



Summary of Board Meeting #13
Held Tuesday, May 13, 2008

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

B. Roll Call: Trustee Rice was absent.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

1. The board chair advised that she and the superintendent had the honour of attending a special dinner and award ceremony hosted by Alberta Education in Calgary on May 10th. Twenty-three outstanding teachers and principals nominated by the public and their peers were selected to receive 2008 Excellence in Teaching Awards. The awards recognize outstanding teaching ability and classroom leadership in schools across Alberta. She reported that six of the recipients were teachers from Edmonton Public Schools. They are:

- Simmee Chung - George P. Nicholson School
- Azmina Dewji - Stratford Elementary Junior High School
- Annabel Duncan-Webb - Westmount School
- Mark Haak - W.P. Wagner School of Science and Technology
- Brenda Mulder - Londonderry School
- Julian Pacholik - M.E. LaZerte High School

She extended congratulations to the district's Excellence in Teaching Award recipients on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

2. The board chair reported on some of the activities of the City of Edmonton Youth Council. She distributed a brochure regarding the *Heart 2 Art* contest to raise awareness about homelessness which Edmonton Public and Catholic School Boards are working together in conjunction with the City of Edmonton Youth Council. The contest is open to children and youth 5 to 19 years of age. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded to the winners at the *Heart 2 Art* Gala on November 14, 2008 at the Shaw Conference Centre. She noted that the Edmonton Youth Council made a presentation to board last spring with respect to this event. She also noted that trustees will be receiving an invitation to participate in a special TLC renovation volunteer event. Volunteers will have the opportunity to paint one or two rooms of the Boyle Street Community Centre.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent advised that, this month, the province has updated the district's Accountability Pillar document and provided the following information:

- Both the three-year and the five-year high school completion rates have improved significantly relative to the previous three-year rolling averages. This reflects a continuous trend of improved high school completion rates for the district. The most recent data shows a 1.1% increase in the three-year completion rate and a 1.6% increase in the five-year completion rate relative to the previous year. For 2006-07, the three-year completion rate was 64.6% and the five-year completion rate was 74.3%.
- The six-year transition rate to post-secondary has also increased by a half of a per cent. Six years after starting grade 10 over 60 % of district students are enrolled in post secondary.
- District students are qualifying for more Rutherford Scholarships. The eligibility rates for these scholarships are up almost 2% - to 36.4%.

The superintendent noted that these improvements are considered to be statistically significant. This is very good news and a tribute to every staff member who did his or her part to help a student achieve more.

Some of the practices during this period of time that may have contributed to the positive results include:

- Analysis of successful completion data with a focus on improving grade 10 course completion
- Focused attention on identified 'at risk' students
- Increased collaborative dialogue between teachers in school cohorts
- Increased time spent in classrooms by leadership staff in order to support teaching and learning

All of these practices have been incorporated into the current cycle of AISI and should continue to support student achievement in district schools.

The superintendent concluded by saying that the drop out rate stayed the same at 6.3% and work will continue in this area to improve the rate.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #12 – April 29, 2008

Approved as printed.

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement at Montrose Elementary School

Received for information.

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. Student Transportation Fees for 2008-2009

- a) Approved recommendation.
- b) Trustee Colburn suggested that communications to parents regarding the student transportation fees include reference to the district using \$1 million from its surplus to mitigate the effects of the bus pass increases.
- c) Trustee Esslinger also suggested including in the communications to parents that Edmonton Public Schools is the first district in Canada to allow yellow bus riders to have access to the public transit service up to six rides per month.

4. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Ripley referred to the response to TT#88 regarding pedestrian safety and parking and suggested information be communicated to schools regarding the resources available to assist them with these issues.

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports:

5. Report #10 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held April 29 and May 6, 2008)

Approved recommendations re:

- Designation of principals
- Central administrative designations
- ASAP Tri-Party and Accountability Agreements
- Government Relations Committee

6. Motion re Student Advisory Committee

The recommendation was defeated.

7. Motion re Multi-Cultural Task Force – Approved recommendation.

I. Other Trustee Reports:

1. Trustee Huff reported that she had attended Westglen School's Earth3 designation. Westglen is the first school in Alberta and the third in Canada to reach this status by completing 3,000 environmental projects. She commended Teacher Linda Hut who runs the Green Patrol and Earth Patrol teams for her efforts. Ms Hut has been spearheading this project for nine years. The school is undertaking to try to become Canada's first Earth4 school. She commended the students, staff, parents and the community for their work.
2. Trustee Colburn reported that last Wednesday he joined the Superintendent and district principals at the senior leadership meeting where the district's new Aboriginal website was discussed. He was very impressed with the quality of the website and the resources on it.
3. Trustee Esslinger thanked the many staff involved in the organization of the variety of events with respect to the opening of the Confucius Institute.
4. Trustee Esslinger noted that she and Trustees Ripley and Fleming attended today's State of the City address by Mayor Mandel. The Mayor acknowledged public education in Edmonton.

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

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided to board regarding district policy and practice with respect to cell phone usage by students.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

That students currently attending and residing in the attendance area for Woodcroft/Ritchie Schools be provided with free transportation for the duration of their elementary or junior high schooling.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

N. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.