



Summary of Board Meeting #5 Tuesday, January 11, 2005

- A. **O Canada** – District Video.
- B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.) - All trustees were present.
- C. **Communications from the Board Chairman**
1. The chairman recognized the tremendous devastation caused by the Tsunami to countries such as India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. In the face of this tragedy, schools and central service departments, staff and students are organizing a variety of innovative fundraising efforts to assist those in need. These events will continue over the next few weeks.
 2. The chairman also recognized the passing of Her Honour, The Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable Lois E. Hole on January 6th. Mrs. Hole was a lifelong advocate of education, serving as a trustee with the Sturgeon School Division, and later with St. Albert School District #6. She also served as a member of the Athabasca University Governing Council and Chancellor of the University of Alberta. She was a strong supporter of Edmonton Public Schools and attended many school events. Her interest in the work of teaching and learning and her love of reading was inspirational for district staff, students and parents. She will be sadly missed by the board, the district and all Albertans.
- The board then observed a moment of silence.
- D. **Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**
1. The superintendent spoke with respect to today's Edmonton Journal article regarding class size and distributed the following chart comparing the numbers of students per class for core courses for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. He noted that information contained in the Journal article did not provide a comparison of like courses. He added that the district has made significant progress in reducing class sizes and has met the class size requirements of Alberta Education and the recommendations of the Learning Commission.

Numbers of Students per Class for Core Courses for 2003-04 and 2004-05

Grade Range	K-3	4-6	7-9	10-12		
				Other High Schools	Centre High	Total
Over 40 this year	0	0	0	0	22	22
Over 40 last year	0	0	0	7	21	28
36-40 this year	0	2	2	8	35	43
36-40 last year	0	7	6	143	50	193
31-35 this year	10	40	284	477	20	497
31-35 last year	95	208	693	624	11	635

- This data includes all classes identified as core (L.A., Math, Science and Social Studies)
 - A homeroom in which 4 core subjects were taken is counted as 4 classes
 - A homeroom in which 3 core subjects were taken is counted as 3 classes, etc.
 - Special needs core classes are included
2. The superintendent referred to today's media reports with respect to the Passive Drug Dog pilot project. He noted that parents (through school councils) were consulted in November and December and expressed tremendous support for this pilot project that emphasizes drug education – not student searches. This pilot project involves Edmonton Police Services and both the Edmonton Public and Catholic School boards. He noted that while this pilot project focuses on education about drug awareness, the Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the right of school boards to conduct student searches.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #4 – December 14, 2004 - Approved as printed.

F. Focus on Student Achievement

2. George H. Luck School – Focus on Writing

Received for information.

G. Reports:

3. Motion re Parent Conference Literacy and Learning Day

- a) Ms Susan O'Neil, Fundraising Coordinator Literacy and Learning Day, spoke in support of the motion.
- b) The motion was defeated.
- c) The following motion was approved: *That the board direct the Community Relations Committee to work with a committee from the administration to prepare a report for the board's consideration outlining guidelines that could be adopted governing the handling of future sponsorship and partnership requests.*

4. GBE.BP – Health and Safety of Students and Staff

Approved recommendation.

5. Accountability Pillars and the Renewed Funding Framework

Received for information.

6. First Quarterly Report: September 1, 2004 to November 30, 2004

Received for information.

7. Plant Operations and Maintenance Funding Background

Received for information.

8. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

Received for information.

9. Bereavement

Received for information.

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports

• **Community Relations Activities**

The chairman advised that he would be providing trustees with a copy of the Metro Boards Study materials in advance of the next conference committee meeting and asked for trustee feedback.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – None.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson requested a report to board prior to budget deliberations that would:

- **Identify all the various programs for academically gifted students offered within the district,**
- **Explain how the district allocates funds to support these programs and annual changes to the allocation policy and funding formula within the past 3 years (including the current school year), and**
- **Summarize the enrolment in each of these programs for each of the past 3 years (including the current school year).**

***Provide this data specific to the Academic Challenge program in the event that this program is no longer recognized by that name.**

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motions:

1. *That an ad hoc committee be created consisting of board, district and community representatives to study and make recommendations on the Daily Physical Activity initiative introduced last year by Alberta Education.*
2. *That the administration prepare a report on the feasibility, details and timeframe of eliminating the sale of junk food in Edmonton Public Schools.*
3. *That a letter be drafted to convey the number of classes and students on the high end of the averaging formula at Edmonton Public Schools and that the Edmonton Public School Board under the signature of the chairman is greatly concerned at the large numbers of students remaining in unacceptably large classes.*

L. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

M. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.