



**Summary of Board Meeting #11  
Held Tuesday, February 28, 2012**

**A. O Canada:  (2:00 p.m.) – District O Canada Video**

**B. Roll Call:** All Trustees were present.

**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

- The Board Chair advised that "Pink Shirt Day" is February 29<sup>th</sup>. Pink Shirt Day started five years ago following an anti-bullying stand of two grade 12 Nova Scotia students. The students took action after witnessing a grade 9 student being bullied for wearing pink to school and encouraged their schoolmates to wear pink to send a message against bullying. Since then, the Pink Shirt Day Campaign has sent a powerful message that Bullying Stops Here.

In Canada, every seven minutes someone is bullied on a playground in Canada [www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org) A recent University of Guelph Bullying Study found that 50% of Canadian school children report being bullied with 45% of surveyed children feeling unsafe when they go to school. Bullying is demoralizing, wrecks self-esteem and has led to shootings and suicides in Canada. Bullying happens in many different forms but its purpose is to make someone else feel less worthy on purpose. Through awareness and education Canadians can continue to take a stand against bullying.

- The Board Chair advised that Edmonton Public Schools' 48<sup>th</sup> Night of Music will be held at the Jubilee Auditorium next week - Wednesday, March 7, 2012. 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 *United in Song*.

- The Board Chair advised that he participated in a Metro Board Chair’s video conference meeting on February 12, 2012 regarding the March 15, 2012 meeting with Minister of Education. The meeting will focus on the common challenges of the Metro Boards (First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI), English Language Learners (ELL) and full-day kindergarten). They will also discuss working together to highlight education in the upcoming provincial election.
- The Board Chair advised that, on February 21, 2012 he attended the Schools as Hubs Project event at Balwin School. Minister Lukaszuk was also in attendance. McCauley and Balwin’s Transition Centres are the joint effort of EPSB and partners including the City of Edmonton Community Services, YMCA, United Way, Edmonton Public Library and the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. Balwin and McCauley’s Transition Centres are facilitated via REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities, as sites for the Schools as Community Hubs Initiative. The two “hubs” designed to educate and integrate newcomer students and their families.
- The Board Chair advised that, this morning, he attended Sun to Soil video conference at Amiskwaciy Academy. Students from Jasper Place, Queen Elizabeth and Amiskwaciy Academy participated in the conference which focused on how the wisdom of Aboriginal traditions can help build a sustainable world. The three schools joined students and educators from across North America via video conference to discuss Aboriginal wisdom traditions and the current state of the world. They were joined by experts such as Dr. Jane Goodall, Chief Gordon Planes of the T’Sou-ke First Nations and members of the David Suzuki Foundation. The conference included a solar lantern workshop by creator Steve O’Gorman, and an indigenous gardening presentation on permaculture, where students will create their own vermiculture (indoor worm-based composting systems) to take back to schools. The completed solar lanterns were donated to the Attawapiskat First Nations in Ontario, as well as to Haiti and to parts of Africa where Dr. Jane Goodall operates.

**D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.**

**E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #10 – February 14, 2012

Approved as amended. Trustee Colburn’s request for information with respect to pesticide use in the district (pages 11 and 12) was withdrawn at his request. He submitted a revised request at the end of the meeting.

**F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – None.**

**G. Tracking Progress and Excellence in the 2011-2014 Priorities**

2. SLISE (Student Led Initiatives for Sustainability Education)

Received for information.

**H. Reports**

3. Process and Timeline for 2012-2013 Planning

Approved recommendation.

4. Update re Achievement Performance of Students from Closed Schools  
(Response to Trustee Request #137)

5. Leasing Costs  
(Response to Trustee Request #159)

6. School Closure Moratorium Committee Recommendations  
(Response to Trustee Request #168)

Received for information.

7. Bereavement

Received with regret.

**I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**

*This information will be included in the minutes of the February 28, 2012 board meeting.*

**J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – None.**

**K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information**

- Trustee MacKenzie In light of Board Policy FO.BP - Environment, and the inspiring student lead initiatives for environmental sustainability taking place across the district, what initiatives could be implemented at a district-wide level over the next 3, 5 & 10 years to effectively reduce our District's impact on the environment?

- Trustee Ripley      By sectors, provide a list of the school buildings in the district that could accommodate 275 or more students plus dedicated space for a before- and after-school care provider plus dedicated space for 0-5 years early learning and/or daycare providers plus space to offer other services/programming to support families, adult learners, and/or the community. Also, provide the facility rating (poor, fair, good) for said buildings.
- Trustee Hoffman      Provide a five-year breakdown showing the number of students, provincial allocation and district allocation for students with moderate and severe educational needs.
- Trustee Colburn      What are the legal and practical implications of the new *Education Act*?
- Colburn      Provide the following information regarding pesticide use in the district:

  1. What practices are currently engaged in managing turf and other outdoor spaces on district school properties?
  2. Can we categorize the different uses of pesticides on school property as being either essential (for health purposes) or non-essential (for cosmetic and aesthetic purposes)?
  3. What alternatives are there for pesticide use that would be deemed non-essential?
  4. What maintenance approaches have school boards taken in jurisdictions where pesticide bans have been implemented (or where school boards have developed their own pesticide policies)?
  5. What would be the costs and implications associated with making the district pesticide free? How many district schools are currently pesticide free?

## **L. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Spencer served notice of the following motion: *Building on the Elevate Report recommendations, that the District develop a 20-year infrastructure plan, in conjunction with communities, other levels of government and school boards, to enrich life-long learning opportunities and provide supports for children and families, and which may include renewal of existing facilities, modernizations, consolidations, replacement schools, cross-district partnerships, expansions, right-sizing and new school construction. The plan should include some small schools in the spirit of the District's commitment to offering choice for families. Trustees will contribute to creating effective public engagement around this work, with the Moratorium Committee providing oversight, and its terms of reference shall be considered amended to include this function.*

Trustee Janz served notice of the following motion: *In alignment with District Priority 4 (promote health and wellness for all students and staff) over the next three years, the District shall develop active transportation plans for all schools to support safe and healthy transportation options for students. These plans shall be shared with school councils and progress will be reported to the board in conjunction with our annual reports.*

Trustee Janz served notice of the following motion: *Planning in the District shall continue to emphasize the importance of providing excellent educational opportunities experiences for all children and supporting neighbourhood schools to serve children and communities. The Board shall continue to advocate at the municipal level for urban renewal through new family-friendly housing and at the provincial level for adequate maintenance and infrastructure funding.*

*Leading up to the expiration of the Moratorium in November 2012, the Administration shall work with stakeholders, including students, parents, community members, tenants and other levels of government, to bring forward recommendations in December 2012 to take effect September 2013 for consolidation, expansions, right-sizing schools, space sharing with other districts, or replacement schools, including the possibility of school closure, using the following criteria:*

- a. Consider schools that are located in the same city neighbourhood as, or less than 700 meters from another EPSB school and where there is comfortably enough space to bring together students in one facility while continuing to offer the existing range of grades and programming options.*
- b. Consider schools which do not offer regular programming and which have an enrolment of less than 100 students.*
- c. Consider schools which draw from an attendance area where there are less than 80 EPSB students residing at the elementary or junior high levels.*

*The Administration shall also conduct programming fit reviews at schools where a regular or alternative programming stream has enrollment of less than 80 students.*

*This work shall be informed by the District Priorities, with an emphasis on equity and healthy transportation, as well as the work of the Moratorium Committee, previous public consultation processes, and the recommendations included in the Elevate report to support strong schools and strong communities.*

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion: *That the Administration create a Student Advisory Council to meet with the Board and Administration at least twice a year to provide student perspective on education issues.*

**M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.**

**N. Duration of Meeting: 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**