

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, February 26, 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

Edgar Schmidt
Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles
Ron MacNeil
Tanni Parker

Jennifer Lawley
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

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 advised that Edmonton Public Schools' 44th Night of Music will be held at the Jubilee Auditorium on Wednesday, March 5, 2008. The purpose of this event is to promote the importance of music education and recognize the musical accomplishments of our students. This year's theme is *A World of Music*.

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D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent advised that yesterday, February 25th, he and the Assistant Superintendents, the AISI Project Leadership Teams (including teachers, consultants, and principals – approximately 70 people) spent a day with Dr. Michael Fullan.

Dr. Fullan is an eminent Canadian educational researcher, well known internationally for his research and his current work in the area of system-wide change and improvement. He is currently advisor to Premier McGinty of Ontario providing support, advice and expertise for the educational reforms being undertaken in that province. Dr. Fullan encouraged the district's AISI project work and acknowledged some of the strengths that this approach has in the district. He also provided solid advice and recommendations for our consideration as we develop our educational plans for the next planning cycle. It was a very valuable day. Dr. Fullan indicated his interest in continuing to work with the district and this possibility is being considered.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #7 – February 12, 2008

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #7 held February 12, 2008 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement:

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

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

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

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. Victoria and Balwin Schools Updates

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the report entitled ‘Victoria and Balwin Schools Updates’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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4. Framework for Involvement in Site-Based Decision Making

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘Framework for Involvement in Site-Based Decision Making’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The board took a short break at this point.

5. Presentations from Staff Group Representatives re the Proposed 2008-2009 Budget:

- Edmonton Public Teachers
- Exempt Staff

Mr. Mark Ramsankar, president Edmonton Public Teachers, verbally presented the Local’s brief.

Ms Kris Uusikorpi, representative for the district’s exempt staff, verbally presented the exempt staff group’s brief.

The board chair advised that CUPE Local 474 (custodial staff) will make their presentation at the March 11, 2008 board meeting. CUPE Local 3550 (support staff) will make their presentation at the March 25, 2008 board meeting. CUPE Local 784 (maintenance staff) have declined to make a presentation this year. A report in response to the employee group presentations will be prepared and the presentations and responses will be disseminated to school principals and decision unit administrators for consideration in the development of their plans for the 2008-2009 school year.

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the verbal presentations from Edmonton Public Teachers and the exempt staff be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Copies of the briefs were distributed to trustees.

6. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

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

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Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding what is the largest and smallest high socio-economic needs allocation.

Trustee Ripley asked that the list of high needs schools in rank order be provided.

Trustee Huff requested that the writers' only data referred to in Table 2 of the response to TT#57 be provided.

Trustee Colburn requested a breakdown of the array of programs offered in the small and large schools listed in Table 5 in response to TT#57. Did the programs or students come first in the larger schools?

Trustee Fleming asked that information be provided regarding whether students achieve at a higher standard in smaller school versus a larger school.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

7. Bereavement

The board vice-chair reported on the passing of Mrs. Dorothy Sombach, Manager Student Transportation.

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)

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.”

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Fleming and Shipka

The Motion was CARRIED.

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8. Report #5 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held February 19, 2008)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “1. That Report #5 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held February 19, 2008 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “2. That the trustee protocols and their inclusion in the Trustees’ Manual to serve as a guide for future Boards be approved.”**

Trustee Ripley, Chair of the Community Relations Committee, indicated that the committee is recommending the following friendly amendment to Recommendation #2.

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

- “That the Trustee Protocols first be used for six months and then reviewed by the Community Relations Committee before recommending inclusion in the Trustees’ Manual to serve as a guide for future Boards be approved.”**

The amendment was accepted by general consent.

The board chair called the question on motion as amended.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

I. Other Trustee Reports – None.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The board heard from the following speakers who spoke on behalf of keeping Woodcroft School open:

- Ms Paty Guajardo Honegger, parent of children attending Woodcroft Elementary School
- Mr. Reg Appleyard, Executive Director for Meadowcroft Housing Society of Edmonton

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Trustees requested that Mr. Appleyard provide the information regarding his proposal with respect to Brentwood Homes.

- Ms Patricia Grell, President Woodcroft Community League
- Mr. Claire Peters from the High Park community

Trustees requested that Mr. Peters provide the information regarding his post-school closure experience.

Ms Madeline Rainey spoke regarding Table 2 of page 4 of the Responses to Trustee Requests for Information report and suggested that the board needs to address the 20 percent of students not meeting the acceptable standard of achievement.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Shipka referred to the public consultation meeting held last night with respect to the possible closure of Ritchie School and asked that the responses to the following questions be brought to the next board meeting:

- Where would the money come from to upgrade Ritchie School?
- What would the net savings to the district be if Ritchie School was closed?
- Where would the money saved be used; e.g., could it be used for free transportation to designated schools?

Trustee Colburn requested a report comparing Coronation, Grovenor and Woodcroft schools including an explanation as to why Woodcroft is being recommended for closure while the other two schools are not.

Trustee Fleming referred to the KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) being used in some US Charter Schools for underachieving students and asked that the following information be provided:

- An analysis of the effectiveness of the program.
- What are the possible applications in the district?
- What would be the challenges and opportunities of offering this as an alternative program in the district?

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Trustee Huff requested the financial details of closure savings contrasted with the cost of operating the schools currently including items such as salaries, transportation and the transfer of dollars to designated schools be provided to assist trustees in their deliberation of the possible closure of Woodcroft and Ritchie Schools. She provided a sample chart for preparing the information.

Trustee Huff requested that the administration confirm or correct the information regarding the cost per weighted students in small and large schools and report back to the board. She provided the administration with a copy of the document to which she was referring.

L. Notices of Motion – None.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: (9:15 p.m.)

The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary