

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #14 -

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, May 27, 2008 at 6:10 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
Betty Tams

Pat Davidson
Phillip Grehan
Dave Jones
Rod Kostek
Jennifer Lawley
Eddie Mah
Brad Mamchur

Dean Michailides
Jane Moore
Kathy Muhlethaler
Elizabeth Norris-Kartz
Lori Price-Wagner
Judy Toews

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers: Mark Ramsankar, President
CUPE Local 3550: Trudy Grebenstein, President

A. **O Canada** –  *District DVD*

B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood reported that all trustees were present.

MINUTE BOOK

C. Communications from the Board Chair – None.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent advised that a delegation, including two economists, from Peru was visiting to see how education is delivered across Alberta, particularly in Edmonton Public Schools.

The superintendent advised he spent time today with a delegation from the United Kingdom that is visiting with Alberta Education learning about the provincial education system. The delegation is also interested in the district's model of distributed leadership and alternative programs we offer.

The superintendent advised that he attended a Canadian Education Association CEO's forum. A small group of superintendents from Vancouver to Halifax participated in the forum to discuss in depth the challenge of providing programming for adolescent students at the junior and senior high level. He indicated he would share information from the forum with district staff in the coming weeks and moving into next year.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #13 – May 13, 2008

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #13 held May 13, 2008 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement at Hardisty School

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement at Hardisty School’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MINUTE BOOK

G. Recognition:

3. Margaret T. Stevenson Talented Young Writer Award Recipient: Noel Toma from Westmount School

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the report entitled ‘Margaret T. Stevenson Talented Young Writer Award Recipient: Noel Toma from Westmount School’ be received for information.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

H. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

4. Longitudinal Effects of Full-Day Kindergarten Through to Grade Six

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the report entitled ‘Longitudinal Effects of Full-Day Kindergarten Through to Grade Six’ be received for information.”

Trustee Gibeault requested that information be provided regarding the research that has been done in Alberta regarding full-day kindergarten.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MINUTE BOOK

5. 2008-2009 Non-Resident Fees

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “1. That the following costs which form the basis for establishing the resources to be recovered as part of agreements entered into with other Alberta school jurisdictions to provide educational programs for their special needs resident students be approved:**

Level	Category of Student	Total Cost
Level 5	Communication, ELL Foreign Born Refugee, Gifted & Talented Extensions, Learning Disability, Literacy, Mild Cognitive Disability, Moderate Emotional/Behavioral, Hearing, Multiple, Visual Disability, Non-verbal Learning Disability, Strategies	11,838
Level 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical, or Medical Disability	13,259
Level 7	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Emotional/Behavioural, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	23,356
Level 8	Autistic, Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	32,863
All	Transportation	Cost

MINUTE BOOK

2. That the following costs which form the basis for establishing the resources to be recovered as part of agreements entered into to provide programming for students who are Canadian citizens who are not residents of Alberta be approved:

Allocation Level	Total Cost
Level 1 Kindergarten	3,600
Level 1	6,651
Level 2	6,834
Level 3	8,247
Level 4	8,295
Level 5	12,388
Level 6	13,809
Level 7	23,906
Level 8	33,413
Transportation	Cost

3. That an International Student Tuition Fee of \$11,000 be approved for the 2009-2010 school year.
4. That the International Student Application Fee of \$250 be approved.
5. That the Homestay Registration Fee of \$750 be approved.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The board took a short break at this point.

MINUTE BOOK

6. Board Review of 2008-2009 Plans and Expenditures Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘Board Review of 2008-2009 Plans and Expenditures Budget’ be received for information.”

a) Discussion of 2008-2009 Plans and the 2008-2009 Budget

- Discussion of and questions arising from school budget reviews
 - elementary schools
 - elementary-junior high schools
 - junior high schools
 - senior high schools
- Discussion of and questions arising from central services budget reviews

Trustees commented on the trends and concerns identified at the school and central service budget review meetings.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

- b) Trustee Motions for Amendments to the 2008-2009 Budget
- c) Consideration of Trustee Motions to the 2008-2009 Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That \$20,000 be allocated from the amount for board initiatives for costs associated with board representation.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Huff and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Rice and Ripley

The Motion was DEFEATED.

MINUTE BOOK

7. Approval of the Proposed 2008-2009 Expenditures Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “1. That the 2008-2009 proposed planning base be revised to \$738,809,000 be approved.**

- 2. That the 2008-2009 proposed expenditures budget for \$738,809,000 be approved.”**

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

8. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

- “That the report entitled ‘Responses to Trustee Requests for Information’ be received for information.”**

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

9. Bereavement

The board vice-chair reported on the death of Mrs. Bozena (Bo) Shanahan, a member of the district’s teaching staff.

MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Gibeault:

- “That the report be received with regret and the actions of the administration in this regard be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

I. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

10. Report #11 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting May 13, 2008)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “1. That Report #11 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held May 13, 2008 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “2. That the designation of Caroline Skinner as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.**

- 3. That the designation of Rick Pease as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.**

- 4. That the designation of Darlene Eerkes as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.”**

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “5. That the board send a letter to the Minister of Education requesting an update on the feasibility study regarding moving the high school diploma exams from mid-January to mid-December indicating we have also heard this idea expressed by post-secondary institutions as a possible alignment of our systems to allow Alberta students to enter post-secondary institutions in January. Also, that a copy of this letter be sent to Alberta post-secondary institutions that attended the meeting with the board in January 2008.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Report #12 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting May 27, 2008)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “1. That Report #12 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held May 27, 2008 be received and considered.”**

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “2. Develop an Edmonton Public School “Ready for the Future” certificate/portfolio to complement the Alberta High School Diploma (aka Expanding our Measures of Achievement and Our Ways of Recognizing Success).” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

MINUTE BOOK

- “3. That the Board approve presenting the following emergent motion to the ASBA for consideration at the 2008 Spring AGM: *Be it resolved, that the Alberta School Boards Association urge the Government of Alberta to establish a high profile task force on health and learning in schools, with broad participation from groups involved in health and learning and with a mandate to develop a model policy for a comprehensive approach to health and learning in schools and school systems.*”

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Fleming and Ripley

The Motion was CARRIED.

11. Motion re Free Transportation for Woodcroft/Ritchie Schools Students

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That students currently attending and residing in the attendance area for Woodcroft/Ritchie Schools be provided with free transportation to their designated school for the duration of their elementary (Woodcroft) or junior high (Ritchie) schooling.”

Trustee Gibson suggested that the recommendation be split into two parts – one dealing with students from Woodcroft School and the other with students from Ritchie School.

The amendment was accepted as friendly by general consent.

The board chair called the question on Recommendation 1. “That students currently attending and residing in the attendance area for Woodcroft School be provided with free transportation to their designated school for the duration of their elementary schooling.”

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MINUTE BOOK

The board chair called the question on Recommendation 2: “That students currently attending and residing in the attendance area for Ritchie School be provided with free transportation to their designated school for the duration of their junior high schooling.”

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

J. Other Trustee Reports

Trustee Gibeault reported that he had represented the board yesterday at the 14th Canadian Skills Canada Competition in Calgary in which a number of district schools participated. He provided a copy of the program to trustees.

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

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

Trustee Huff reported that, this week, she brought greetings on behalf of the board at the Ross Sheppard Graduation Ceremony. She also noted that she provided condolences on behalf of the board to the family, students and staff affected by the loss of one of the graduates.

Trustee Huff reported that, today, she presented a Prime Minister’s Award Certificate of Achievement to Dovercourt Grade 6 Teacher Leane Topma.

Trustee Colburn advised that Parkdale and Prince Charles schools are among twenty schools across Canada receiving an Indigo Love of Reading Foundation Grant. Principal Hanson of Parkdale advised that the some of the money will be used to take the students on a field trip to the Indigo Store at West Edmonton Mall to allow students the opportunity to purchase two books each to restock the school’s library.

Trustee Colburn advised that McKernan, Earl Buxon and Balwin schools are the first district winners of the Health and Wellness grants to support healthy school communities.

Trustee Ripley advised that today she had attended the Roots of Empathy Program celebration. The mission of the program is to build caring, peaceful and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults. This involves a class adopting a baby for a year. The baby comes to the class once per month and the students see how the baby changes and grows. There are more than twenty schools involved in this program. She noted that she purchased a book by Mary Gordon, the founder of the program, and it is available for trustees or members of the administration should they wish to read it.

MINUTE BOOK

Trustee Ripley advised that she had attended the ASBA Zone 23 general meeting on Friday, May 23, 2008. Zone 23 voted on the six directives for action the Zone will take forward to the ASBA Spring Meeting in early June. One of the directives being taken forward is from our district with respect to the province wide use of the early development instrument (EDI) and community mapping. Other directives for action include:

- That the ASBA urge the Minister to provide adequate, sustainable, equitable and predictable resources that are not reliant upon the writing of proposals to acquire funds.
- That the ASBA urge the provincial government to make the training of speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, mental health therapists and physiotherapists a priority.
- That the ASBA advocate to the provincial government that a universal assessment of children by the age of 30 months be done to identify children at risk and, furthermore, to fund up to full-time pre-kindergarten for these children.
- That the ASBA advocate to the provincial government for funding to be given to school boards that choose to offer full-time kindergarten to all students.

Trustee Ripley also noted that a vote was passed to begin the implementation of several strategies to advocate as a Zone with respect to early intervention.

Trustee Ripley noted there was a presentation by University of Alberta researchers and the Black Gold School Division regarding a research project now in its fifth year called Healthy Hearts. The project involves 8,500 students. This was originally an AISI project. It is the largest research project in the world focussed on students in terms of looking at risk factors for health.

Trustee Ripley noted that an update was given on the school library motion that was passed at last Fall's ASBA General Meeting. Alberta Education is hiring someone to look at school libraries and work in that area.

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

L. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Huff requested an overview of the district's current environmental practices in terms of what are we doing now and what we might like to try in the future.

Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided on the status of the district's libraries in terms of the five key elements identified by the Canadian Library Association as being integral to the success of school library programs.

MINUTE BOOK

M. **Notices of Motion** – None.

N. **Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.
McCauley Chambers, Centre for Education

O. **Adjournment:** (9:10 p.m.)

The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary