

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

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

**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

1. The Board Chair requested that Section H of the agenda be dealt with prior to Section G.

The Board concurred with the reordering of the agenda.

2. The Board Chair advised that, at the January 13, 2009 board meeting, the Board referred consideration of a motion to establish a comprehensive environmental policy to a meeting of the Committee of the Whole at the Trustee Retreat on January 19 & 20.

The Board of Trustees agreed to address the issue of an environmental policy within its Strategic Work Plan and will be reported on at a later date.

3. The Board Chair advised that the Board acknowledges the receipt of a petition at the end of the January 13, 2009 Board meeting requesting the Establishment of a Special Needs Task Force.

The petition has been reviewed and although the petition does not meet the requirements of a petition under the *School Act*, the petition has been made available to all Trustees.

The Board will be taking the request under advisement and will consider its response at the next public board meeting.

#### **D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

1. The Superintendent advised that, on January 22, 2009, several district staff members attended the meeting held by the Canadian Language and Learning Network. This Network is working to establish national awareness of ongoing literacy needs of children and adults. A further invitation was extended to participants to provide a brief submission of ways organizations are supporting literacy. The Administration is considering a possible submission to the Network as a way of supporting its work.
2. The Superintendent advised that, this morning, he attended the Leading in Literacy breakfast, established by the Centre for Family Literacy. It was an opportunity to recognize two adults who were successful in their search and acquisition of literacy. The enormous efforts of caring adults who helped these two young men achieve their goals were recognized. Literacy advocate, Randy Boissonnault, spoke of how literacy is achieved through collective efforts. The Centre for Family Literacy serves over 5,000 families in the Edmonton area on a budget of \$2 million and with a host of volunteers. This event affirmed the District's alliance with the Centre for Family Literacy and our mutual goals of literacy for all.

#### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #8 – January 13, 2009  
Approved as amended (correction on page 8).

#### **F. Improving Student Achievement:**

2. Improving Student Achievement Through Personnel Services – Staff Development
  - a) Received for information.
  - b) The Administration undertook to provide information to Trustees regarding the February 27<sup>th</sup> custodial staff development session.

#### **H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports:**

4. Report #6 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held January 20, 2009)  
Approved recommendation.
5. Board Policy Review – GB.BP Authority for Personnel Decisions  
Approved recommendation.

6. Board Policy Review – GBC.BP Employee Relations  
Approved recommendation.
7. Board Policy Review – GIA.BP Pensions  
Approved recommendation.
8. Board Policy Review – GJ.BP Staff Leaves of Absence  
Approved recommendation.
9. Board Policy Review – GM.BP Acknowledgement of Deaths and Bereavements  
Approved recommendation.

#### **G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools**

3. Response to Trustee Request for Information  
Received for information.

#### **I. Other Trustee Reports:**

1. Trustee Fleming noted that Mr. Don Bittorf, architect for the Centre for Education, passed away December 4, 2008 in Vancouver.
2. Trustee Huff advised that the report from the Ad Hoc Committee to Review School Closure and Sustainability Review Processes that was scheduled for January (as per the Committee's Terms of Reference) will be presented at the end of February. She noted that the Committee had recommended that a public board meeting be set aside to review the findings.
3. Trustee Huff advised that she had attended a first aid training course at the Centre for Education on January 15 and 16, 2009 along with a number of staff members.
4. Trustee Huff advised that, on January 21, 2009, she and the Board Chair attended the launch of the Olweus Anti-Bullying Program at Glenora School. It was sponsored by the Evan Grykuliak Memorial Society.
5. Trustee Huff advised that, on January 22, 2009, she had also attended the National Strategy on Early Literacy program mentioned by the Superintendent earlier in the meeting.

6. Trustee Huff advised that, today, she was at Westglen School. The school made a donation to the Ryan's Well Foundation which is an organization that is building wells in Africa. She noted that a seven year old boy in grade 2 at Garneau School, Finn Case, has set a personal goal of raising \$28,000 to build 3 wells in Africa. He is only \$4,000 short of his goal. He started to raise money in kindergarten. He spoke to the children at Westglen. Westglen School raised \$1250 to add to Finn's efforts.
7. Trustee Ripley advised that, on January 24, 2009, she attended Family Literacy Day at City Hall. The Centre for Family Literacy was attempting to break a world record for the most children and adults reading together in multiple locations across Canada. She noted Nellie McClung students attended the event as volunteers. Principals Pat Dougherty and Robin Preece were in attendance as official counters of the numbers of people reading.
8. Trustee Ripley advised that, last week, she attended a meeting of the Aboriginal Education Action Circle which is connected with Wicihitowin which is the Circle of Shared Responsibility and Stewardship. The purpose of the Circle is to build, promote and strengthen new and existing partnerships aimed at addressing community-identified, current and emerging priorities of education issues for the urban Aboriginal community. Two members of the district staff were also in attendance.
9. Trustee Esslinger advised that she and Trustees Huff and Ripley attended the Parents as Partners Event on January 25, 2009 at the Fantasyland Hotel. The event was a Presentation by Lieutenant-General The Honourable Romeo A. Dallaire. She noted that over 600 parents were in attendance.
10. Trustee Esslinger advised that, on January 26, 2009, she and Trustees Huff and Shipka attended the Official Opening of the Citizen and New Arrival Information Centre at City Hall.

#### **J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

Trudy Grebenstein, President CUPE Local 3550, noted the correction to report 2.

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

1. Trustee Gibson requested that information be provided regarding the different methods of instruction in Math and different forms of assessment for and of learning in Math.

The Board concurred with the request for information.

2. Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding how stress is impacting the District's disabilities claims and what measures are being taken to address this challenge.

The Board concurred with the request for information.

**L. Notices of Motion – None.**

**M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**

**N. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.**