

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #5 -

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 15, 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

Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock
Bruce Coggles

Ron MacNeil
Tanni Parker
Betty Tams

Dave Jones
Eddie Mah
Brad Mamchur
Lori Price-Wagner

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers – Mark Ramsankar, President
CUPE Local 474 – Doug Luellman, 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 reported on her trip to China in December with the superintendent, Director of Curriculum Stuart Wachowicz, Curriculum Supervisor Sandy Forster, Consultant Iris Xu and teacher Mian Xie.

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During this trip, the board successfully reached and signed two agreements. One was with China's National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (HANBAN) for the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. The other was an agreement with the Shandong Province Ministry of Education, opening possibilities for student, staff and principal exchanges. They are very interested in the district's successes in second language instruction.

There is a potential for other agreements to be developed as the group met with several delegations representing Chinese universities and publishing houses. An invitation has been extended for officials from the Communications University of China to visit the district which may lead to an agreement to develop an oral proficiency component of Chinese language tests.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent advised that two district English teachers, Brent McKeown, English Department Head at Harry Ainlay, and Scott Horton, Department Head of Student Leadership at Ross Sheppard School have had a chapter of their work on high school assessment included in a book entitled *What is Working in High Schools*. The chapter is entitled "Reading Our Students – A Foundation for Meaningful Assessment".

The book is about classroom assessment and has been edited by Anne Davies. Ms Davies is a well-known and respected researcher as well as teacher in the area of assessment. She has visited the district a number of times as well as many other districts across Canada and the United States. He added that there were very few Canadian authors included in the book and he commended both teachers.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #4 – December 11, 2007

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

"That the minutes of Board Meeting #4 held December 11, 2007 be approved as printed." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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F. Improving Student Achievement

2. Improving Student Achievement at Parkdale Elementary/Junior High School

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

**“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement at Parkdale Elementary/Junior High School’ be received for information.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. School Year Calendar 2009-2010

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the 2009-2010 school year calendar be approved.”

The board chair called the question.

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

OPPOSED: Trustee Shipka

The Motion was CARRIED.

4. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

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

The board took a short break at this point.

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H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

5. Report #3 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held January 8, 2008)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “1. That report #3 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held January 8, 2008 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustees Huff and Rice left for the next item due to a potential conflict of interest.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “2. That the Memorandum of Agreement for a five-year collective agreement with Edmonton Public Teachers Local 37 of the Alberta Teachers’ Association (Teaching Staff) from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2012 be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustees Huff and Rice returned at this point in the meeting.

6. Motion re Ad Hoc Committee to Review School Closure Process

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That an ad hoc committee of the board be established to review the school closure process and impose a one-year moratorium on the closure of any district school until this review is complete and recommendations stemming from the review have been duly considered by the board.

The scope of the committee’s review shall include, but not be limited to:

- **broad consultations with the public to determine their support for school closures**
- **evaluating the full impact of school closures on community**
- **evaluating EPSB policies to ensure equity in the promotion of all district schools**
- **evaluating EPSB policies regarding capping school sizes to facilitate a more even distribution of students**
- **transparently identifying the actual savings of closing a school**
- **assessing current research on the value of a small school versus a big school education**

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- **reconsidering the timelines in the current sustainability review process to allow schools sufficient time to implement ideas before initiating the school closure process**
 - **exploring expanded interagency and intergovernmental partnerships to support schools with declining enrolment**
- and most importantly:**
- **fully explore options other than school closure to respond to declining enrolment**

The board heard from the following speakers:

Donita Couto
Martha Gable
Gerry Hofs
Cynthia Stobbe
Grant Stobee
Nick Morra
Keri Walmsley

Trustee Colburn offered a friendly amendment to divide the motion into two parts so that the motion would read:

1. **That an ad hoc committee of the board be established to review the school closure process.**
2. **That a one-year moratorium on the closure of any district school be imposed.**

The friendly amendment was accepted by general consent.

Trustee Shipka offered the following friendly amendment to Recommendation #1.

1. **That an ad hoc committee of the board be established to review the school closure process and report back to board within one year.**

The friendly amendment was accepted by general consent.

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MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That Recommendation #1 be amended by substituting the following motion:

- 1. That an ad hoc committee of the board be established to explore innovative infrastructure options in collaboration with our stakeholders and to report back to board within one year; and,**
- 2. That the committee be charged with determining the terms of reference and scope with a recommendation to be brought to the conference committee no later than March 2008; and,**
- 3. That the board select the membership of the committee at the next conference meeting in February so that all or some trustees may consider being a part of the ad hoc committee.”**

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That Trustee Esslinger’s amendment to Recommendation #1 be substituted with the following motion:

- “1. That an ad hoc committee of the board be established to review the school closure process and all issues related to this matter as determined by the board and that the composition of the ad hoc committee be determined at the next conference committee and reported back to public board.”**

Trustee Shipka offered a friendly amendment to Trustee Colburn’s substitute amendment by adding sustainability reviews to the committee’s review so that the substitute motion would read:

- “1. That an ad hoc committee of the board be established to review the school closure and sustainability review processes and all issues related to this matter as determined by the board and that the composition of the ad hoc committee be determined at the next conference committee.”**

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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The board chair called the question on amending Recommendation #1 with the following substitute motion:

- “1. That an ad hoc committee of the board be established to review the school closure and sustainability review processes and all issues related to this matter as determined by the board and that the composition of the ad hoc committee be determined at the next conference committee.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault, Huff, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson and Rice

The amendment by substitute motion was **CARRIED**.

The board chair called the question on Recommendation #1 as amended.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Huff, Gibeault, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson and Rice

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

The board chair called the question on Recommendation #2.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault, Huff and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Rice and Ripley

The Motion was **DEFEATED**.

- Other Trustee Reports

Trustee Huff noted that she was Santa’s elf in December visiting Westglen, Mayfield and Coronation schools.

Trustee Huff noted the district priorities committee has been busy meeting with stakeholders.

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Trustee Huff attended a number of Christmas concerts – one at the Winspear for the Winterfest concert for Victoria School, the McKay Avenue Christmas Concert and concerts at Youngstown and Meadowlark.

Trustee Rice noted that he had attended a consulting services leadership session on January 11, 2007. The topic of the session was improving student results and the guest speaker was Dr. Mike Schmoker, a leading expert in North America.

Trustee Esslinger noted that she had attended the opening of the University Downtown Enterprise Centre.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mr. Mark Ramsankar, president Edmonton Public Teachers, advised that the idea of five years of stability on the labour front is appealing to teachers and he looks forward to working with the board in collaboration with all staff groups to support the education of students.

The board chair noted that the board is also looking forward to working together during the next five years.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson referred to the January 11, 2008 TM regarding the enrolment projections for 2008-2009. He requested clarification of which divisions the projected decline in enrolment are likely to occur.

K. Notices of Motion – None.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: (9:50 p.m.)

The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary