

**MINUTE BOOK**

**- Board Meeting #11 -**

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 28, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees**

Leslie Cleary  
David Colburn  
Sarah Hoffman

Michael Janz  
Cheryl Johner  
Heather MacKenzie

Catherine Ripley  
Ken Shipka  
Christopher Spencer

**Officials**

Edgar Schmidt  
Bruce Coggles  
David Fraser

Mark Liguori  
Ron MacNeil  
Jamie Pallett

Tanni Parker  
Brian Smith  
Tash Taylor

**Board Chair:** David Colburn

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

A. **O Canada** 

B. **Roll Call:** (2:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood advised that Trustee Cleary would be arriving shortly. All other Trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair advised that "Pink Shirt Day" is February 29<sup>th</sup>. Pink Shirt Day started five years ago following an anti-bullying stand of two grade 12 Nova Scotia students. The students took action after witnessing a grade 9 student being bullied for wearing pink to school and encouraged their schoolmates to wear pink to send a message against bullying. Since then, the Pink Shirt Day Campaign has sent a powerful message that Bullying Stops Here.

## MINUTE BOOK

In Canada, every seven minutes someone is bullied on a playground ([www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org)). A recent University of Guelph Bullying Study found that 50% of Canadian school children report being bullied with 45% of surveyed children feeling unsafe when they go to school. Bullying is demoralizing, wrecks self-esteem and has led to shootings and suicides in Canada. Bullying happens in many different forms but its purpose is to make someone else feel less worthy on purpose. Through awareness and education Canadians can continue to take a stand against bullying.

The Board Chair advised that Edmonton Public Schools' 48<sup>th</sup> Night of Music will be held at the Jubilee Auditorium next week - Wednesday, March 7, 2012. 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 *United in Song*.

The Board Chair advised that he participated in a Metro Board Chair's video conference meeting on February 12, 2012 in preparation for their March 15, 2012 meeting with Minister of Education. The meeting will focus on the common challenges of the Metro Boards (First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI), English Language Learners (ELL) and full-day kindergarten). They will also discuss working together to highlight education in the upcoming provincial election.

The Board Chair advised that, on February 21, 2012 he attended the Schools as Hubs Project event at Balwin School. Minister Lukaszuk was also in attendance. McCauley and Balwin's Transition Centres are the joint effort of EPSB and partners including the City of Edmonton Community Services, YMCA, United Way, Edmonton Public Library and the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. Balwin and McCauley's Transition Centres are facilitated via REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities, as sites for the Schools as Community Hubs Initiative. The two are "hubs" designed to educate and integrate newcomer students and their families.

The Board Chair advised that, this morning, he attended Sun to Soil video conference at Amiskwaciy Academy. Students from Jasper Place, Queen Elizabeth and Amiskwaciy Academy participated in the conference which focused on how the wisdom of Aboriginal traditions can help build a sustainable world. The three schools joined students and educators from across North America via video conference to discuss Aboriginal wisdom traditions and the current state of the world. They were joined by experts such as Dr. Jane Goodall, Chief Gordon Planes of the T'Sou-ke First Nations and members of the David Suzuki Foundation. The conference included a solar lantern workshop by creator Steve O'Gorman, and an indigenous gardening presentation on permaculture, where students will create their own vermiculture (indoor worm-based composting systems) to take back to schools. The completed solar lanterns were donated to the Attawapiskat First Nations in Ontario, as well as to Haiti and to parts of Africa where Dr. Jane Goodall operates.

**MINUTE BOOK**

**D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools - None**

Trustee Cleary joined the meeting at this point.

**E. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #10 – February 14, 2012

Trustee Colburn referred to pages eleven and twelve of the minutes and requested that his request for information with respect to pesticide use in the district be removed from the minutes. He advised that he would be resubmitting his request verbally at the end of the meeting.

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #9 held January 31, 2012 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – None.**

**G. Tracking Progress and Excellence in the 2011-2014 Priorities**

2. SLISE (Student Led Initiatives for Sustainability Education)

**MOVED BY Trustee Johner:**

**“That the report entitled ‘SLISE (Student Led Initiatives for Sustainability Education)’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**H. Reports**

3. Process and Timeline for 2012-2013 Planning

**MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:**

**“That the process and timeline for review of the 2012-2013 proposed budget be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MINUTE BOOK**

4. Update re Achievement Performance of Students from Closed Schools  
(Response to Trustee Request #137)
5. Leasing Costs  
(Response to Trustee Request #159)
6. School Closure Moratorium Committee Recommendations  
(Response to Trustee Request #168)

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**“That the following reports be received for information:**

- **Update re Achievement Performance of Students from Closed Schools (Response to Trustee Request #137)**
- **Leasing Costs (Response to Trustee Request #159)**
- **School Closure Moratorium Committee Recommendations (Response to Trustee Request #168)”**

Trustee Cleary left at this point in the meeting.

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**Trustee Cleary was absent for the vote.**

7. Bereavement

Vice-Chair Hoffman reported on the passing of Mrs. Nicola Poulter.

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**“That the report be received with regret and the actions of the Administration in this regard be confirmed.”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**Trustee Cleary was absent for the vote.**

## MINUTE BOOK

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

Trustee Cleary rejoined the meeting at this point.

Trustee Ripley, the Board's representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, reported that several prominent ads for the Ready to Shine Fashion Show #2 were featured in the newspaper on the weekend. This super promotion for an event that puts a spotlight on the work and creativity of students from seven of the district's high schools is courtesy of Kingsway Garden Mall. She thanked Kingsway Garden Mall for its investment of time, energy, finances and effort into this event which is greatly appreciated by the Foundation. She asked her colleagues to save the evening of April 25<sup>th</sup> so they can attend the Fashion Show and support the Foundation. The Foundation's partners in this event are Kingsway Garden Mall, Estee's Fabrics, Central Sewing Machines, and most importantly, the students.

Trustee Colburn, the Board's representative on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors, reported on following highlights from the February 17, 2012 Board of Directors meeting:

- The ASBA is organizing a *Day for Education* across the province to be held during the upcoming provincial election to focus on public education issues. School boards are being asked to work with their sister boards to organize a forum for local candidates from all parties.
- A community engagement survey has been distributed to all school boards asking that boards identify their current efforts with respect to community engagement.
- The Board of Directors discussed and signed off on the assumptions which will guide ASBA staff as they draft the 2012-2013 budget for consideration by the Board of Directors at their March meeting. Ultimately, school boards will consider and vote on the ASBA's budget at the Spring General Meeting in June 2012.

Trustee Johner, the Board's representative on ASBA Zone 23, reported on the following highlights from the ASBA Zone 23 meeting held on February 24, 2012:

- Conversation Cafés were held on February 15, 2012 in Fort McMurray and on February 17, 2012 in Edmonton at the Centre for Education. A Conversation Café will be held on March 1, 2012 in St. Albert. There were many positive comments that came from the Cafés both from trustees and MLA candidates in attendance. It was an excellent opportunity to discuss educational issues with the candidates. She commended Trustee Hoffman, who is a member of the ASBA Zone 23 Advocacy Committee, for the Committee's advocacy efforts.

## MINUTE BOOK

- The ASBA is proposing to take a “Key Issues Approach” whereby they could comment on issues as they arise without having a policy position. The ASBA is seeking school boards’ acceptance for this proposal and it is an ongoing discussion at the moment.

Trustee MacKenzie, the Board’s representative on the Public School Boards Council (PSBC), advised that the spring PSBAA meeting will be taking place in Jasper April 12 to 14, 2012. There will be several professional development opportunities available.

Trustee Spencer, the Board’s representative on the Capital Region Services to Children Linkages Committee, did not have a report at this time.

Trustee Hoffman reported that, on February 24, 2012, she attended the Edmonton Rush Lacrosse Club’s *Rise-Up Against Bullying* event held at Rexall Place for students in Grades 3 to 7 - more than 3,000 district students attended. The students represented the district well and each one of them made a commitment to stand up and support each other and ensure that their classmates feel safe, respected and included in all district schools.

Trustee Spencer noted that, last year, he received a tour of Brightview School from the principal and gained a basic level of understanding of some of the challenges involved in serving the educational needs of children growing up in often very difficult circumstances. He is unhappy to report that, on the weekend, the Fraser Institute decided to list Brightview as the worst school in Edmonton based only on Provincial Achievement Test results. These tests were not created as a tool to rank schools. Indeed, to use them in that way, in the view of many, violates professional and ethical standards. On this point, there is widespread agreement among educators, from those who favour eliminating the tests and those who want to retain them. He hoped the teachers and support staff at Brightview, who often have made a deliberate choice to work with socially and economically vulnerable children, will accept his remarks of appreciation as a small consolation for what they’ve gone through over the last few days. He urged the students to not feel discouraged and continue to do their best. They will find in Edmonton Public people who want them to be successful and who will help them achieve their goals.

Trustee MacKenzie reported she had participated in an event honouring Black History Month held at the Africa Centre last weekend.

Trustee Johner noted that she, as well as Trustee Shipka, also attended the School as Hubs Project event at Balwin School the Board Chair had commented on earlier in the meeting. She commended the excellent efforts taking place at both Balwin and McCauley Schools.

## MINUTE BOOK

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

**K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information**

Trustee MacKenzie requested the following information: In light of Board Policy FO.BP - Environment, and the inspiring student lead initiatives for environmental sustainability taking place across the district, what initiatives could be implemented at a district-wide level over the next three, five and ten years to effectively reduce our District's impact on the environment?

Trustee Ripley requested the following information: By sectors, provide a list of the school buildings in the district that could accommodate 275 or more students plus dedicated space for a before- and after-school care provider plus dedicated space for 0-5 years early learning and/or daycare providers plus space to offer other services/programming to support families, adult learners, and/or the community. Also, provide the facility rating (poor, fair, good) for said buildings.

Trustee Hoffman requested the following information: Provide a five-year breakdown showing the number of students, provincial allocation and district allocation for students with moderate and severe educational needs.

Trustee Colburn requested the following information: What are the legal and practical implications of the new *Education Act*?

Trustee Colburn requested the following information regarding pesticide use in the district:

1. What practices are currently engaged in managing turf and other outdoor spaces on district school properties?
2. Can we categorize the different uses of pesticides on school property as being either essential (for health purposes) or non-essential (for cosmetic and aesthetic purposes)?
3. What alternatives are there for pesticide use that would be deemed non-essential?
4. What maintenance approaches have school boards taken in jurisdictions where pesticide bans have been implemented (or where school boards have developed their own pesticide policies)?
5. What would be the costs and implications associated with making the district pesticide free? How many district schools are currently pesticide free?

## MINUTE BOOK

### **L. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Spencer served notice of the following motion:

*Building on the Elevate Report recommendations, that the District develop a 20-year infrastructure plan, in conjunction with communities, other levels of government and school boards, to enrich life-long learning opportunities and provide supports for children and families, and which may include renewal of existing facilities, modernizations, consolidations, replacement schools, cross-district partnerships, expansions, right-sizing and new school construction. The plan should include some small schools in the spirit of the District's commitment to offering choice for families. Trustees will contribute to creating effective public engagement around this work, with the Moratorium Committee providing oversight, and its terms of reference shall be considered amended to include this function.*

Trustee Janz served notice of the following motion:

*In alignment with District Priority 4 (promote health and wellness for all students and staff) over the next three years, the District shall develop active transportation plans for all schools to support safe and healthy transportation options for students. These plans shall be shared with school councils and progress will be reported to the board in conjunction with our annual reports.*

Trustee Janz served notice of the following motion:

*Planning in the District shall continue to emphasize the importance of providing excellent educational opportunities experiences for all children and supporting neighbourhood schools to serve children and communities. The Board shall continue to advocate at the municipal level for urban renewal through new family-friendly housing and at the provincial level for adequate maintenance and infrastructure funding.*

*Leading up to the expiration of the Moratorium in November 2012, the Administration shall work with stakeholders, including students, parents, community members, tenants and other levels of government, to bring forward recommendations in December 2012 to take effect September 2013 for consolidation, expansions, right-sizing schools, space sharing with other districts, or replacement schools, including the possibility of school closure, using the following criteria:*



**MINUTE BOOK**

- a. *Consider schools that are located in the same city neighbourhood as, or less than 700 meters from another EPSB school and where there is comfortably enough space to bring together students in one facility while continuing to offer the existing range of grades and programming options.*
- b. *Consider schools which do not offer regular programming and which have an enrolment of less than 100 students.*
- c. *Consider schools which draw from an attendance area where there are less than 80 EPSB students residing at the elementary or junior high levels.*

*The Administration shall also conduct programming fit reviews at schools where a regular or alternative programming stream has enrollment of less than 80 students.*

*This work shall be informed by the District Priorities, with an emphasis on equity and healthy transportation, as well as the work of the Moratorium Committee, previous public consultation processes, and the recommendations included in the Elevate report to support strong schools and strong communities.*

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

*That the Administration create a Student Advisory Council to meet with the Board and Administration at least twice a year to provide student perspective on education issues.*

**M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.**

**N. Adjournment (3:30 p.m.)**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary