

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, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Bill Bonko
Bob Dean
Don Fleming

Svend Hansen
Gerry Gibeault
Ray Martin

George Nicholson
Lynn Odynski
Jean Woodrow

Officials

Angus McBeath
Donna Barrett
Norm Diemert
Avi Habinski
Bob Holt

Rick Anderson
John Eshenko
Elvira Loewen

Mary Michailides
Dale Skoreyko

Chairman: D. Fleming

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

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers: K. Beaton
CUPE Local 474: D. Luellman
CUPE Local 3500: T. Grebenstein

A. O Canada

Mr. Geoffery Evans, a teacher from L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy, sang O Canada.

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all trustees were present.

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- C. **Communications from the Board Chairman** – None.
- D. **Communications from the Superintendent of Schools** – None.
- E. **Minutes:**
 - 1. Board Meeting #17 – October 8, 2002

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #17 held October 8, 2002 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

- 2. Organizational Board Meeting – October 22, 2002

MOVED BY Trustee Woodrow:

“That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held October 22, 2002 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. **Remembrance Day Ceremony:**

- 3. 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)

G. **Focus on Student Achievement:**

- 4. Sifton School’s Instructional Focus

MOVED BY Trustee Dean:

“That the report entitled ‘Sifton School’s Instructional Focus’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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H. Reports:

5. Report #1 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held November 5, 2002)

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- "1. That report #1 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held November 5, 2002 be received and considered." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Bonko, Chairman of the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee (Trustees Gibeault and Nicholson were the other members of the committee) provided the following verbal report with respect to the superintendent of schools' evaluation:

The Board of Trustees recently completed its annual review of the Superintendent of Schools . . . and, what a year it has been for Mr. McBeath.

In September 2001, the Board of Trustees chose Angus McBeath as its chief executive officer after considering a long list of capable applicants. Soon after his appointment there was an election of a new board, comprised of five incumbents and four new trustees. Not too many months later he was faced with the challenge of leading the district through a major disruption when our teachers withdrew their services as a result of a labour dispute.

Prior to his appointment to the superintendency, when he was serving as Department Head, School and District Services, Mr. McBeath provided the leadership for a number of very successful initiatives in the district, including the planning and piloting of the Blueprints for Supporting Teaching and Learning. As such, his appointment as superintendent was warmly welcomed by our district staff. It was clear that such a tribute was much deserved as he orchestrated a very smooth transition between his superintendency and that of his predecessor, Dr. Emery Dodsall. There was no down time, no drop in expectations and no break in the district tradition of constant growth and improvement.

The board views Angus McBeath as a champion of public education who focuses district decision-making on supporting the achievement of students or, as he would say it, "achieving superb results from all kids." He views the education of all children as this district's foremost responsibility, and he encourages the growth of teachers and principals as instructional and learning leaders to achieve this end. In doing so, he has illustrated enthusiasm and an unrelenting focus which has served as a role model for all district staff.

Mr. McBeath has worked hard to establish a good working relationship with the entire board, and he clearly respects the role of trustees as the voice of the community. He has

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maintained an excellent relationship with the general community and, in particular, with Alberta Learning, other learning institutions and business leaders. He communicates a vision of what Edmonton Public Schools can and should be, and he communicates this in a manner that is clear and direct, regardless of the audience. He demonstrates excellent communication skills, especially when called upon to respond in an extemporaneous manner.

In its evaluation, the board noted that a particular strength of Mr. McBeath is his ability to establish positive relationships with staff, to empower them, and to elevate the role of each and every one so that they are able to feel that they have a strong voice in decision-making, be it at the local or district level.

Through its evaluation of Superintendent McBeath, this board has demonstrated a high level of confidence in him. The board views him as a man with excellent interpersonal skills who acts with integrity, a man who is credible and leads by example, and 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)

6. Submission to Alberta Commission on Learning by Edmonton Public Schools

MOVED BY Trustee Odynski:

“That the report be presented as the board submission to the Alberta Commission on Learning.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Curriculum Addition – Islamic Studies 7-8-9

MOVED BY Trustee Bonko:

“That Islamic Studies 7-8-9 be approved as a locally developed course for use in Edmonton Public Schools.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

8. Career-Focused Education: State of Development and Implementation

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the district model and position of a comprehensive strategy for school to work transition described as Career-Focused Education be approved.”

MOVED BY Trustee Odynski:

“That the report be referred back to the administration.”

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IN FAVOUR: Trustees Odynski and Woodrow

OPPOSED: Trustees Bonko, Dean, Fleming, Gibeault, Hansen, Martin and Nicholson

The Referral Motion was DEFEATED.

Trustee Dean requested that information be provided regarding the number of registered RAP students in the district.

The chairman called the question.

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Odynski and Woodrow

The Motion was CARRIED.

The board took a short break at this point.

9. Donald Ross Historic Designation

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

“That an application be made to both the City of Edmonton and the Province of Alberta to have Donald Ross School declared a Historic Resource.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

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

10. City Centre Education Project

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

“That the report entitled ‘City Centre Education Project’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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11. Trustee Subcommittee Review of 2001-2002 School and Central Department Results

This item was deferred to the November 26, 2002 board meeting.

12. Joint Use Access: Implementation of Standards of Play for Gymnasium Use

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report entitled ‘Joint Use Access: Implementation of Standards of Play for Gymnasium Use’ be received for information.”

Trustees Fleming and Hansen expressed concern that soccer was a Category D item.

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

13. Policy Positions for the 2002 ASBA Fall General Meeting

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report entitled ‘Policy Positions for the 2002 ASBA Fall General Meeting’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

14. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

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

Trustee Gibeault requested, further to TT #169, that an information report be provided regarding how many schools have exclusive supply agreements and what amount of money do the schools receive from these agreements.

Trustee Gibeault asked the administration to consider for the next round of surveys for parents and the community an additional question “How satisfied are you with the level of funding provided by the provincial government for public education?”

Trustee Woodrow requested, further to TT #185, that information be provided on the relationship between school provided transportation to the Awasis program and attendance and punctuality.

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The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

15. Bereavement

The vice-chairman reported on the death of Marie Helmak, a member of the support staff.

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report be received with regret and the actions of the administration in this regard be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

I. Committee and Board Representative Reports **•Community Relations Activities**

Trustee Woodrow advised that she had attended the 25th Anniversary at Aldergrove School and presented a plaque on behalf of the board.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mr. Bruce MacDonald, co-ordinator of Belgravia and McKernan soccer programs and a board member of the Southwest Minor Soccer Association, expressed concern with the availability of space for soccer practice. They have filed an appeal to the Joint Use Committee to have soccer practice changed from a Category D to Category B since soccer practices are for the purpose of training. They are currently in the process of circulating a petition. He requested that a trustee ask the administration to provide his association with a listing of schools that do not allow soccer practices for the purposes of allowing his group to discuss this with the principals of those schools.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Bonko requested that information be provided regarding the cost to schools of supporting the Joint Use Agreement; e.g. staff costs, utilities and supplies and how much money is recovered through rentals.

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Trustee Odynski requested that the following information be provided:

- How much money is coming into the district through non-government agencies; e.g. grants, donations, parent group fundraising, individual and corporate donations within a historical context since 1993-94?
- Will that amount of money increase given the current request that has been made of our schools to review their planned expenditures?

Trustee Odynski asked what would be the financial position of our schools and district if we had actually received sufficient funds to cover the costs of the arbitration award.

Trustee Odynski requested that information be provided on how the district plans to monitor the effects of reduced expenditures on classroom conditions, particularly on class sizes.

Trustee Odynski requested that information be provided on class sizes – how many classes we have had of 30 or more students approved from K-12 since 1993-94.

Trustee Fleming requested that information be provided regarding the number of Educational Specialists employed by Edmonton Public Schools (e.g. speech pathologists, educational psychologists, librarians). How does this number compare to 10 years ago?

Trustee Fleming requested that information be provided regarding which schools in our district have specifically decided not to allow indoor soccer practices to occur within their gymnasiums.

L. Notices of Motion – None.

M. Next Meetings:

DATE	MEETING	COMMENCEMENT TIME
Tuesday, November 26, 2002	Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: (9:50 p.m.)

The chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Chairman

Board Secretary