

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #8 -

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, January 13, 2009 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

Dean Power
Betty Tams

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Staff Group Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers – Mark Ramsankar, President
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 requested that Section H of the agenda be dealt with prior to Section G.

The Board concurred with the reordering of the agenda.

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D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that he, Assistant Superintendent Donna Barrett and Director Gloria Chalmers will be presenting the District's work in relation to the Early Development Instrument (EDI) and its implementation in the District and provincially at a national forum in Montreal at the end of January. The Pan-Canadian Summit, as it is called, is hosted by the Council for Early Child Development. The theme of the conference is *Building Alliances for Children: Information – Inspiration – Interaction*.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #7 – December 9, 2008

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #7 held December 9, 2008 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement at Highlands Junior High School

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement at Highlands Junior High School’ be received for information.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

5. Motion re Geothermal Heating

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the administration provide a report to Board on current District practices and knowledge regarding geothermal heating and how it might be applied in the District.”

The Motion was approved by General Consent.

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6. Motion re Environmental Policy

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the Administration create an overarching environmental policy.”

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the motion be referred to the Trustee Retreat for broader discussion.”

The Board Chair called the question on the Referral Motion.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Rice and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault, Huff and Shipka

The Referral Motion was CARRIED.

7. Board Policy Review – GB.BP Authority for Personnel Decisions

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“1. That revised Board Policy GB.BP Authority for Personnel Decisions be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“2. That revised Board Policy GB.BP Authority for Personnel Decisions be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“3. That revised Board Policy GB.BP Authority for Personnel Decisions be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

8. Board Policy Review – GBC.BP Employee Relations

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“1. That revised Board Policy GBC.BP Liaison Committees be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“2. That revised Board Policy GBC.BP Liaison Committees be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “3. That revised Board Policy GBC.BP Liaison Committees be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

9. Board Policy Review – GIA.BP Pensions

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “1. That revised Board Policy GIA.BP Pensions be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “2. That revised Board Policy GIA.BP Pensions be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “3. That revised Board Policy GIA.BP Pensions be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

10. Board Policy Review – GJ.BP Staff Leaves of Absence

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “1. That the reaffirmation of Board Policy GJ.BP Staff Leaves of Absence be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “2. That the reaffirmation of Board Policy GJ.BP Staff Leaves of Absence be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “3. That the reaffirmation of Board Policy GJ.BP Staff Leaves of Absence be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

11. Board Policy Review – GM.BP Acknowledgement of Deaths and Bereavements

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “1. That the reaffirmation of Board Policy GM.BP Acknowledgement of Deaths and Bereavements be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

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- “2. That the reaffirmation of Board Policy GM.BP Acknowledgement of Deaths and Bereavements be considered for the first time.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “3. That the reaffirmation of Board Policy GM.BP Acknowledgement of Deaths and Bereavements be considered for the second time.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. Response to Trustee Motion Regarding Continuation of Early Education Funding for Students with Severe Disabilities

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

- “That the report entitled ‘Response to Trustee Motion Regarding Continuation of Early Education Funding for Students with Severe Disabilities’ be received for information.”**

Trustee Ripley suggested the idea of MLAs being given tours of some of the District’s early education sites, such as K.I.D.S. North, be considered at the Trustee Retreat in terms of the Board’s Strategic Plan or by the Government Relations Committee for an advocacy plan.

The Board concurred with the item being considered at the Trustee Retreat.

Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided regarding the costs for the continuation of funding for students with severe disabilities who had received early education funding.

The Board concurred with the request for information.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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4. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

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

I. Other Trustee Reports

Trustee Fleming noted that he is the Education Faculty Representative on the University of Alberta Alumni Council and advised that the Alumni Council presented scholarships for academic achievement and service to the community at a recent luncheon he attended to the following former EPSB students:

- Lindsay Jantzie, Faculty of Medicine, 2006 BSC Alumni Advantage Award (attended Harry Ainlay School)
- Amanda Perry, Faculty of Arts, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Leadership Award (attended McNally School)
- Sing-Chi Lam, Faculty of Science, Alumni Advantage Award (attended Old Scona School)

Trustee Fleming noted that, when he spoke to the award winners, each referenced the importance of their principals and school staff. He believed that these students are proof that at Edmonton Public Schools “Bright Futures Begin Here”.

Trustees concurred with sending letters of congratulations from the Board Chair to the University of Alberta Alumni Council scholarship recipients.

Trustee Colburn advised that this morning he participated in a webinar sponsored by the International School Health Network on the subject of an examination of monitoring and reporting practices of school health in the United States. It is the first of six webinars on this subject matter that will examine practices all over the world.

Trustee Huff advised that before Christmas she served as Santa’s elf. She commended Mac Fysh for his spirit of volunteerism for visiting many district schools over the years as Santa.

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Trustee Esslinger advised that she had attended a joint media event on January 8, 2009 with Edmonton Catholic Schools to honour the Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth for their donation of Automated External Defibrillators to every Edmonton high school. There was also a demonstration of a defibrillator at the event.

Trustee Esslinger noted that last week she and Trustees Huff, Ripley and Colburn attended the K.I.D.S. North staff event.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Madeline Rainey presented the Board with a petition signed by 235 people requesting that the Board establish a special needs task force.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding the recidivism rate of students who have received out-of-school suspensions.

Trustee Gibson further requested that information also be provided regarding district and school policies with respect to suspensions; e.g. what are those schools that have implemented no suspensions doing in lieu.

The Board concurred with the requests for information.

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding what changes would need to be made to reach our goal of a 1-hour one-way ride time for special education needs students including the cost implications.

Trustee Gibson further requested that information be provided regarding the impact of parental choice on ride times as well as the expected impact on ride times of the new schools opening September 2010.

The Board concurred with the requests for information.

Trustee Esslinger asked if district schools are marked with wheelchair accessibility signs.

The Board concurred with the request for information.

L. Notices of Motion – None.

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M. **Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, January 27, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.

N. **Adjournment:** (8:00 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary