

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #18 -

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, June 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Sue Huff

George Rice
Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles
Ron MacNeil
Tanni Parker

Dean Power
Betty Tams

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Staff Group Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers – Mark Ramsankar, President
CUPE Local 3550 – Trudy Grebenstein, President
CUPE Local 474 - Sonny Kalynchuk, Vice-President

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

Mrs. Sherwood reported that Trustee Fleming was absent. All other Trustees were present.

B. Recognition of National Aboriginal Day

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the presentations with respect to National Aboriginal Day be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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C. Communications from the Board Chair - None.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that six district teachers will be recognized with an Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Geophysicists of Alberta (APPEGA) Teacher Award. The award recognizes exceptional elementary, junior high and senior high school teachers for their superior teaching skills and ability to inspire learning in math and science. The teachers' schools will receive a \$2,000 prize to further teaching in those areas. The teachers will receive their awards at a ceremony to be held in September.

The Superintendent advised that a number of principals, representing a cross section of schools across the district, were in attendance at the board meeting to answer questions Trustees might have during the review of the budget.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #17 – May 26, 2009

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #17 held May 26, 2009 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools

2. Multicultural Task Force: Recommendation Report

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“1.1 That proposed Board Policy ACBA.BP – Multicultural Education be considered for the first time.”

Trustee Shipka offered the following friendly amendment to the policy:

That the last sentence of the policy be amended to read: The Board understands that change occurs over time and believes that the provision of an annual report at a public board meeting on progress related to each of the strategic directions identified in this policy will ensure accountability and demonstrate the District's commitment to supporting our diverse community.

The friendly amendment was accepted by general consent.

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The Board Chair called the question on the recommendation as amended.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

- “1.2 That proposed Board Policy ACBA.BP – Multicultural Education be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

- “1.3 That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 69 of the *School Act*, proposed Board Policy ACBA.BP – Multicultural Education be considered for the third time at this meeting.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

- “1.4 That proposed Board Policy ACBA.BP – Multicultural Education having been considered three times at this meeting, be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

- “2. That the Administration provide information to Board with regard to the implementation of ACBA.BP - Multicultural Education Board Policy and anticipated Multicultural Education Administrative Regulation prior to December 2009 to enable the Board to consider staffing and other implications for the 2010-2011 budget.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

- “3. That the Administration provide an annual Multicultural Education report to Board regarding progress as it relates to ACBA.BP – Multicultural Education Board Policy and the anticipated Multicultural Education Administrative Regulation.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“4. That the Board approve the development of a Kindergarten to Grade 12 year-round transition centre that:

- . Serves refugee and immigrant children and youth with limited English, minimum understanding of Canada and the Canadian education system, and little or no formal education experience.**
- . Acts as a hub of services and supports for immigrant students and families.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“5. That the Board approve the development of an advocacy plan by the Administration, including nature of advocacy, by whom and to whom, with regard to areas such as extended time for school completion, transportation, immigrant airfare costs, school space, pre-service training, curriculum, and intergovernmental coordination in support of immigrant and refugee families.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“6. That the Board approve an annual Board celebration of Canadian Multiculturalism Day.”

Trustee Huff offered the following friendly amendment to the recommendation:

That the recommendation be amended to read: *That the Board approve an annual Board celebration of multiculturalism.*

The friendly amendment was accepted by general consent.

The Board Chair called the question on the recommendation as amended.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board took a short break at this point.

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8. Motion re Special Needs Education Task Force

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the Board establish a task force to review and make recommendations on special needs education in order to enhance the education and outcomes for all special needs students. The terms of reference would be developed by the task force and approved by the Board.”

The Board heard from the following individuals:

- Ms Judy Craig, President Board of Directors Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta Edmonton Chapter
- Kathryn Burke, Chair of the Academy at King Edward Parent Council and Executive Director of the Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta
- Ms Lori Fankhanel
- Ms Madeline Rainey
- Ms Bev Oscar

Ms Rainey also provided the Board Secretary with an addendum (with additional signatures) to the petition she presented to Board earlier in the spring.

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Board Chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault, Huff and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Gibson, Rice and Shipka

The Motion was DEFEATED.

3. Board Review of 2009-2010 Plans and Expenditures Budget

The Board Chair noted that, on June 5th, she received correspondence from the Minister of Education, the Honourable Dave Hancock, informing her that the submission date for the District’s 2009-2010 expenditure budget has been extended from June 30th to September 1, 2009. The Minister also requested that the Board delay its approval of the expenditure budget until the details pertaining to the commitments to fund the Memorandum of Agreement with the Alberta Teacher’s Association become known and communicated with all school jurisdictions.

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She noted, therefore, that rather than introduce a recommendation report this evening, the Superintendent would present the agenda item as an information report. The Board would have the opportunity to comment or ask clarifying questions about the plans they reviewed over the past two weeks. The Superintendent has advised that, notwithstanding the request from the Minister, a recommendation requesting the approval of the proposed 2009-2010 expenditure budget will come before the Board before September 1, 2009.

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the report entitled ‘Board Review of 2009-2010 Plans and Expenditures Budget’ be received for information.”

Discussion of 2009-2010 Plans and 2009-2010 Budget

- Discussion of questions arising from school budget reviews
 - elementary schools
 - elementary/junior highs
 - junior high schools
 - senior high schools
- Discussion of questions arising from central services budget reviews

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board took a short break at this point.

5. External Member on Audit Committee

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the report entitled ‘External Member on Audit Committee’ be received for information.”

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the Board of Trustees continue the current Audit Committee structure until the Task Force on Finances for Trustees and Superintendents is finished and that the Board review any recommendations the Task Force may have regarding Audit Committees.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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The Board Chair called the question on receiving the report for information.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

4. Edmonton Public Schools' Three Year Education Plan 2009-2012

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the District’s *Three Year Education Plan 2009-2012* be approved for forwarding to Alberta Education.”

Trustees note the following corrections to the report:

- Page 10 – The issue and concern were reversed
- Page 17 – The Board Chair is the Chair of the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities
- Page 40-41 – The names of the new ASAP schools will be included

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

6. Responses to Board Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the report entitled ‘Responses to Board Requests for Information’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

7. Motion re Geothermal Heating

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the Minister of Education be urged to explore a geothermal heating model as a pilot project in a new school and that Edmonton Public Schools be the site of that pilot project.”

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Trustee Gibson offered the following friendly amendment to the recommendation:

“That the motion be amended to read: That Minister of Education be urged to explore advanced design of schools for energy conservation beyond LEED’s (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver; for example, a geothermal heating model, as a pilot project in a new school and that Edmonton Public Schools be the site of that pilot project and that a report on district practices already be undertaken to support energy conservation be provided with the letter.”

The friendly amendment was accepted by general consent.

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the motion be referred to the Administration to provide a brief outline of possible curricular ties and learning opportunities for students in a building that is designed with environmental awareness.”

The Board Chair called the question on the Referral motion.

IN FAVOUR: Trustee Huff

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Gibson, Gibeault, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

The Referral Motion was DEFEATED.

The Board Chair called the question on the recommendation as amended.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault, Gibson and Huff

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

The Motion was DEFEATED.

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9. Motion re Additional Monthly Trustee Meeting

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the Board create an additional monthly meeting to allow Trustees an opportunity for in-depth discussion on any topics of interest to the Board. The terms of reference for the meeting would be determined by the Planning and Policy Committee and brought to Board for approval.”

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“That the item be referred to the next Trustee Retreat.”

The Board Chair called the question on the Referral Motion.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Gibeault, Huff, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustee Gibson

The Referral Motion was CARRIED.

10. Motion re High School Representatives Symposium

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That the Board host a symposium for high school representatives to have a facilitated discussion on student voice in the District and that the symposium would not exceed a cost of \$3,000. The symposium would take place in the fall of 2009.”

The Board Chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Gibson, Huff, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustee Gibeault

The Motion was CARRIED.

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11. Delegation of Authority – 2009 Summer Recess

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

- “1. That, in accordance with Sections 67(1), 65(2) and 65(3) of the School Act, any special board meetings during the 2009 summer recess be at the call of the Board Chair or, in her absence, the Board Vice-Chair.**
- 2. That, in accordance with Section 61(1) of the School Act, effective June 16, 2009, delegation of authority to the Superintendent of Schools to make decisions during the 2009 summer recess on behalf of the Board be approved.**
- 3. That a report of all such decisions be brought to the first board meeting in the fall of 2009.”**

Trustee Shipka offered the following friendly amendment:

“That recommendation #3 be amended to read: *That a report of all such decisions be brought to the first board meeting in the 2009-2010 school year.*”

The friendly amendment was accepted by general consent.

The Board Chair called the question on the recommendation as amended.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

H. Other Trustee Reports – None.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mr. Mark Ramsankar, President Edmonton Public Teachers, made the following comments:

Madame Chair, Superintendent Schmidt and Trustees. This is my last opportunity to address this Board as President of Edmonton Public Teachers Local No. 37, and I would like to share a few thoughts and observations. I believe that great things can be accomplished when individuals work together and pool their collective wisdom and talents. I also believe that a solid base of trust in any relationship requires constant tending. During the course of the past four years, I believe the Local and the District have demonstrated both of these concepts. I have had the privilege of representing our teachers, raising their concerns and addressing their needs to the District, the Government of Alberta and the community. We have covered a myriad of issues and moved in a very positive direction. It has been fantastic to share our accomplishments

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with my provincial counterparts. I'm not going to recite a long list of things we've done but I would like to note that on May 27, 2009 I had my first opportunity to participate in the Provincial Executive Council. At the meeting, District representatives shared the news regarding the Site-Based Decision-Making Committee and the report that they gave to the Council of School Representatives (CSR) was also the one presented to the Board the evening before. They hold our Local and our District's work as examples of what positive relationships with our staff groups and our districts can accomplish. This is the message sent out by our district representatives to our Provincial Executive. We have tackled both professional issues and tough issues over the past four years but we have handled them in an environment that is based on trust and mutual respect. Madame Chair, Trustees, I will suggest that education is a continually dynamic field. We will face future challenges. I have confidence in the members of our incoming Executive and would encourage that this collaborative approach to the work that you do with the Local continues as you face future challenges. I would like to thank you for your candid conversations, your insights and your support on some of the issues we have had the opportunity to work on. I look forward to what the Local and the District will continue to do in the future. Thank you, Madame Chair.

Trustee Gibson requested that Mr. Ramsankar's complete comments be recorded in the board meeting minutes.

The Board concurred with this request.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Huff requested that the Board be informed of any communications to the staff regarding the District's response to Bill 44 and that the Board be kept informed of any impact or repercussions felt at the school level.

The Board concurred with the request.

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided to the Trustee Retreat regarding a breakdown of the Board's budget and recommendations of where to reduce costs.

The Board did not concur with this request going forward.

In accordance with the Board's procedures, this request will be treated as a notice of motion and brought forward to the next board meeting for consideration.

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K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Shipka served notice of the following motion:

That the Board consider the modification of ward boundaries as per the potential realignment presented by the Administration in the June 9, 2009 Responses to Board Requests for Information report.

Trustee Rice served notice of the following motion:

That the Board of Trustees/District establish a leadership recognition program that would recognize district leaders in all designated leadership positions throughout the district. This program would include all staff groups. There would be three levels of recognition -- gold, silver and bronze. Nomination criteria would be kept as streamlined as possible but include a statement of support from the immediate supervisor. Evidence of results achieved in the areas of responsibility and would include evidence of positive supportive attitude survey results where applicable. Timeline -- develop detailed plan for presentation to the Board by mid-October 2009. Implementation in the 2009-2010 school year with the first round of recognition ceremonies to take place in October/November 2010.

Trustee Gibson requested that an item be placed on a public board meeting agenda in the fall to discuss the content and timing of budget and results review.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Organizational Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2009
7:30 p.m.

M. Adjournment: (11:30 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary