



**Summary of Board Meeting #9  
Held Tuesday, March 11, 2008**

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

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

**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

The board chair advised that the Provincial Executive Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association has proclaimed March 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, as Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week throughout Alberta. Schools are encouraged, during this week especially, and throughout the year, to recognize the contributions substitute teachers make in providing continuity to the learning experiences of district students. We value our substitute teachers and applaud the excellent work they do.

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

The superintendent advised that, yesterday, he had attended the launch of the Safe Place Classroom at Dan Knott School. The initiative is a collaborative partnership between Edmonton Public Schools, AADAC, Alberta Health Board and other agencies to provide specialized early intervention services for students who are experiencing mental health challenges. Students can attend the program from two weeks up to four months to assist them in integrating back into school. There are three junior high schools in Mill Woods participating in this program.

**E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #8 – February 26, 2008

Approved as printed.

**F. Improving Student Achievement:**

2. Improving Student Achievement at Earl Buxton Elementary School

Received for information.

## **G. Recognition:**

3. Edwin Parr Teacher Award
  - a) Received for information.
  - b) The district's nominee for the 2008 Edwin Parr Teacher Award is Natalie Sanderson

## **H. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:**

4. Process and Timeline for 2008-2009 Planning

Approved recommendation.
5. 2008-2009 Proposed Planning Base

Approved recommendation.
6. Basis of Allocation
  - a) Received for information.
  - b) Trustees Gibeault and Ripley requested that 2008-2009 enrolment and allocation information be incorporated into each of the school profiles for the budget documents (see sample on page 3 of the Basis of Allocation report).
  - c) Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided as to whether the Community Use of Schools allocation and the money available under the Joint Use Agreement is sufficient for schools to cover their costs for weekend use of their gyms.
7. Presentation from CUPE Local 474 (Custodial Staff) re 2008-2009 Budget
  - a) Received verbal report for information.
  - b) CUPE Local 3550 (Support Staff) will make a presentation regarding the budget at the March 25, 2008 board meeting.
  - c) Copy of the Local's brief:  
[http://www.epsb.ca/board/mar11\\_08/item07.pdf](http://www.epsb.ca/board/mar11_08/item07.pdf)

8. Delegation – Sustain Woodcroft Parent Committee
  - a) Heard from Darrel Lucas and Arlen Huhn who urged the board to keep Woodcroft School open – the delegation also provided a copy of their presentation to trustees.
  - b) Received verbal report for information.
9. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information
  - a) Received for information.
  - b) Trustee Huff referred to the response to Trustee Request #66 (page 9) and asked that clarification be provided regarding the previously provided information regarding the impact on West 1 sector schools by the new ASAP schools.
10. Health and Wellness: Plan in Response to Trustee Motion
  - a) Received for information.
  - b) Trustee Ripley requested that the board be kept apprised of staff workloads in implementing the health and wellness plan and if the workload becomes too much what might come off staff plates.

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

11. Report #6 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held March 4, 2008)

Approved the following recommendations re:

- Confirmation of principal designation
- Community engagement initiative
- Trustee expenses

#### **J. Other Trustee Reports:**

1. Trustee Gibson reported that he and Trustee Huff attended the Capital Region Services to Children Linkages Committee meeting on February 28, 2008. The committee facilitates linkages amongst municipalities, school boards, Capital Health Authority, Children and Family Services Authority – Region 6 – Edmonton and Area and other organizations. Our board has agreed to participate in a joint effort to identify specific issues that are multi-dimensional in nature in which the combined efforts of all of the agencies can serve students and their families in the greater Edmonton Area.

The respective staff support from the various organizations is moving forward with a proposal around youth in transition to develop a shared identification framework and potential shared services model. A specific case project will be utilized to develop a framework. This work will be undertaken between now and June 2008. The case study is going to involve a sixteen year old youth with a brain injury transitioning from home and school and eventually from youth to adult services. He also noted that information was received at the meeting regarding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder which affects as many as one percent of all of the students in our city. He added that as part of the district's commitment to participation on the Linkages Committee there may be in the future requests for modest amounts of resources beyond staff support in various project initiatives. Resources are already in place with respect to the case study he had mentioned.

2. Trustee Huff advised that, on March 4<sup>th</sup>, she spoke to a number of BA students at the University of Alberta about what she has done with her BA since graduating.
3. Trustee Huff advised that, on March 5<sup>th</sup>, she as well as a number of other trustees attended the district's Night of Music at the Jubilee Auditorium. She commended the students and staff who participated.
4. Trustee Huff advised that, on March 6<sup>th</sup>, she attended Jasper Place School's Open House.
5. Trustee Huff advised that, on March 10<sup>th</sup>, she spoke at the Kiwanis Club about the role of a trustee.
6. Trustee Colburn advised that, on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, the Alberta Coalition for Health School Communities and the Alberta School Boards Association will be sponsoring a school health symposium. Invitations have been extended to decision-making levels of the education sector. Registrants include a number of superintendents, senior staff, parents and trustees from other school districts as well as five physicians from five of the nine health regions in the province.
7. Trustee Gibeault advised that on, March 9<sup>th</sup>, he attended the Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation's Harmony Brunch. This was the for a variety of events that will be taking place in the coming days around the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racism (March 21<sup>st</sup>). Lieutenant Governor Norman Kwong, Mayor Mandel, several city councillors and a variety community leaders were in attendance. There was discussion regarding the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights document. He hoped that there will be opportunities for students, particularly at the secondary level, to learn about the UN Declaration of Human Rights and to reflect on what that means for them as young citizens.

8. Trustee Rice advised that, on March 6<sup>th</sup>, he attended the closing ceremonies of McNally High School's annual 24-hour bike-a-thon. This is a partnership between the students and staff and other staff members in the district with Cops for Cancer. Within 24 hours, those students and staff members raised over \$55,000 for cancer research.
9. Trustee Esslinger advised that, yesterday, she and Trustees Gibeault and Shipka attended the A Day with the Chief luncheon. The luncheon was with the students who were spending a day with the Chief of Police in discussion of how they can work together.

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

1. Mr. Mark Ramsankar, president Edmonton Public Teachers, spoke regarding its 2007 Class Size Census. A copy of the information was provided to trustees.
2. The following speakers spoke on behalf of keeping Woodcroft School open:
  - Mr. Darrel Lucas
  - Ms Lora Yaskow
  - Ms Sonya Chudyk
  - Mr. Nithi Sothilingam
  - Ms Laurie Simpson
  - Mr. Reg Appleyard
  - Mr. Steve Gould

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

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding what plan is in place to target those schools that have a higher than average drop-out rate.

#### **M. Notices of Motion – None.**

#### **N. Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

#### **O. Duration of Meeting:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:40 p.m.