



**Summary of Board Meeting #14  
Held Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

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

**B. Roll Call:**

Trustee MacKenzie participated via SKYPE.  
All other Trustees were present.

**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair advised that, at the May 10, 2011 board meeting, Ms Pannu Bhatia, Director Ellerslie Daycare and Out of School Care, urged the Board to support her submission requesting expansion of her daycare. This matter was referred to the Administration to review and a letter has been sent to Ms Bhatia in response to her request.

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

1. The Superintendent reported that, on May 16<sup>th</sup>, he signed, on behalf of the Edmonton Public School Board's Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Language Research Centre at the University of Calgary. The Memorandum paves the way for vital exchange of information on effective teacher development for second language instruction, language credentials for second language students, and effective use of technologies to support language learning, among other mutually beneficial research areas. Future collaboration activities are being planned and this important partnership is appreciated.
2. The Superintendent reported that, also on May 16<sup>th</sup>, he and the Vice Chair attended the first International Spanish Academy conference to be held in Canada. The meeting was held in Calgary and they had an opportunity to meet Spanish officials and hear about innovative and important progress being made in Alberta regarding the Spanish Academies. District principals and leadership staff attended as well.

3. The Superintendent reported that, on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, he attended a Dialogue on Teaching Quality hosted by the Deputy Minister. Participants included representatives from the College of Alberta School Superintendents, ASBA, ASCA, ATA, universities with teacher education programs. They had an opportunity to examine a draft of the Professional Practice Competencies for Teachers. He was pleased to be able to provide ongoing input on this draft document and more information will follow as the work develops.
4. The Superintendent reported that, over the last several months, the Racism Free Edmonton campaign has been wholeheartedly supported across the city. Edmonton Public Schools has been proud to be a part of this initiative and to collaborate with the City of Edmonton and a number of local organizations to build a racism free, inclusive community that respects cultural diversity.

It has been wonderful to see district schools rally around this cause and truly embrace it as well. It meant a lot to him, personally, to make the commitments he made on behalf of the District, along with other leaders in the city at the kick-off event last fall.

He and the Executive Team, along with several staff members and Trustees, participated in the first race and culture workshop a few months ago. It was a challenging experience, one in which everyone learned some very profound things. They will continue to challenge themselves to better understand the mechanisms that create race barriers, and more importantly, what it takes to break those barriers down.

He advised that, looking ahead, it's critical that we do everything we can to support this initiative in the coming months. He strongly encouraged all district schools to participate in this week's 'Count Yourself In' campaign if they have not already done so. He is counting on principals to get students involved in this effort – mind, body and spirit – and to help them feel empowered to fight prejudice.

He noted that we have a deep moral obligation to teach young people to see their classmates as their equals, and to reinforce to them, *and to one another*, that diversity is a gift and a source of strength for all civil societies.

He ended by saying that he was very proud we are to support this campaign and how much we look forward to working with students, staff, parents and community partners to combat racism and create healthier communities in our city in the months and years to come.

#### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #13 – May 10, 2011

Approved as printed.

#### **F. Recognition:**

2. Margaret T. Stevenson Talented Young Writer Award Recipient: Rachel Tyzuk

Received for information.

3. Celebration of Multiculturalism: Evansdale Elementary School

Received for information.

#### **G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

1. Ms Trudy Grebenstein, President CUPE Local 3550 (support staff), commented about District's media conference earlier today and expressed great concern regarding the reduction in staff positions; particularly, support staff positions. She noted that the impact on special needs students will be significant with the reduction in support staff positions. She urged the Board to continue to lobby the Minister of Education and the Premier and their government contacts.
2. Mr. Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers, urged the Board to support the exclusion of publicly-traded companies providing day care and early education expressing concern for public companies providing early education services. He also urged the Board to develop a comprehensive early education policy.
3. Mr. Rory Koopmans spoke on behalf of his cousin, her wife and son to commend the Board regarding the approval of the development of a policy on sexual orientation and gender identity and also for the establishment of the Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee.

#### **H. Reports**

4. Multicultural Policy and Regulation Implementation Plan: Year One Report

Received for information.

5. Report #8 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held May 17, 2011)  
Approved recommendation.
6. Motion re Annual Reports on the Work of the District
  - a) The Motion was referred back to Trustee Colburn to refine the language around the definition of *annual reports*.
  - b) Trustee Ripley suggested Trustees offer their suggestions to Trustee Colburn with respect to this item.
7. Response to Refugee Transportation Loan Sub-committee of Strategic Alliance for the Advancement of Immigrant and Refugee Children and Youth (SAAIRCY) Delegation  
Approved recommendation.
8. Issues, Budget and Bylaws Bulletin for the 2011 ASBA Spring General Meeting  
Approved recommendation.
9. Review of Board Policy JG.BP – Community Use of District Buildings  
Approved recommendation.
10. Student Transportation Fees  
Approved recommendation.
11. Introduction of the 2011-2012 Proposed Budget  
Received for information.
12. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information  
Received for information.
13. Special Needs Task Force: Interim Information Report  
Received for information.

Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

*This information will be included in the minutes of the May 24, 2011 board meeting.*

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

Trustee Spencer requested the following: Summarize recent research into the sleep deficit problem affecting many junior high and high school students. Also, provide and briefly analyze some options the District could implement to help address this issue.

**J. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Janz served notice of the following motion:

*That a question be added to the District annual staff and student attitude survey to ascertain how many students and staff walk or bike to school during the school year.*

Trustee Hoffman served notice of the following motion:

*That the Edmonton Public School Board withdraw from the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta.*

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

*That a qualified external member or members be added to the Audit Committee. The Administration will bring a recommendation to the Board based on best practices in the province to achieve this end.*

**K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.**

**L. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 10:25 p.m.**