



Summary of Board Meeting #9 Tuesday, March 8, 2005

A. **O Canada** – District Video.

B. **Roll Call:** (6:10 p.m.) – Trustee Gibson was absent.

C. **Communications from the Board Chairman**

1. The chairman advised that, to honour the four R.C.M.P. officers who died in the line of duty last Thursday, their families and the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who protect our safety on a daily basis, staff and students throughout the district have been asked to pause for one minute of silence on Thursday, March 10, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. This coincides with the service being held at the Butterdome. Schools have also been asked to keep their Canadian flags lowered at half-mast until Monday morning, March 14, 2005. A moment of silence was observed.
2. The chairman advised that the district has received a cheque for \$3,000 from Xerox Canada in recognition of the board's being a recipient of the Premier's Award for School Board Innovation and Excellence for the City Centre Education Project.
3. The chairman advised that a request has been received from CUPE Local 3550 for the Board to officially recognize March 8th as International Women's Day at tonight's board meeting. The Local believes such recognition will create a greater awareness of the Board's commitment to promote a safe work environment where both men and women can work together to eliminate discrimination in the workplace.

The board approved the following motion:

That district recognition of March 8 as International Women's Day be approved.

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

The superintendent advised that Alberta Education has asked that all districts post the Annual Education Results Review report on their websites. This report features information on class sizes. Among the four largest urban boards in Edmonton and Calgary, Edmonton Public Schools has the lowest average class sizes for:

- Kindergarten to Grade 3
- grades 4 to 6
- grades 10 to 12

Among the four largest urban boards, only Calgary Catholic Schools has a lower average class size for grades 7 to 9. He acknowledged the efforts of district staff in helping to

make this possible. They did an outstanding job of hiring additional teachers and getting them into classrooms very quickly after the government had provided our district with additional funding to reduce class size. Our district will continue to work at reducing class sizes even further in the next few years as additional funding becomes available.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #8 –February 22, 2005 - Approved as printed.

F. Focus on Student Achievement

2. Jackson Heights – Focus on Reading Comprehension - Received for information.

G. Recognition:

3. “An Act to Follow” Staff Recognition Program - Received for information.

H. Reports:

4. Conduct and Outcomes of Athlone, McArthur and Wellington Schools’ Cluster Study
 - a) Kevan Warner, Chair McArthur School Council, and Wendy Brown, President Wellington School Council made a joint presentation urging the board not to close Wellington School.
 - b) Received for information.
5. Recommendation Arising from the Athlone, McArthur and Wellington Schools’ Cluster Study
 - a) Approved recommendation.
 - b) Trustee Esslinger urged that, if Wellington School is closed, Athlone and McArthur Schools be “protected” from consideration of closure for perhaps five years to bolster their enrolments.

6. Conduct and Outcomes of Balwin, North Edmonton and Princeton Schools' Cluster Study
 - a) Lisa Chartrand made a presentation urging the board not to close North Edmonton School.
 - b) Received for information.
7. Recommendation Arising from the Balwin, North Edmonton and Princeton Schools' Cluster Study
 - a) Approved recommendation.
 - b) Trustee Esslinger urged that, if North Edmonton School is closed, Balwin and Princeton Schools be "protected" from consideration of closure for perhaps five years to bolster their enrolments.
8. Conduct and Outcomes of Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty, Strathearn and Terrace Heights Schools' Cluster Study
 - a) The following people made presentations urging the board not to close Strathearn or Hardisty Schools :
 - Curtis Booth re Strathearn and Hardisty Schools
 - Deanna Dixon, President Strathearn School Parent Advisory Committee
 - Verna Hochachka re Hardsity School
 - Jeff Parkinson re Hardisty School
 - Bill Burtnik, President Capilano Community League re Hardisty School
 - Minerva Menzies-Haydon re Hardisty School
 - b) Received for information.
9. Recommendation Arising from the Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty, Strathearn and Terrace Heights Schools' Cluster Study re Terrace Heights School re Terrace Heights School
 - a) Approved recommendation.
 - b) Trustee Nicholson suggested that information be provided as part of the consultation process of what possible uses can be made of the building.

10. Recommendation Arising from the Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty, Strathearn and Terrace Heights Schools' Cluster Study re Strathearn School

Approved recommendation.

11. Recommendation Arising from the Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty, Strathearn and Terrace Heights Schools' Cluster Study re Hardisty School

The recommendations were defeated.

12. Revised Timelines for 2005-2006 Planning Process

Deferred to the March 22, 2005 board meeting.

13. Orientation to the Plan for Student Program Distribution

Deferred to the March 22, 2005 board meeting.

14. Bereavement

Received with regret.

I. Committee and Board Representative Reports – None.

- **Community Relations Activities** – None.

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

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Gibeault served notice of the following motion:

That the Edmonton Public School Board endorse Bill C261, currently before the House of Commons, which advocates the lowering of the voting age in Federal Elections from 18 to 16 and that a letter regarding this endorsement be sent to the Bill's sponsor, MP Mark Holland.

M. Next Meeting Date: March 22, 2005 – 6:00 p.m. - Board

N. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.