

MINUTE BOOK

- **Board Meeting #2** -

Minutes of a 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, November 12, 2003 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Bill Bonko
Bob Dean
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Svend Hansen
Ray Martin

George Nicholson
Lynn Odynski
Jean Woodrow

Officials

Angus McBeath
Norm Diemert
Bob Holt
Avi Habinski

Donna Barrett
Corinne McCabe
Ron McNeil
Fred Buffi
Mary Butlin

Pat Dougherty
Gord Hanson
Lori Price-Wagner
Morrie Smith

Chairman: S. Hansen

Board Secretary: A. Sherwood

Recording Secretary: M. Fraser

B. Roll Call: (6:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all trustees were present.

A. O Canada

Mr. Geoffrey Evans, a teacher from L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy, lead in the singing of O Canada. He was accompanied by Ewald Cheung on the violin.

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F. Remembrance Ceremony:

4. L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy Remembrance Ceremony

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report entitled ‘L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy Remembrance Ceremony’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

C. Communications from the Board Chairman

The chairman advised that he had been very pleased to have the opportunity to lay a wreath on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Edmonton Public Schools at the Remembrance Day Service held at the Butterdome yesterday.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #18 – October 14, 2003
2. Board Meeting – October 21, 2003
3. Organizational Board Meeting – October 28, 2003

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #18 held October 14, 2003, the board meeting held October 21, 2003 and the Organizational Board Meeting held October 28, 2003 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Focus on Student Achievement:

5. W.P. Wagner Instructional Focus: Reading Comprehension

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report entitled ‘W.P. Wagner Instructional Focus: Reading Comprehension’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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H. Reports:

6. Report #1 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held November 4, 2003)

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- “1. That report #1 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held November 4, 2003 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Gibeault, chair of the Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools Subcommittee provided the following verbal report with respect to the evaluation of the superintendent of schools:

The Board of Trustees recently completed its annual review of the Superintendent of Schools. This is the second year in which Angus McBeath has served in this capacity, and his second evaluation.

The 2002-2003 school year has been one in which the superintendent was challenged to find creative ways to address a difficult financial situation. Through it all, Mr. McBeath has kept our staff focused on “The Work”. He has instilled confidence in his leadership through both his words and his deeds. His commitment to improving student achievement has been demonstrated as a constant element in his leadership.

Mr. McBeath has made it clear during the past year that he does not shy away from making tough decisions. For example, he added instructional time to the school day and implemented controls on expenditures. Both of these initiatives had the potential to elicit a great deal of reaction; however, he was able to bring them about successfully and gain the understanding and acceptance of staff.

In its evaluation, the Board was particularly impressed with Mr. McBeath’s dedication – his ability to “stay the course” during a particularly turbulent and challenging year. He set targets for all schools in the district and expected “superb results from all students”. He shared his passion for improving achievement, and he motivated staff with his sincerity and commitment. He kept the district focused on improving teaching and learning and, in the end, he led us in celebrating:

- *a 6% increase in students completing high school over a two year period*
- *more students completing high school courses than ever before*
- *significant gains in student achieving the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence in grades 3, 6, 9 and 12 on provincial exams, and*
- *more students reading and writing at grade level, particularly in the primary grades.*

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The work of Edmonton Public Schools continues to be recognized world wide, and the successes of our board and school district are chronicled in educational publications, newspaper features, and requests from delegations to visit the district. The reputation of Edmonton Public Schools is excellent in our community. The fact that it is highly regarded by other educational jurisdictions is a tribute to the exemplary skills Mr. McBeath brings to this position and his relentless efforts in advancing the focus on improving teaching and learning.

Through its very positive evaluation of Superintendent McBeath, this Board has demonstrated a high level of confidence in him. The Board views him as a man who acknowledges the diversity among the trustees, and who is able to respond to each trustee in a balanced and respectful way. He is recognized for his excellent interpersonal skills; he acts with integrity, he is credible, he leads by example, and he is a man who holds himself accountable for achieving results.

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“2. That the verbal report with respect to the evaluation of the superintendent of schools be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Motion Re Trustee Electoral Ward Boundary Criteria

MOVED BY Trustee Woodrow:

“That the following be added to the trustee electoral ward boundary criteria: ensure that each ward includes within its boundaries at least one elementary, junior high and senior high school.”

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the item be referred to the January 13, 2004 board meeting.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Bonko, Dean, Fleming, Gibeault and Martin

OPPOSED: Trustees Hansen, Nicholson, Odynski and Woodrow

The Referral Motion was CARRIED.

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8. Energy Conservation Program

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘Energy Conservation Program’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

9. By-Law No. 368 – Energy Conservation Retrofits

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“1. That by-law No. 368 be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

“2. That by-law No. 368 be read for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Mrs. Sherwood read By-law No. 368 for the first time.

MOVED BY Trustee Bonko:

“3. That by-law No. 368 be read for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Mrs. Sherwood read By-law No. 368 for the second time.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“4. That, in accordance with the authority of Section 69 of the *School Act* by-law No. 368 be read for the third time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Mrs. Sherwood read By-law No. 368 for the third time.

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

“5. That by-law No. 368, having been given three readings at this meeting, be finally passed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The board took a break at this point.

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10. Trustee Subcommittee Review of 2002-2003 School and Central Department Results

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

“That the report entitled ‘Trustee Subcommittee Review of 2002-2003 School and Central Department Results’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

11. Policy Positions for the 2003 ASBA Fall General Meeting

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘Policy Positions for the 2003 ASBA Fall General Meeting’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

12. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Odynski:

“That the report entitled ‘Responses to Trustee Requests for Information’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

I. Committee and Board Representative Reports
•Community Relations Activities

Trustee Odynski advised that she had attended the ASBA Zone 23 Annual General Meeting on October 24, 2003 at which time she had the opportunity to hear Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole speak on the critical importance of public education and her concern about the lack of priority that arts education is receiving.

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the meeting be extended to complete the agenda.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Odynski advised that she had participated in the ATA-sponsored panel on November 3, 2003 regarding the Learning Commission report. MLA Bob Maskell was in attendance.

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Trustee Odynski advised that she had attended the Ward C and E meeting on November 4, 2003 regarding the Learning Commission. Patricia Mackenzie, Chairperson Alberta's Commission on Learning, as well as MLAs Maskell and Rathgeber were also in attendance. Subsequent to that, the parent councils from Wards C and E as well as the Riverview and Whitemud Coalitions met with the Edmonton Region Caucus to discuss their views of the Learning Commission report.

Trustee Bonko advised that he had attended the APEGGA awards on behalf of the district on Thursday, November 6, 2003. A number of district teachers and students were nominated for awards. He noted that Rose Oishi from Brander Gardens School received the 2003 teachers award and suggested that a congratulatory letter be sent to her.

Trustee Woodrow advised that she had attended the Ross Sheppard 6th Annual Music at the Winspear Concert last Wednesday. The quality of the performances was outstanding. It included a number of ensembles from the feeder schools and allowed smaller bands an opportunity to perform.

Trustee Dean advised that he had attended the RAP Graduation and presentation of scholarships at NAIT on November 6, 2003. He noted that over 40 students will receive scholarships between \$1,000 and \$10,000. Three students from district schools (Centre High, Harry Ainlay and McNally) received scholarships. The Minister of Learning was in attendance as was Sam Shaw of NAIT and Bill Hunter of Alberta Pacific Forest Industries. It is estimated by 2010 that 1,000,000 service industry employees will be needed.

Trustee Hansen noted that he had attended the United Way luncheon on November 6, 2003 which was attended by a number of staff from the district including a teacher from a school who spoke about the benefits her school received from United Way contributions.

Trustee Hansen advised that he had attended a town hall meeting last Monday with MLAs Gene Zwozdesky and Bob Maskell regarding the Learning Commission. There were over 100 people in attendance.

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

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K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Martin requested that information be provided regarding how much reading recovery time has been cut from schools this year compared to last year.

Trustee Martin requested that information be provided regarding the possible impact that the decision by the Ontario Privacy Commissioner, regarding a high school student's request for details of the exclusive supply agreements between Coke and Pepsi and some high schools, may have on any similar confidentiality agreements that district schools may have with corporate sponsors; i.e. do any of our schools have such agreements?

Trustee Martin requested that information be provided explaining the new model for student governance used in some high schools with respect to student councils.

Trustee Fleming requested a report detailing the implications and benefits of providing a statement of support by Edmonton Public Schools for the three levels of support for the reserve force as outlined in the information provided by Canadian Forces Liaison Council. Provide a recommendation of support or non support by our district.

L. Notices of Motion – None.

M. Next Meeting:

DATE	MEETING	COMMENCEMENT TIME
Tuesday, November 25, 2003	Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: (9:15 p.m.)

The chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Chairman

Board Secretary

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