are the very best practices the district uses to ensure the success of children from low-income families?
- What are the best practices to connect and work positively with these families?

Trustee Rice requested that the response to Trustee Service Request #41 (Provide comparison information re: performance results of elementary schools with less than 140 students with those over 400 students) be brought as an information item to public board.

Trustee Rice requested advice on how the board can acknowledge staff members or their family members who are deploying to Afghanistan in service to our country.

L. **Notices of Motion** – None.

M. **Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

N. **Adjournment:** (10:10 p.m.)

The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary