

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #2 -

Minutes of the 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, September 27, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Leslie Cleary
David Colburn
Sarah Hoffman

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner
Heather MacKenzie

Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka
Christopher Spencer

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
David Fraser
Tanni Parker

Brian Smith
Tash Taylor
Bruce Coggles

Mark Liguori
Ron MacNeil
Jamie Pallett

Board Chair: Dave Colburn

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Ed Butler, President
CUPE Local 3550 – Carol Chapman, President

A. O Canada 

B. **Roll Call:** (2:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all Trustees were present.

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C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that the theme of this year's Read-In Week, which runs from October 3 to 7, is "All Ages, All Stages". Reading is a treasure we can all enjoy at any stage of our lives. Like exercise for your muscles, reading keeps your brain active and fit all through life! Reading can be for entertainment, learning or self-discovery and can be shared with family and friends. Read-In is a remarkable success story, thanks to the support of our many partners, our community and generous sponsors. This week-long celebration has expanded partner involvement and renewed interest and focus on the joy of reading within the entire Edmonton Community. He invited, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, all Edmontonians to participate in Read-In 2011.

The Board Chair advised that he met with the Chairs of the other metro boards on August 26, 2011. They explored ways in which the metro boards can work together more effectively. Those conversations will continue in the year to come.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that, in late June 2010, Alberta Education invited jurisdictions to become involved in pilot projects to support the "Action On Inclusion" outcomes. Two types of pilot projects were available: Change Agent pilot and Collaborative Practices pilot.

The Administration completed the application to take part in the Change Agent pilot and was accepted. As a Change Agent, the District is responsible for continuing to innovate in the area of creating inclusive learning environments and has the responsibility to create a plan to share these innovations with other jurisdictions.

To support this work, Alberta Education is providing \$1.9 million in funding to the District. The Administration is currently in the process of creating a coordinated plan that builds on and supports the outcomes of the Special Needs Task Force, the work of the Inclusive Working Group and our own inclusion pilot, and the reorganization of Student Learning Services. He will keep the Board informed as plans are approved in support of the District's role as a "Change Agent".

The Superintendent reported that, on September 9, 2011, Edmonton Public Schools was recognized at the Premier's Award of Excellence ceremony. Edmonton Public Schools as well as five other jurisdictions were recognized as Silver recipients of this award for the Success in School for Children and Youth in Care which was a provincial protocol framework. This was a partnership between Alberta Education and Alberta Children and Youth Services as well as six jurisdictions. This work is proving to be very important to our ongoing work of providing successful environments for children and youth in care.

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The District was also recognized as Bronze recipient under the Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning Initiative. This was shared among twenty school jurisdictions across the province. He commended the staff involved in focusing on learning tools that are effective in learning and development.

E. Minutes

1. Organizational Board Meeting – September 13, 2011

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

“That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held September 13, 2011 be approved as printed. (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Madeline Rainey expressed concern that the appropriate consultants; e.g. child psychiatrists were not included in the consultation on the Special Needs Task Force; particularly with respect to mental illness and brain disorders.

Mr. Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers, spoke with respect to report #7 *Review of Board Policy HD.BP - Instructional Time* and urged clarification of the instructional time *not including time taken for daily attendance*.

Mr. Ed Butler, also referred to report #15 – *Cost Benefits of Adopting New School Calendar* and expressed concern with the potential of assignable time causing problems in regard to the collective agreement.

G. Tracking Progress and Excellence in the 2011-2014 Priorities

2. Alberta Education’s High School Flexibility Enhancement Project

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the report entitled ‘Alberta Education’s High School Flexibility Enhancement Project’ be received for information.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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H. Reports

3. Review of Board Policy HJ.BP – Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

“That revised and re-titled Board Policy HJ.BP – Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Programs and Services be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

4. Review of Board Policy HIBD.BP – School Learning Resources Centre

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

“That revised and re-titled Board Policy HIBD.BP – Integrated School Library Learning Commons be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Review of Board Policy HICA.BP – Field Trips

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

“That revised Board Policy HICA.BP – Field Trips be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. Review of Board Policy INB.BP – Instructional Fees

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

“That revised Board Policy INB.BP – Instructional Fees be considered for the third time and approved.”

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That Board Policy INB.BP – Instructional Fees be revised by adding the following statement at the beginning of the policy: *The Board believes all children should be able to access a public education regardless of economic circumstances.*”

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

The Amendment was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on the Motion as Amended.

The Amended Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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7. Review of Board Policy HD.BP – Instructional Time

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

“That Board Policy HD.BP – Instructional Time be considered for the third time and approved.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Hoffman, Janz, Johner, MacKenzie, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustee Shipka

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was CARRIED.

8. Review of Board Policy IED.BP – Student Attendance

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

“That Board Policy IED.BP – Student Attendance be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Board took a break at this point.

9. Process and Timeline for the Review of the 2010-2011 Results and the Plans for 2011-2012

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the process and timeline for review of the 2010-2011 results and the 2011-2012 plans be approved.”

Trustee Colburn requested that the Administration track the number of results review meetings Trustees attend and compare to previous years

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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10. Proposed Names for 2012 ASAP Schools

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

“That the following two names for the 2012 ASAP schools be approved:

**Michael Strembitsky School (Ellerslie/Summerside site);
Bessie Nichols School (the Grange/Hamptons site).”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

11. Audit Committee

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

**“That the Board of Trustees add two (2) external members with professional accounting designations to the jurisdiction’s Audit Committee.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

12. Leasing Summary 2010-2011

MOVED BY Trustee MacKenzie:

“That the report entitled ‘Leasing Summary 2010-2011’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

13. Sleep Deficit and Impact on Students
14. Student Accommodation Plans for New Subdivisions
15. Cost Benefits of Adopting New School Calendar

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the reports entitled ‘Sleep Deficit and Impact on Students’, ‘Student Accommodation Plans for New Subdivisions’ and ‘Cost Benefits of Adopting New School Calendar’ be received for information.”

Trustee Cleary left at this point in the meeting.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Trustee Cleary was absent for this vote.

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I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Ripley, the Board's Representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, reported on the following:

- The Working Man's Blues Bash organized by the Building Trades of Alberta in support of the Foundation was held on September 24, 2011 and was a great success in spreading the word about the importance of full-day kindergarten for vulnerable children and "raising a whole new host of friends" for public education. She thanked Trustees Johner and Hoffman for attending the event as well.
- Ms Robin Gransch, from the Purchasing Department and who also sits on the Board of Governors, has organized a sale of office items that are now in excess due to the central reorganization. People can purchase items for their home use by making a donation to the Foundation.
- The staff from Payroll, Human Resources in cooperation with the staff Locals have worked together to provide an opportunity for all staff to donate to the Foundation through a payroll deduction method. She commended those involved.
- The Edmonton Police Foundation and the EPS Foundation have partnered to bring inspirational speaker Liz Murray to Jasper Place High School on October 12, 2011. Ten school buses will bring 500 high school students from across the district together to hear Ms. Murray.
- The District's two newest full-day kindergartens will launch on October 26th and November 9th respectively.

Trustee Cleary rejoined the meeting at this point.

Trustee Hoffman, the Board's alternate on ASBA Zone 23, reported on the ASBA Zone 23 general meeting that took place on September 23, 2011. One of the main initiatives that was undertaken at the meeting was to discuss where ASBA Zone 23 will be focusing its advocacy efforts for the upcoming year.

The following three dominant topics for advocacy emerged:

- developing an information session regarding education budgeting: e.g., where school boards get their money and how they spend it

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- continue with the focus on predictable, sustainable, long-term, adequate funding for education with a particular focus on a three-year budget cycle since the provincial government plans on a three-year budget cycle and any additional commitments that are made outside of that come with the expectation that they be supported with full funding
- a focus on transformation of education and what role the ASBA wants to play in leading this

Once the Advocacy Committee is set at the Zone meeting next month, one of the three topics will be the focus for the spring advocacy undertaken by the ASBA Zone 23.

Trustee Hoffman reported that, yesterday, she, the Board Chair and the Superintendent of Schools attended a meeting facilitated by the Alberta Teachers' Association, Alberta Education and the ASBA to discuss the concept of the transformation of education.

Trustee Cleary provided the following report regarding activities she recently participated in:

- As part of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) Community League Day on September 17, 2011, she visited Lakewood and enjoyed pancake breakfast and learned about compost worms and recycling. She then visited Millhurst and saw children playing, adults shopping at the community garage sale, and cooked hot dogs with Councillor Diotte. She also visited Southwood for a family carnival and launch of an art mural project by Trevor Peters who is a professional muralist in a cartooning style on the Southwood community hall joined with Daly Grove School. Her last stop was the Summerside Community league with a family fun afternoon where over 325 people attended. She commended the EFCL and the Mill Woods community for their efforts.
- She accepted invitations to read this week at Ekota, Hillview, Meyokumin as part of Read-In Week with more schools to come.
- She will partner with Edmonton Catholic Schools Trustee Laura Thibert and Cheryl Przybilla, Curriculum Manager, Alberta Education Standards and Assessment Division, on September 29th for an Alberta Education-hosted event that will allow parents an opportunity to “test drive” the Digital Parents Curriculum Handbook for K-12.
- She will also be organizing a meeting for the parent councils in her ward for the end of October.

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K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Cleary requested that information be provided regarding the criteria/qualifications required for staff to provide services for mental health and addictions counselling in the district; e.g. similar to the “Way In Program”. How are these qualified professional staff/practitioners funded? How would services be equitably available to schools that require the services.

Trustee Cleary requested that the Administration provide a brief report summarizing feedback received at the community engagement sessions held last October and June at the Africa Centre. Include highlights of issues raised, lessons learned, followup conducted and next steps.

Trustee Ripley requested a progress report be prepared with respect to the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation that will note and address the Board’s original direction, identify the successes, the challenges and future opportunities, and include a financial and supporters summary for the 2010-2011 year.

Trustee Hoffman requested that once the information is gathered regarding the potential of moving to a modified school calendar, that the report for public board include any potential collective agreement implications.

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding the best practices and suggestions on how the Board can better engage the student population.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Carol Chapman, President CUPE Local 3550, introduced herself to the Board. She assumed the duties as President as of September 1, 2011. She is looking to working forward with the Board and Administration.

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L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Cleary served notice of the following motion:

1. *That the external Audit Committee members receive compensation equal to Trustee per diem to a maximum of six meetings per year.*
2. *That the Audit Committee be comprised of three Trustee members; one of which is the Board Chair.*
3. *That the term of the Audit Committee be three years for external members with the first term set to expire October 2013 and that Trustee terms be set for one year like all other Trustee standing committees.*
4. *That the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee be reviewed and revised accordingly by the Administration with consideration given to ASBA recommendations in order to implement in the current year.*

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: (5:05 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary