

Summary of Board Meeting #13
Held Tuesday, March 24, 2009

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

B. Roll Call: All trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

1. The Board Chair requested that Section H of the agenda be dealt with prior to Section G. The Board concurred with the reordering of the agenda.
2. The Board Chair advised that the Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations (NAARR) held its Commemoration Gala on March 21, 2009, Commemoration Gala. EPSB was awarded the institutional recognition for gains made in positive race relations. This is a tribute to the Board's leadership and to the hard work of Programs staff and school-based staff in making our District a more friendly and inclusive place for all comers.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

1. The Superintendent advised that staff from Edmonton Public Schools and the City of Edmonton met to examine the intersecting purposes and community building actions being taken by each. The City staff shared the work related to the Great Neighbourhood Project (a neighbourhood revitalization program). District staff provided information related to planning directions. It was a fruitful meeting where discussion took place regarding possible alignment of activities that would serve student and communities. It is anticipated that we will hold ongoing workshops and meetings to develop common strategic outcomes.
2. The Superintendent advised that, on March 17, 2009, he along with Curriculum unit staff, including Director Stuart Wachowicz, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Alliance Française. One of the purposes of the Memorandum of Understanding was to create teacher development opportunities for French language teachers. The Agreement has the potential to enhance teacher practice and student engagement in French language classrooms. This continues to illustrate the value and commitment other countries are making in support the district's many second language initiatives. These benefits impact teachers and students.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #12 – March 24, 2009

Approved as printed.

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement through the work of Facilities Services

Received for information.

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports:

8. Report #9 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held March 17, 2009)

Approved recommendation.

9. Sector Reviews: Update

- a) The Board heard from Christopher Spencer, Secretary Grovenor Parents' Association.

- b) Received for information.

10. Board Policy Review – DA.BP Fiscal Oversight and Management

11. Board Policy Review – DJ.BP Purchasing

12. Board Policy Review – GDB.BP Terms and Conditions of Employment

13. Board Policy – GBD.BP Vacations and Holidays

14. Board Policy Review – GFA.BP Reduction of Staff

15. Board Policy Review – GGB.BP Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools

16. Board Policy Review – GGC.BP Staff Performance

Approved recommendations.

17. Multi-cultural Task Force: Interim Report

Received for information.

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. District Response to Phase 2 of the Provincial Review of Special Education – Setting the Direction: Towards a System Re-design
 - a) The Board heard from Ms Kathryn Burke, Parent Council Chair King Edward School.
 - b) Approved recommendation.
4. Process and Timeline for 2009-2010 Planning

Approved recommendation.
6. Update on the Employability Skills Achievement Certificate (ESAC) Pilot

Received for information.
5. Transportation Discussion Paper

Approved recommendation.
7. Bereavements

Received with regret.

I. Other Trustee Reports:

1. Trustee Fleming noted that the Alberta Teachers' Association recently elected Ms Carol Henderson as its new President. Mr. Mark Ramsankar was elected as one of the Association's Vice-Presidents.
2. Trustee Ripley, Chair Community Relations Committee, reported on the Committee's work regarding the public engagement priority (within the Board's Strategic Plan). In this regard, Trustees Huff, Colburn and Rice attended the ASBA Conference Summit *Putting the Public Back Into Public Education*. A report from the conference regarding best practices will be coming. The Community Relations Committee will review this information and report back to Board members.
3. Trustee Colburn advised that during that last two days he had attended a School Health Symposium at the Nisku Inn co-sponsored by the Alberta Coalition for Health School Communities and the Alberta School Boards Association. The symposium was attended by over 200 people from across the province.

4. Trustee Esslinger reported that, on March 17, 2009 she and Trustees Huff, Ripley and Shipka attended the Student Conference for District High School Students with Alberta's Youth Volunteer! Society at Jasper Place School.
5. Trustee Esslinger reported that, on March 20, 2009, she and the Superintendent had attended the Alberta Association for Community Living President's Reception. Assistant Superintendent Donna Barrett was also in attendance.
6. Trustee Huff reported that, on March 16, 2009, she and Trustees Colburn, Rice, and Shipka attended the Building Healthy School Communities Symposium. She noted that she had attended a session called *The Way In* which is wrap-around service based on resiliency and operates in three junior high schools in Mill Woods. The Way In Team delivers universal, targeted, and individual health and mental health programs based on promotion, prevention, and intervention. Schools act as the gateway for service where community partners work together to improve timely community based health and mental health services for students and families.
7. Trustee Huff noted that, on March 20-21, 2009, she attended some of the Alberta Association for Community Living Conference sessions.
8. Trustee Huff congratulated Ross Sheppard School student James Hoffman who recently won a \$75,000 Weston Loran Award – the largest undergraduate merit scholarship in Canada. Out of a country-wide pool of 3,200 applicants, just 30 awards are given out each year to high school students best demonstrating the qualities of character, service and leadership potential. James is the only recipient from Edmonton.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mr. Mark Ramsankar, President Edmonton Public Teachers, thanked staff from Personnel for their assistance in the resume writing session held this evening at Barnett House.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Huff requested that information be provided with respect to the staff group presentations regarding the cost and implications of the following:
 - head custodial training professional development
 - custodial technology upgrades (e-mail and telephones)
 - professional development conference for support staff (which may address worker wellness)

Board members concurred with the request for information.

2. Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided regarding whether or not we are confident that each district student has an adult with whom he or she can talk to and share hopes, fears, problems and successes. What strategies and programs are in place at schools to enable children to build at least one positive relationship with a caring adult?

Board members concurred with the request for information.

3. Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided regarding any trends with respect to the success or struggles of 4 year olds in our kindergarten classrooms. What is the rationale for having a March 1st cut-off date for kindergarten entrances as opposed to a September 1st cut-off date? What are the practices of other urban boards in Alberta with respect to entrance into kindergarten?

Board members concurred with the request for information.

4. Trustee Esslinger requested that information be provided regarding how the impact of ASAP school openings in 2010 will be addressed in the sector review planning process.

Board members concurred with the request for information.

L. Notices of Motion

1. Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

That the District's current Board Policy EEA.BP – Student Transportation be amended to allow the Board the authority to allocate non-transportation funds (that is funds not identified as Provincial transportation grants or student transportation fees) to support student transportation needs.

2. Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

That the Administration provide information for Board consideration on the pros and cons of having an external member with financial expertise sit on the Audit Committee.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

N. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 9:10 p.m.