

MINUTE BOOK

- **Board Meeting #18** -

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, October 14, 2003 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Bob Dean
Don Fleming
Gerry Gibeault

Svend Hansen
Ray Martin
George Nicholson

Jean Woodrow

Officials

Angus McBeath
Norm Diemert
Bob Holt
Avi Habinski

Donna Barrett
Corinne McCabe
Ron McNeil
Ted Biggs
Charlotte Corothers

Maureen MacDonald
Scott Millar
Lorne Parker
Ros Smith

Chairman: D. Fleming

Board Secretary: A. Sherwood
Recording Secretary: M. Fraser

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers: K. Beaton

A. O Canada

O Canada was sung by Kate Chegwin Music Teacher Shannon Haggerty who was accompanied on the piano by Grace Lee, a grade 8 student.

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that Trustees Bonko and Odynski were absent. All other trustees were present.

October 14, 2003

MINUTE BOOK

C. Communications from the Board Chairman

The chairman advised that the Provincial Executive Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association has proclaimed October 13 to 18, 2003 as Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week throughout Alberta. The board appreciates the contributions substitute teachers make in providing continuity to the learning experiences of district students. Schools are encouraged, during this week especially and throughout the year, to recognize the valuable work substitute teachers are doing on behalf of our students.

The chairman advised that, in the official report that was presented to Parliament October 6, 2003 by the Commissioner of Official Languages, the EPS French Language Renewal Project was highlighted. The report identifies that the Office of the Commissioner is participating as a member of the advisory board and that the Commissioner intends to award a certificate of merit to each student who passes the language skills test administered by the Public Service Commission of Canada. The report states: *This project is truly remarkable because it is the first time that young Canadian students are taking language tests that are recognized when applying for designated bilingual positions within the Federal Public Service.*

The chairman noted that the truly great thing is that this "first" is happening in Edmonton not Ottawa or Moncton.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #17 – September 30, 2003

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

"That the minutes of Board Meeting #17 held September 30, 2003 be approved as printed." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Focus on Student Achievement:

2. Kate Chegwin's Instructional Focus: Higher Order Thinking Skills

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

"That the report entitled 'Kate Chegwin's Instructional Focus: Higher Order Thinking Skills' be received for information." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

October 14, 2003

MINUTE BOOK

G. Reports:

3. Report #16 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held October 7, 2003)

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- “1. That report #16 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held October 7, 2003 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Gibeault, chair of the board evaluation committee provided the following verbal report with respect to the board's self-evaluation:

I would like to report from the Board Evaluation Committee on the results of this year's board evaluation. The board conducts an annual board self-evaluation in addition to reviewing other district monitoring information and achievement results.

The board conducts a board 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 (i.e., to hold itself to a standard as it holds others to a standard).*
- *To assist the board in clarifying its direction to more effectively plan, and provide for, the learning opportunities for children in the system.*

In the context of the goals it established for itself at the beginning of its term of office, the board considers the degree to which it has been effective in fulfilling its mandated role and responsibilities and the district's priorities.

The 2002-2003 school year presented both challenges and opportunities. We began the year on the tail of the arbitrated teachers wage settlement and the announcement of an Alberta Commission on Learning. We launched an extensive consultation process with education stakeholders who shared their view and provided input to the district's submission to the Learning Commission. More than 650 individuals participated. This marked the beginning of a concerted effort to engage the community in support of public education and to highlight the need for increased funding in our schools.

October 14, 2003

MINUTE BOOK

In reviewing the board's self-evaluation, the board takes pride in its efforts to engage the community. The board collectively and individually took steps to keep the community informed of the district's initiatives and challenges through media conferences, and meetings with MLA's, school councils and parent advocates.

The board has always had an open and accountable budget review process. In the context of the budget process, we gave notice to our school communities that the district was facing a deficit and that our schools need increased funding. Our strategy gained broad publicity and staff support. There was tremendous support provided by parent and community advocates for increased funding. We appreciate their efforts very much. Our greatest disappointment is that increased funding was not forthcoming but we remain hopeful for the future.

And, while we created a higher profile for education and put education on the front burner, it did not come without its own price. The district was faced with an external review and audit. The district viewed this new challenge as an opportunity to improve some practices and affirm the value of others. We remain committed to decentralized decision-making but believe that with school based budgeting comes responsibility. One of the predominant themes in the board's self-evaluation was the need to demonstrate due diligence in the monitoring of expenditures of public funds. Not only must there be monitoring and accountability, but as well, the results must be communicated in such a way that they are easily understood by our public.

Another significant theme from the board's evaluation is that in spite of a series of significant challenges, we maintained our focus on student achievement and the value of public education. We did not allow ourselves to be split apart in the face of criticism from government, the public or the media.

Three years ago, the Board of Trustees reaffirmed its priority around achievement. We wanted to improve our student achievement results and our high school completion rates. It is very heartening for the board to see that our efforts and those of our staff are beginning to show positive results. Over the past two years, the five-year completion rate as measured by Alberta Learning has increased each year at a rate significantly better than the provincial rate. HLAT results show an increase in the percentage of students reading and writing at grade level in the primary grades, particularly for students reading above grade level. Over 85% of students at grades 1 to 9 are reading at or above grade level and 87% are writing at or above grade level.

October 14, 2003

MINUTE BOOK

And, our provincial achievement results are showing similar stellar improvement. More of our students achieved the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence in 2003 than in 2002 on Provincial Achievement tests. For nearly all subjects, a greater percentage of district students met the acceptable standard and standard of excellence than was true for the province in 2003. More of our students are completing high school – we have seen a 5.6 per cent gain in our completion rate for students who would have entered Grade 10 in 1997-98. The district saw an increase in the percentage of students successfully completing core courses in Grade 10, 11 and 12. This hopefully will result in further increases in our high school completion rate. Completing high school is essential if our students are to enjoy a high quality of life, become productive citizens and make a meaningful contribution to their communities.

Although we recognize that this year will present challenges for our district in terms of reduced staffing levels and limited resources, we will continue to do our best to minimize the impact these reductions will have on student learning. We remain committed to delivering an outstanding education to our students. And, we remain committed to keeping our community engaged as active partners in public education.

We look forward to the challenges and opportunities presented by the recent release of the report from the Learning Commission and the promise of increased funding for education.

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- “2. That the verbal report with respect to the board’s self-evaluation be received for information.”**

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- “3. That the Board of Trustees accept the resignations of the following teacher certificated staff:**

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Resign/Retire</u>
2002-2003 – 35	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 36	26-Oct-02	Resign
2002-2003 – 37	28-Apr-03	Resign
2002-2003 – 38	28-Feb-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 39	11-Feb-03	Resign

October 14, 2003

MINUTE BOOK

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Resign/Retire</u>
2002-2003 – 40	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 41	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 42	28-Feb-06	Retire
2002-2003 – 43	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 44	30-Nov-02	Retire
2002-2003 – 45	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 46	10-Feb-03	Resign
2002-2003 – 47	15-Jan-03	Resign
2002-2003 – 48	1-May-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 49	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 50	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 51	11-Nov-02	Resign
2002-2003 – 52	30-Jan-03	Resign
2002-2003 – 53	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 54	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 55	1-Feb-04	Retire
2002-2003 – 56	30-Jun-03	Resign
2002-2003 – 57	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 58	29-Aug-02	Resign
2002-2003 – 59	1-Jan-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 60	28-Aug-03	Resign
2002-2003 – 61	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 62	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 63	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 64	8-May-03	Resign
2002-2003 – 65	25-Feb-03	Resign
2002-2003 – 66	30-Sep-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 67	28-Feb-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 68	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 69	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 70	12-Dec-02	Retire
2002-2003 – 71	30-Jun-03	Retire

October 14, 2003

MINUTE BOOK

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Resign/Retire</u>
2002-2003 – 72	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 73	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 74	30-Jun-02	Resign
2002-2003 – 75	28-Aug-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 76	9-Nov-02	Resign
2002-2003 - 77	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 78	23-Apr-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 79	28-Feb-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 80	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 81	10-Jan-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 82	30-Apr-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 83	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 84	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 85	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 86	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 87	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 88	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 89	31-Dec-02	Resign
2002-2003 - 90	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 91	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 92	31-Mar-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 93	1-Nov-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 94	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 95	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 96	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 97	31-Dec-02	Retire
2002-2003 - 98	11-Mar-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 99	29-Aug-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 100	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 101	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 102	10-Mar-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 103	30-Jun-03	Retire

October 14, 2003

MINUTE BOOK

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Resign/Retire</u>
2002-2003 - 104	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 105	27-Aug-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 106	1-Sep-02	Resign
2002-2003 - 107	21-Nov-02	Resign
2002-2003 - 108	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 109	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 110	3-May-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 111	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 112	31-Mar-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 113	31-Mar-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 114	15-Mar-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 115	14-Sep-02	Resign
2002-2003 - 116	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 117	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 118	28-Feb-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 119	1-Mar-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 120	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 121	31-Dec-02	Retire
2002-2003 - 122	31-Dec-02	Retire
2002-2003 - 123	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 124	31-Aug-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 125	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 126	30-Apr-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 127	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 128	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 129	1-Jul-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 130	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 131	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 132	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 133	1-Sep-02	Resign
2002-2003 - 134	1-Feb-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 135	28-Feb-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 136	30-Jun-03	Retire

October 14, 2003

MINUTE BOOK

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Resign/Retire</u>
2002-2003 - 137	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 138	28-Aug-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 139	1-Jan-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 140	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 141	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 142	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 143	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 144	21-Feb-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 145	1-Apr-04	Retire
2002-2003 - 146	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 147	30-Jun-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 148	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 149	25-Oct-02	Retire
2002-2003 - 150	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 151	12-Oct-02	Resign
2002-2003 - 152	20-Mar-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 153	31-Dec-02	Retire
2002-2003 - 154	31-Jan-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 155	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 156	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 157	12-Jan-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 158	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 159	31-Oct-02	Retire
2002-2003 - 160	5-Mar-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 161	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 162	21-Mar-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 163	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 164	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 165	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 166	31-Dec-02	Resign
2002-2003 - 167	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 - 168	11-Jan-03	Resign

October 14, 2003

MINUTE BOOK

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Resign/Retire</u>
2002-2003 - 169	31-Mar-06	Retire
2002-2003 - 170	1-Aug-03	Resign
2002-2003 - 171	28-Aug-03	Resign
2002-2003 – 172	1-Oct-02	Retire
2002-2003 – 173	31-Jan-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 174	30-Jun-03	Retire
2002-2003 – 175	9-Oct-02	Resign”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

4. Motion Re Obesity in School-Age Children

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

“That the administration prepare a report for the board which addresses the very serious health problem of obesity in school-age children.

The report should address:

- actions taken by Edmonton Public Schools to promote and support the benefits of a healthy, active lifestyle
- suggestions regarding what the district can do to deal directly with the rise in obesity among children, and
- how our district would deal with the proposal for the Minister of Learning to provide all students with daily physical education”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

5. Allendale School Closure Process

MOVED BY Trustee Dean:

“That the report entitled ‘Allendale School Closure Process’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

October 14, 2003

MINUTE BOOK

6. Alberta Initiative for School Improvement Update

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

“That the report entitled ‘Alberta Initiative for School Improvement Update’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The board took a break at this point.

7. Alexander Rutherford Scholarships

MOVED BY Trustee Woodrow:

“That the report entitled ‘Alexander Rutherford Scholarships’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

8. Fourth Quarterly Report: June 1, 2003 to August 31, 2003

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“That the report entitled ‘Fourth Quarterly Report: June 1, 2003 to August 31, 2003’ be received for information.”

Trustee Woodrow requested that information be provided on how much money is in “holdback” for this year.

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

9. Response to Trustee Request for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

“That the report entitled ‘Response to Trustee Request for Information’ be received for information.”

Trustees requested that Trustee Bonko be advised of the disposition of the report.

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

October 14, 2003

MINUTE BOOK

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports
•Community Relations Activities

Trustee Martin advised that he had attended Beacon Heights School's 50th Anniversary on October 9th. Mrs. Peter Goldring, MLA Julius Yankowsky and Councillor Janice Melnychuk were also in attendance.

Trustee Hansen advised that he had represented the board at the United Way Breakfast on October 9th.

Trustee Fleming advised that he had attended a Citizenship Ceremony at City Hall earlier in the day.

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

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Woodrow served notice of the following motion:

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.

L. Next Meeting:

DATE	MEETING	COMMENCEMENT TIME
Tuesday, October 28, 2003	Organizational Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.

M. Adjournment: (8:00 p.m.)

The chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Chairman

Board Secretary

October 14, 2003