



**Summary of Board Meeting #3
Held Tuesday, October 11, 2011**

A. O Canada:  (2:00 p.m.) – *District O Canada Video*

B. Roll Call: Trustees Janz and MacKenzie were absent.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

1. The Board Chair advised that the final public meeting of the School Closure Moratorium Committee will be taking place this evening at 7:00 p.m. He further advised that he and Trustee MacKenzie will not be able to attend and Trustees Shipka and Spencer have volunteered to fill in and assist Trustee Hoffman. He sought the concurrence of the Board for Trustees Shipka and Spencer to serve on the committee this evening.

The Board concurred.

2. The Board Chair advised that October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month across Canada and is intended to improve and deepen the awareness of Learning Disabilities. Most people are not aware that a learning disability is a life-long condition that affects a minimum of 1 in 10 Canadians of all people with average or above average intelligence. Learning disabilities cross all ages, genders, socio-economic, cultural and linguistic groups. It is likely that during your life everyone will be touched, directly or indirectly, by someone with a learning disability in your relationships with family, friends or co-workers.
3. The Board Chair advised that October 2nd was Custodial Workers Recognition Day. The District appreciates and values the members of CUPE Local 474, the custodial staff, who ensure that our buildings are comfortable, clean and safe for students and staff and recognizes the contributions custodial staff make in supporting teaching and learning in the classroom. He also advised that October 5th was World Teachers' Day, a day set aside by the world community to celebrate teachers. The District appreciates and values the Edmonton Public Teachers and recognizes the central role they play in nurturing and guiding infants, children, youth and adults through the life-long learning process. In recognition of these days the Board of Trustees and the Administration placed ads in local and provincial newspapers. Again, thank you to these staff members.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent reported on his participation in the 12th Annual Seminar for Administrators of Programs for International Educational Cooperation hosted by the Education Ministry of Spain in Madrid, Spain. The topics related to bilingual education in particular, with an emphasis on achievement outcomes for students, assessment frameworks, and latest innovations in programming support. He shared information with the conference participants with respect to the work we are doing currently, as well as new innovations emerging in the area of technology in support of bilingual and immersion education specifically and second language education generally. He is proud that the long standing commitment of the Board and of District leadership and staff expertise has helped Edmonton Public Schools to continue to be a world leader in second languages education.

The District has made a commitment to the Common European Framework of Reference for second language outcomes which allows students in immersion and bilingual programs to earn international language credentials – allowing students to attend foreign universities and colleges, as well as to participate in international business opportunities. Other participating delegates expressed interest in following up with the District to see how our work may help them achieve their goals. It was, indeed, a proud moment for Edmonton Public Schools.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #2 – September 27, 2011 – Approved as printed.

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

G. Reports

2. Report #1 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held September 27, 2011)
Approved recommendation.
6. Presentation – EGALE – Received for information
3. Motion re Audit Committee
 - a) Recommendation 1 was defeated.
 - b) Recommendation 2 was approved as printed.

- b) Recommendation 3 was approved as amended: *That the term of the Audit Committee be three years for external members with the first term of the first external member set to expire October 2014 and the first term of the second external member to expire October 2015 and that Trustee terms be set for one year like all other Trustee standing committees.*
 - c) Recommendation 4 was approved as amended: *That the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee be reviewed and revised by the Administration with consideration given to ASBA recommendations in order to implement in the current year.*
5. Review of Board Policy IEC.BP – Student Admission to the District
- a) Approved recommendation.
 - b) Trustee Hoffman requested the following: That supplementary information be provided in the report being prepared for the October 25, 2011 board meeting with respect to *Review of Board Policy IEC.BP – Student Admission to the District* regarding the rationale for the changes for the policy.
 - b) Third consideration and final approval of this policy is scheduled for the October 25, 2011 board meeting.
4. 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta
- a) Recommendation 1a. to 1e. was approved as written.
 - b) Recommendation 1f. was approved as amended: *That support for the PSBAA Financial Review Committee exploring further, the establishment of a Universal Trust Fund be left to the discretion of the Trustees attending the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta.*
 - c) Recommendation 2 was approved as written.
 - d) The Administration will provide clarifying information with respect to the potential benefits to the District with the establishment of a Universal Standards Trust Fund in time for the October 22, 2011 PSBAA AGM.

7. Student Advisory Committee (Response to Trustee Request #107)
8. New Schools Required to Meet Anticipated Student Enrolment in New Neighbourhoods (Response to Trustee Request #116)
 - a) Received for information.
 - b) Trustee Colburn requested the following: Provide information regarding the kinds of student engagement practices taking place with the administrations and trustees of the Metro Boards.

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

10. Community Meeting on the Education Act – Received for information.

H. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

This information will be included in the minutes of the October 11, 2011 board meeting.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Ripley requested the following: If all things were to remain equal for the 2012-2013 school year (e.g. student population numbers, number of school sites), provide information on what the budgetary impacts will be of opening Bessie Nichols and Michael Strembitsky schools in September 2012.
2. Trustee Cleary requested the following: Provide information regarding a class size breakdown of Ward I schools with consideration of the Alberta Commission on Learning (ACOL) Guidelines.
3. Trustee Spencer requested the following: Summarize arguments for and against maintaining Provincial Achievement Tests, particularly at the elementary level. What alternatives for assessment and accountability are being considered by Alberta Education?

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Spencer served notice of the following motion:

That the Board support Premier Redford's pledge to replace Grade 3 Provincial Achievement Tests with more appropriate assessment mechanisms that respect the principles of inclusion, equity and transformation. The Board Chair will communicate this decision to the Office of the Premier. The Board's representatives to the Alberta School Boards' Association and the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta will work to persuade these groups to adopt similar positions.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

9. Joint (Virtual) Meeting with Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

Received for information.

M. Duration of Meeting: 2:00 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.