

MINUTE BOOK

- Organizational Meeting -

Minutes of the organizational 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, October 25, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Svend Hansen

Wendy Keiver
George Nicholson
Don Williams

Officials

Angus McBeath
Edgar Schmidt

Donna Barrett
Bob Holt

Ron MacNeil
Corinne McCabe
Tanni Parker

Board Chair: Svend Hansen

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers – Mark Ramsankar, President
CUPE Local 3550 – Trudy Grebenstein, President
CUPE Local 474 – Doug Luellman, President

A. O Canada – CD.

B. Roll Call: (7:30 p.m.) - All trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The board chair expressed appreciation on behalf of the board for Mr. McBeath's service to the district.

The board chair advised that he would not be seeking re-election as board chair.

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D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent thanked the board and expressed confidence in Mr. Schmidt's abilities as he becomes Acting Superintendent of Schools.

E. Reports:

1. Report #20 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held October 18, 2005)

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- "1. That report #20 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held October 18, 2005 be received and considered." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- "2. That the appointment of John Nicoll to the position of Managing Director effective November 14, 2005 be confirmed."

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The board chair called on Trustee Gibeault, Board Evaluation Committee Chair, to provide a verbal report from the Board Evaluation Committee with respect to the results of the board's self-evaluation.

Trustee Gibeault presented the following verbal report:

I would like to report from the Board Evaluation Committee on the results of this year's board self-evaluation. The board conducts an annual self-evaluation for a number of reasons:

- *to facilitate communication and teamwork among board members*
- *to enable the board to model its policy of system wide evaluation*
- *to assist the board in clarifying its direction in the context of its legacy statement and to plan more effectively, and provide for, the learning opportunities of children in the district.*

In October 2004, the board came together as a new working team. We developed what we call a "legacy statement" that we would work towards achieving in our term of office in support of the district priorities. The legacy statement assists the board in developing and maintaining a common focus and guiding the board's actions as a governing body.

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The legacy statement reads:

As leaders and advocates for public education, we have:

- *raised academic achievement levels and high school completion rates, and promoted the physical and mental well-being of every student*
- *actively engaged community partners in support of defining and obtaining superb results from every student*
- *secured broad community support for sustained investment in public education and provided sound stewardship of district resources*
- *instilled in every student a strong belief in societal involvement, values and responsibilities*
- *celebrated excellence in teaching and the work of all district staff.*

In reviewing the self-evaluation results, we believe that we have made significant progress on our legacy objectives and that these objectives continue to be valid and important to achieve.

In terms of our first objective of raising academic achievement levels...

- *We see steady progress and believe that the district's work on supporting teaching and learning is key. As a district, we continue to provide our teachers with high quality training, which helps them in their ongoing work to improve student achievement.*
- *For most of the 2005 Provincial grade 3, 6 and 9 Achievement Tests, district students did better than the province. For the 2005 Grade 12 diploma exams, more district students achieved the standard of excellence than the province.*
- *Edmonton Public Schools' commitment that all of its students should complete high school is bearing substantial gains in both course completion and high school completion rates.*
- *We are particularly pleased with the gains made at the Grade 10 level, where students had increases in all core subject areas. If our students are successful in their Grade 10 courses, it is much more likely that they will complete high school.*

In terms of actively engaging community partners in support of defining and obtaining superb results from every student...

- *The board was pleased with stakeholder participation in developing the district priorities for this board's term of office last fall*
- *And this fall, we have very much appreciated the stakeholder support provided in defining the attributes and qualities for the ideal candidate for superintendent of schools.*

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- *We recognized the stakeholder consultation in the cluster studies and resulting school closure processes was invaluable to the board's deliberations and decision making.*
- *Schools have also been sharing information with staff, parents and their community not only about their budget and financial needs but about their instructional focus and have sought community assistance in supporting teaching and learning in the classroom.*
- *We recognize that engaging the community requires ongoing effort and our success or failure will directly impact community support for public education.*

In terms of securing broad community support for sustained investment in public education and providing sound stewardship of district resources...

- *We see public education as the most important work in society today -- our challenge is to communicate this importance with passion to our students and to our broader communities. Other educational bodies such as colleges and universities and parents also carry this message and we have assisted them in their advocacy efforts by providing access to valid information on student achievement, district operations and social research.*
- *For our part, we want to prepare the public for challenges we can see coming and engage our public in successfully addressing the challenges. Trustees believe that they and the board need to have more visibility in the community. Although trustees regularly attend school and public events we need more effective mechanisms for delivering our messages clearly to stakeholders.*
- *We want to focus our efforts for the balance of this term on developing strategies that will assist us in engaging the best opinion leaders in the community in promoting the importance of education. We want to build and present a business and a social case for ensuring that public education receives the resources and priority it needs.*

With respect to stewardship of district resources,

- *The board has risen to the challenge of addressing the use of all district resources-- human, financial, and physical including district space for maximum benefit of students. Work will continue this year with the review of district practices and policies related to the use of space as a district resource and as an asset that must be managed.*
- *We are committed to lowering average class sizes by the 2006/07 school year to the levels recommended by the Learning Commission and to this end, ensured that class size funding was used for class size reductions. The data for 2004/05 show that the Learning Commission targets were met for the 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 grade divisions. Significant progress was also made at the K-3 division, lowering the average class size from 22.0 in 2003/04 to 19.2 in 2004/05. By 2006/07 the Learning Commission targets will be met for all grade ranges.*

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In terms of instilling in every student a strong belief in societal involvement, values and responsibilities...

- *We believe that the district's framework and focus on character education is having a positive impact in the schools as evidenced by increased student and parent satisfaction levels.*
- *We are also pleased that many schools have incorporated character education into their instructional focus initiatives.*

In terms of celebrating excellence in teaching and the work of all staff...

- *The board takes pride in the service and accomplishments of staff both within and outside of the district*
- *The board believes that the board, administration and staff are all committed to supporting teaching and learning.*
- *The board continues to support the offering of recognition programs and professional development to enable all staff to achieve high standards of performance and fulfillment.*

Overall, in reviewing the board's self-evaluation, the board is pleased with both our effort and the results of our work. We acknowledge that sustainability and sufficiency of funding will continue to challenge us. We will focus our efforts on engaging our communities in support of public education.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “3. That the verbal report from the Board Evaluation Committee with respect to the results of the board's self evaluation be received for information.”**

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

2. Community Access to Schools Task Force

Mr. Schmidt provided a verbal report outlining the initiation of an Edmonton Public Schools' Task Force on Community Access to Schools and advised that another report with respect to this matter will be brought to the November 8, 2005 board meeting.

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MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“That the verbal report with respect to the Community Access to Schools Task Force be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

3. Confirmation of Committees, Board Representation and Regular Meetings

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“1. That the following standing committees of the whole be confirmed:

- Conference Committee**
- Audit Committee**

2. That the following standing subcommittees be confirmed:

- a) Community Relations**
- b) Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools**
- c) District Priorities**
- d) Board Evaluation and Results**
- e) Planning and Policy**
- f) Budget Review**
- g) Results Review**
- h) Interpretations**

3. That board membership and representation on the following district staff negotiating committees be confirmed:

- Teaching**
- Custodial**
- Maintenance**
- Support**

4. That board representation on the following external agencies be confirmed:

- a) Alberta School Boards Association**
 - Provincial Executive**
 - Zone 23 Executive**
 - ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee**
 - Alberta School Boards Association for Bilingual Education (ASBABE)**

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b) **Public School Boards' Association of Alberta**

- provincial executive nominee
- liaison representative

5. That the board's membership and representation on the Linkages Advisory Committee for the Capital Region be confirmed.

6. That the board's ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee comprised of the board chair or vice-chair, the ASBA Provincial Executive Board of Directors representative and the Zone 23 representative be confirmed.

7. That the following dates and times of regular meetings be confirmed:

a) **Board**

Regular board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Special meetings may be held at the call of the chair.

b) **Conference Committee**

Regular meetings of the conference committee are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The third Tuesday morning of each month will be held as a reserve meeting date for special meetings which may be held at the call of the chair.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

1. **Board Chair**

Trustee Hansen called for nominations for the position of board chair.

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

"That voting be done by secret ballot." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Williams nominated Trustee Fleming for the position of board chair.

Trustee Keiver nominated Trustee Esslinger for the position of board chair.

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The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

Ballots were distributed and collected by the board secretary.

The superintendent of schools and the board secretary left the room to count the ballots.

Mrs. Sherwood announced that the majority of the board had elected Trustee Esslinger as board chair for the forthcoming year.

Trustee Esslinger accepted the chair and thanked her colleagues for their vote of confidence. She also thanked Trustee Hansen for his efforts during his terms as board chair.

2. Board Vice-Chair

The board chair called for nominations for board vice-chair.

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That voting be done by secret ballot.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Gibson nominated Trustee Keiver for the position of board vice-chair.

Trustee Nicholson nominated Trustee Gibeault for the position of board vice-chair.

Trustee Williams nominated Trustee Fleming for the position of board vice-chair.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

Ballots were distributed and collected by the board secretary.

The superintendent of schools and the board secretary left the room to count the ballots.

Mrs. Sherwood announced that there was no clear majority and that a second ballot would be required for Trustees Keiver and Gibeault.

Ballots were distributed and collected by the board secretary.

The superintendent of schools and the board secretary left the room to count the ballots.

Mrs. Sherwood announced that the majority of the board had elected Trustee Gibeault as board vice-chair for the forthcoming year.

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Trustee Gibeault accepted the vice-chair.

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the ballots be destroyed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

3. Board chair of Standing Committees of the Whole:

i) Conference Committee

ii) Audit Committee

The board chair noted that the practice of the board has been to have the same trustee serve as both conference committee and audit committee chair. She then called for nominations for the position of conference committee and audit committee chair.

Trustee Fleming nominated Trustee Gibson for the position of conference committee and audit committee chair.

The board chair, seeing that there were no further nominations, declared that Trustee Gibson would be the conference and audit committee chair for the forthcoming year.

4. Representatives on Other Standing Committees

i) Community Relations

The board chair called for nominations for two trustee representatives to serve on the community relations committee. The board chair serves as the third member of the committee.

Trustee Gibeault nominated Trustee Colburn.

Trustee Colburn nominated Trustee Keiver.

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That nominations cease.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The board chair declared Trustees Colburn, Keiver and herself (as board chair) as the board's representatives on the community relations committee for the forthcoming year.

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ii) Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools

The board chair called for nominations for trustee representatives to serve on the evaluation of the superintendent of schools committee.

Trustee Fleming nominated Trustee Williams.

Trustee Hansen nominated Trustee Gibeault.

Trustee Esslinger nominated Trustee Keiver.

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That nominations cease.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The board chair declared Trustees Gibeault, Keiver and Williams as the board’s representatives on the evaluation of the superintendent of schools committee for the forthcoming year.

iii) District Priorities Committee

The board chair called for nominations for trustee representatives to serve on the district priorities committee.

Trustee Fleming nominated Trustee Nicholson.

Trustee Colburn nominated Trustee Hansen.

Trustee Esslinger nominated Trustee Gibson.

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That nominations cease.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The board chair declared Trustees Gibson, Hansen and Nicholson as the board’s representatives on the district priorities committee for the forthcoming year.

iv) Board Evaluation and Results Committee

The board chair called for nominations for trustee representatives to serve on the board evaluation and results committee.

Trustee Keiver nominated Trustee Colburn.

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Trustee Gibeault nominated Trustee Hansen.

Trustee Esslinger nominated Trustee Nicholson.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That nominations cease.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The board chair declared Trustees Colburn, Hansen and Nicholson as the board's representatives on the board evaluation and results committee for the forthcoming year.

v) Planning and Policy Review

The board chair called for nominations for trustee representatives to serve on the planning and policy review committee.

Trustee Nicholson nominated Trustee Esslinger.

Trustee Colburn nominated Trustee Fleming.

Trustee Fleming nominated Trustee Gibson.

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That nominations cease.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The board chair declared Trustees Esslinger, Fleming and Gibson as the board's representatives on the planning and policy review committee for the forthcoming year.

vi) Budget Review and Results Review Committees

The board chair noted that all trustees serve on budget and results review committees as determined in the approval of the budget process.

vii) Interpretations Committees

The board chair noted that all trustees serve on interpretations committees on a rotational basis.

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5. Ad Hoc Negotiation Assignments:

i) Teaching Staff

The board chair called for nominations for two trustee representatives to be assigned to the negotiations with the district's teaching staff.

Trustee Gibson nominated Trustee Colburn.

Trustee Nicholson nominated Trustee Keiver.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The board chair declared Trustees Colburn and Keiver as the board's representatives assigned to the negotiations with the district's teaching staff.

ii) Custodial Staff

The board chair called for nominations for two trustee representatives to be assigned to the negotiations with the district's custodial staff.

Trustee Colburn nominated Trustee Esslinger.

Trustee Gibson nominated Trustee Hansen.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The board chair declared Trustees Esslinger and Hansen as the board's representatives assigned to the negotiations with the district's custodial staff.

iii) Maintenance Staff

The board chair called for nominations for two trustee representatives to be assigned to the negotiations with the district's maintenance staff.

Trustee Gibeault nominated Trustee Keiver.

Trustee Hansen nominated Trustee Fleming.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

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The board chair declared Trustees Fleming and Keiver as the board's representatives assigned to the negotiations with the district's maintenance staff.

iv) Support Staff

The board chair called for nominations for two trustee representatives to be assigned to the negotiations with the district's support staff.

Trustee Gibson nominated Trustee Gibeault.

Trustee Keiver nominated Trustee Esslinger.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The board chair declared Trustees Esslinger and Gibeault as the board's representatives assigned to the negotiations with the district's support staff.

6. Representatives to Other Agencies:

- i) Alberta School Boards' Association Positions
 - a) Provincial Executive

The board chair called for nominations for a trustee representative to serve on the ASBA provincial executive.

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That voting be done by secret ballot.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Hansen nominated Trustee Gibeault.

Trustee Colburn nominated Trustee Fleming.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

Ballots were distributed and collected by the board secretary.

The superintendent of schools and the board secretary left the room to count the ballots.

Mrs. Sherwood announced that the majority of the board had elected Trustee Gibeault as the board's representative to serve on the ASBA provincial executive.

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MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the ballots be destroyed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Alternate

The board chair called for nominations for a trustee representative to serve as Trustee Gibeault’s alternate on the ASBA provincial executive.

Trustee Nicholson nominated Trustee Esslinger.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The board chair declared that she would serve as Trustee Gibeault’s alternate on the ASBA provincial executive.

b) Zone 23 Executive

The board chair called for nominations for a trustee representative to serve on the ASBA Zone 23 executive.

Trustee Gibson nominated Trustee Fleming.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The board chair declared Trustee Fleming as the board's representative to serve on the ASBA Zone 23 executive.

Alternate

The board chair called for nominations for a trustee representative to serve as Trustee Fleming’s alternate on the ASBA Zone 23 executive.

Trustee Nicholson nominated Trustee Esslinger.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The board chair declared that she would serve as Trustee Fleming’s alternate on the ASBA Zone 23 executive.

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Alberta School Boards Association for Bilingual Education (ASBABE)

The board chair called for nominations for a trustee representative to serve on the Alberta School Boards Association for Bilingual Education.

Trustee Nicholson nominated Trustee Colburn.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The board chair declared Trustee Colburn as the board's representative to serve on the Alberta School Boards Association for Bilingual Education.

ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee

Trustee Esslinger (as board chair), Trustee Gibeault (as the board's representative on the ASBA provincial executive) and Trustee Fleming (as the board's representative on the ASBA Zone 23 executive) will serve as the board's representatives on the ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee.

ii) Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Positions:

a) Board Nominee for First Vice President

The board chair called for nominations for a trustee to be the board's nominee for First Vice President of the PSBAA.

Trustee Esslinger nominated Trustee Keiver.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The board chair declared that Trustee Keiver will be the board's nominee for First Vice President of the PSBAA.

b) Liaison/Public School Boards Council (PSBC)

The board chair called for nominations for a trustee representative to serve as the board's liaison on PSBC with the PSBAA.

Trustee Esslinger nominated Trustee Keiver.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

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The board chair declared Trustee Keiver as the board's PSBC representative with the PSBAA for the coming year.

iii) Linkages Advisory Committee for the Capital Region

The board chair called for nominations for a trustee representative to serve as the board's representative on the Linkages Advisory Committee for the Capital Region.

Trustee Fleming nominated Trustee Keiver.

The board chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The board chair declared Trustee Keiver as the board's representative on the Linkages Advisory Committee for the Capital Region.

F. Committee and Board Representative Reports – None

- **Community Relations Activities** - None

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mark Ramsankar, President Edmonton Public Teachers, expressed thanks to Superintendent McBeath for his leadership, integrity and his unwavering support for public education.

Doug Luellman, President CUPE Local 474, expressed appreciation for Superintendent McBeath's support of the district's custodial staff and for his efforts on behalf of Edmonton Public Schools.

H. Trustee and Board Requests for Information - None

I. Notices of Motion – None

J. Meeting Dates:

DATE	MEETING	COMMENCEMENT TIME
Tuesday, November 8, 2009	Public Board	6:00 p.m.

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K. Adjournment: (8:40 p.m.)

The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Secretary