

Superb
Results
from all
students



Summary of Board Meeting #2 Tuesday, November 8, 2005

- A. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.) - All trustees were present.
- B. **O Canada** – *L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy*.
- C. **Remembrance Ceremony**
1. L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy Remembrance Ceremony
Received for information.
- D. **Communications from the Board Chair** - None
- E. **Communications from the Acting Superintendent of Schools**- None
- F. **Minutes:**
1. Board Meeting #18 – October 11, 2005
Approved as printed.
 2. Organizational Board Meeting – October 25, 2005
Approved as printed.
- G. **Focus on Student Achievement**
4. George P. Nicholson School – Focus on Inquiry
Received for information.
- H. **Reports:**
5. Response to Delegation from the Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations (NAARR)
Approved recommendation.
 6. Successful Completion of High School Courses and High School Completion Rates

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Hansen asked that the following questions be responded to via TM:
- What are the major reasons that district numbers are below the provincial completion rates?
 - Is there data available to compare the district to other metro districts?
 - Are lower completion rates an anomaly that occurs in metro districts? (e.g. larger populations)
- c) Trustee Gibson asked that the administration prepare a report explaining whether the strategies outlined in this report are sufficient to meet the goal statements in the district's Three-Year Education Plan.

Trustee Gibson further requested that this report analyze course completion data to evaluate whether cooperative education opportunities, such as enrolment in the Registered Apprenticeship Program or work experience, contribute to higher levels of course completion. As an example, does enrolment in rap or work experience appear to contribute to higher percentages of course completion for Applied Math 20?

7. Alberta Education Diploma Examination Results

Received for information.

8. Advanced Placement Examination Results: 2005

Received for information.

9. International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2005

Received for information.

10. Alberta Education Achievement Test Results: June 2005

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Gibson requested comparable data for the province for students in Grades 3, 6 and 9 as was provided in the Alberta Education Achievement Test Results Report for the district.
- c) Trustee Hansen requested that district results be provided along with the cohort data for all district students who write the tests in the next round of reports.
- d) Trustee Colburn suggested that the district/board identify the concerns regarding cohort data and communicate those concerns to the minister.
- e) Trustee Keiver requested that administration provide the results of the Alberta Achievement Tests for French Immersion students by grade, school and subject.

11. Student Transportation Services

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Gibson requested in-depth information on how the no charge service for kindergarten students has impacted enrolment.
- c) Regarding the proposed adjustment of elementary school hours of operation to decrease ride times for students in areas without schools, Trustee Keiver requested that administration provide a cost comparison, taking into account double runs would increase expenditures while allowing for the decreased expense for some buses. Please also include specific examples of predicted reduced ride times.
- d) Trustee Keiver requested a response to the questions:
 - If the district were to have a north side site for the Tevie Miller/Heritage and L. Y. Cairns programs; could these two programs co-exist in the same facility? If not, why?
 - What would the initial cost to the district be to establish new sites for these programs at one site or two sites? Provide details on necessary physical plant modifications, renovations, funding for resource materials, books, teaching tools, etc.
 - How would these costs compare to the estimated costs for providing city-wide transportation to the existing sites into the future anticipating increased ridership, expenses and ride times?

- e) Trustee Keiver requested information on all other district programs such as L. Y. Cairns and Tevie Miller for which we currently provide city-wide transportation either by provincial requirement or district policy (locations, number of students transported, etc.). (TT #126)
- f) With respect to the Student Transportation Liaison Committee, has there ever been any consideration given to coordinating bus services and routes with Edmonton Catholic Schools. If so, when and with what results?
- g) Trustee Gibeault suggested some changes to the Conditional Ridership Form to better clarify for parents that conditional ridership is not guaranteed; when parents can expect to be notified if ridership is granted; some explanation for the time lag; and some indication of what the fees might be.
- h) Trustee Colburn asked that when the report on transportation costs is brought to board, if comparative information on Edmonton Catholic Schools transportation services can be provided where possible.
- i) Board Chair Esslinger asked how many students without a designated school are attending Alternative Programs.
- j) Trustee Fleming requested clarification on the number of students riding buses to Alternative Programs as they are currently broken out by category in the report.

12. External Retrospective Review of the 2005 School Closure Process

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustees Colburn and Gibson requested that Ms Bidulock's verbal introduction summarizing the report conclusions be made a matter of public record.

13. Community Use of School Facilities Consultation Group

- a) Received for information.
- b) Vice-Chair Gibeault suggested that Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and the Edmonton Sports Council be invited to participate in the study.
- c) Trustee Gibeault requested that the status of the AUMA resolution encouraging greater after-hours community use of schools be provided.

- d) Trustee Gibeault suggested that the Board Chair inform Councillor Leibovici of the consultation process.
- e) Trustee Fleming suggested that a representative from provincial government be invited to participate in the study and that the appropriate ministry be advised of the difficulties school are having in providing community access to schools.
- f) Trustee Hansen suggested that the Mayor be asked to advise Council of the Joint Use Review Process.
- g) Trustee Fleming requested that a letter be sent to Minister advising that the board is undertaking the process.

14. Perspectives and Initiatives Regarding Community Access to Schools

- a) Received for information.
- b) Representatives of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and the Edmonton Sports Council provided their comments with regard to Community Access to Schools Task Force. They suggested that groups that are currently not able to access school space should be consulted. They noted that there are discrepancies in the statistical data provided by the district and the data provided by the city. They suggested that the sports groups identified for consultation may be major users but are not major sports groups. They suggested that when establishing the meeting dates, the volunteers be consulted to ensure that the right volunteers are able to participate in both meetings.

15. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

Received for information.

16. Bereavement

Received with regret.

I. Committee and Board Representative Reports – None.

- **Community Relations Activities** – None.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Kathryn Burke, Past Member of Strathearn School Council, encouraged the board to have Jenise Bidulock's comments made public. She commended the board for their public consultation process with respect to community use of schools and for the growing recognition of the importance of schools to the community. And she encouraged the board to advise all elected officials about the issues of concern to the public.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson requested that the administration provide an information report on existing initiatives for ongoing dialogue with Edmonton's Aboriginal community.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Colburn gave notice of motion that he will be requesting that the board send a letter to the Minister of Education, including the report delivered to Public Board on September 27, 2005, regarding the decline in the number of teacher librarians and counsellors in schools today and urging that new levels of funding and support be provided.

M. Next Meeting Date: November 29, 2005 – 6:00 p.m. - Board

N. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 9:50 p.m.