



# EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Summary of Board Meeting #2 Held Tuesday, September 22, 2009

**A. O Canada:**  (6:00 p.m.) – *District O Canada Video*

**B. Roll Call:** All Trustees were present.

**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair advised that, last evening, he and the Superintendent attended The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (or APEGGA's) Teacher Awards Program Excellence in Education Ceremony for Edmonton and area. The Minister of Education was also in attendance.

The Teacher Awards Program recognizes excellence in teaching math and science and annually celebrates innovative and creative teaching through the selection of 16 teacher award recipients across Alberta. Award recipients receive an award and have discretion in spending the \$2,000 awarded to their school to further science or math education. In 2009, the APEGGA Teacher Awards Programs received 157 nominations for Alberta science and math teachers – 43 of which were from Edmonton Public Schools.

Six district teachers were awarded 2009 APEGGA Teacher Awards:

1. Janelle Benedet - Oliver School
  2. Kim Burnham - W.P. Wagner School
  3. Gregory Henkelman – Strathcona School
  4. Justin McMain – Highlands School
  5. Amy Peter – Elmwood School
  6. David Sobolewski – George P. Nicholson School
2. The Board Chair advised that, yesterday, he and the Superintendent visited the Queen Alexandra History Centre. The Minister of Education was also in attendance.

The Centre, which opened in 2007, brings together skilled personnel from Edmonton Public Schools and other organizations including: the University of Alberta; the Old Strathcona Foundation; Fort Edmonton Park; the Royal Alberta Museum; the Ukrainian Village; and the City of Edmonton Archives.

3. The Board Chair advised that October 2<sup>nd</sup> is Custodial Workers Recognition Day. The District appreciates and values the members of CUPE Local 474, our custodial staff, who ensure that our buildings are comfortable, clean and safe for our students and staff and recognizes the contributions custodial staff make in supporting teaching and learning in the classroom.
4. The Board Chair advised that October 5<sup>th</sup> is 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.
5. The Board Chair advised that October 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> is READ-IN. The theme READ-IN 2009 is *Books are windows on the world / Les livres ... une fenêtre sur le monde*. He invited all Edmontonians, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to participate in the many READ-IN activities and special events hosted around the city.

#### **D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent advised that yesterday, he and the Board Chair had attended the 2009 Laurel Awards. The Laurel Awards were developed and sponsored by the law firm Duncan and Craig LLP for the past 15 years. These awards acknowledge creativity and innovation of charitable organizations who work effectively with volunteers to improve the quality of life of residents in Edmonton and in the region. The role of volunteers plays a key role in the success for many district students. He also noted that he is a member of the selection committee.

Each of these organizations have had and will continue to have a very positive impact on the community and on the district.

- The Bronze Award was presented to Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society. The program provides specially trained dogs to children with autism and their families as a support, protector and positive social link at home and in the community.
- The Silver Award was presented to Big Brothers Big Sisters' program called 5th Dimension After-School Homework Club. This is a university – school – community partnership providing technology-based activities for youth and their families. The program provides rich intellectual and social experiences that promote character and leadership development, academic skills and the ability to work and play effectively with others.
- The Gold Award was presented to the Terra Association for their Youth Leadership Program. The leadership program provides opportunities for teen parents to realize their potential and empower them to make a difference in their community. This is accomplished through developing public speaking and advocacy skills, increasing self confidence and social awareness of issues impacting teen parents and the broader community.

#### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #18 – June 9, 2009

Approved as printed.

2. Organizational Board Meeting – September 8, 2009

Approved with the following amendments:

- Page 11 – re negotiations ad hoc committees. The last sentence should read: *Similarly, no representatives were required for negotiations with custodial, maintenance and support staff for the coming year as these agreements expire August 31, 2011.*
- Page 15 – Trustee Ripley noted, with respect to her comments, that she wanted to commend the people who organized the professional development activity and for the tremendous conversations that took place that day.

#### **F. Improving Student Achievement:**

3. Health and Wellness: REAL Kids and APPLE Schools Update

Received for information.

#### **G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

Mr. Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers, advised that the Local looks forward to continuing collaboration with the Board this year to face the challenges ahead.

#### **H. Reports**

4. Report #1 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held September 15, 2009)

Approved the recommendations with amendments to Recommendations 6 and 7 as follows:

- Recommendation 6: *That the Board host a School Council Representative Town Hall Meeting to engage those representatives in a discussion related to fiscal challenges and educational outcomes (including creativity, critical thinking and adaptability).*
- Recommendation 7: *That said Town Hall meeting take place in fall 2009 and use technological innovation.*

5. Funds for 2010-2011 Professional Improvement Program

Approved recommendation

6. Motion re Breakdown of Board's Budget

The motion was withdrawn because the information was provided.

7. Motion re Leadership Recognition Program

Approved the following amended recommendation: *That the Board of Trustees/District establish a leadership recognition program within the 2009-2010 school year that would recognize district leaders in all designated leadership positions throughout the district. This program would include all staff groups.*

8. Board Evaluation 2008-2009 Summary Report

Received for information.

9. Bereavement

Received with regret.

10. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

- a) Trustee Esslinger reported that she represented the Board at the Junior Achievement Adopt-A-School Program launch. This program endeavours to reach 16,000 students with their business education, financial literacy and stay-in-schools programs. It was an opportunity to thank the business community for their donation of over one million dollars to support students.
- b) Trustee Esslinger also reported that she and Trustee Huff attended the release of the Task Force information on Safer Communities and received the report with the 10-year plan for the City of Edmonton.
- c) Trustee Esslinger reported that, today, she attended the Celebration of Edmonton Stories as they launched the awards for those who participated in a program about what's good about Edmonton.
- d) Trustee Huff reminded Trustees that there is a Governors Forum on November 12, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at Barnett House for the Capital Region Services Linkages Committee. Each member of the Linkages committee has been invited to bring three members of their board to the forum. She asked Trustees interested in attending to RSVP directly to her as soon as possible.

- e) Trustee Gibson noted from the minutes of the June 9, 2009 board meeting that he had requested that an item be placed on public board meeting agenda in the fall to discuss timing of budget and results review. He understood that the Administration will be providing information to the Board regarding some new ideas regarding these reviews and asked that, in advance of the work, to consider refocusing the budget review documents around the realignment of resources rather than details of the SES and that, during the fall results review, a detailed dialogue on the budget would be possible once enrolment numbers have been confirmed.

**I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information**

Trustee Huff requested that, prior to the Town Hall Meeting, examples be provided of what is currently happening in schools with respect to teaching creativity, critical thinking and adaptability skills.

The Board concurred with the request.

**J. Notices of Motion – None.**

**K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**

**L. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 8:25 p.m.**