

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 22, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee G. Rice, Conference Committee Chair

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

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Report #1 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held September 15, 2009 be received and considered.

Student Expulsion Roster

2. That, effective immediately, the addition of Mark Liguori, Bob Morter, Carol Symons and Corrie Ziegler as members of the roster of persons available to preside at student expulsion and reinstatement hearings on behalf of the Superintendent of Schools, be approved.
3. That, effective immediately, the deletion of Dennis Huculak, Stuart Wachowicz, and Bonnie Zack as members of the roster of persons available to preside at student expulsion and student reinstatement hearings on behalf of the Superintendent of Schools, be approved.

Teacher Certificated Resignations Following a Leave of Absence

4. That the Board of Trustees accept the resignation by mutual consent of the following teacher certificated staff in accordance with Clause 18.1.4.c of the Teachers' Collective Agreement:

Case Number:

2008-2009-1

Resignation Date:

August 31, 2009

Board Communication Plan: Action Items 2009 - 2010

5. That the following three actions related to the Board's Communication Plan be pursued during the 2009 – 2010 School Year:
 - a) Revitalizing and energizing the Board's electronic presence
 - b) Strengthening our network of influence: (including understanding the Board's current network of influence, determining the gaps, identifying opportunities for networking, creating a plan to expand our influence in the community, putting the plan into action)
 - c) developing information materials around current fiscal challenges to support Trustees' communication efforts in their wards (written, verbal) and/or if they are asked to represent the Board

Hosting a Town Hall to Connect With Our Community

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.
7. That said Town Hall meeting take place in fall 2009 and use technological innovation to foster a climate of creativity and critical thinking and adaptability in which the conversations can take place.
8. That after the meeting and upon evaluation of the results, the Board consider hosting similar meetings with students, staff, and the broader community (or specific sectors within the broader community, e.g., seniors, business, etc.) in the winter or spring of 2010.

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(Recommendations 2 and 3) Student Expulsion Roster

Item six of Board Policy IGD.BP "Student Suspension and Expulsion" (APPENDIX I) stipulates that the roster of persons who can preside at student expulsions and student reinstatement hearings shall be composed of persons recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board.

Since the initial approval of a roster of persons who can preside at student expulsions and student reinstatement hearings in 1998, the membership of those approved has fallen into three categories: Assistant Superintendents, Managing Directors and Directors and the Supervisor of Leadership Services.

Staffing changes and a desire to enhance the skills and experience of staff lead to this recommendation to revise the roster.

Each of the recommended Directors has had school based leadership experiences, including school principal, as well as a variety of central office leadership experiences. Their knowledge and understanding of our District and of school management is seen as an asset in performing the duties associated with presiding over student expulsions and student reinstatement hearings.

Upon approval of the changes, the roster shall consist of:

Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock
Bruce Coggles
John Edey
Mark Liguori
Ron MacNeil
Bob Morter
Jamie Pallett
Lorne Parker
Tanni Parker
Carol Symons
Betty Tams
Corrie Ziegler

(Recommendation 4) Teacher Certificated Resignations Following a Leave of Absence

Clause 18.1.4 of the 2007-2012 Teachers' Collective Agreement states that:

- a) A teacher granted a leave of absence for a school year under clause 18.1.1 will, by March 15 of that year, notify the Superintendent of Schools of the teacher's intentions for the following school year.
- b) A teacher who does not respond by that date will be sent a letter by registered mail to an address agreed upon by the teacher and the Board at that commencement of the leave indicating that the teacher must, within 60 days of the date the letter is mailed, advise the Superintendent of Schools whether or not the teacher will be returning to duty at the beginning of the following year. Copies of the registered letters will be sent forthwith to the Local.

- c) If a teacher does not respond within the 60-day limit, the teacher's contract of employment will be deemed terminated by mutual consent.

The teacher has not met the requirements of the Teachers' Collective Agreement and, therefore, the Board needs to confirm the termination of the teacher's contract of employment by mutual consent.

(Recommendation 5) Board Communication Plan: Action Items 2009 - 2010

After the approval of the goal, outcome, principles, and key messages for a Board Communications Plan on April 28, 2009, the Community Relations Committee (CRC) asked trustees to submit their top three priorities for action. The CRC considered the suggestions at its May and June meetings, looking for common threads supported by several or more trustees, and recommends the three action items.

These items will be carried out within the framework of the Communications Plan so that the Board may connect with Edmontonians in a diversity of meaningful and effective ways.

(Recommendations 6, 7 and 8) Hosting a Town Hall to Connect With Our Community

At the fall retreat, Trustees agreed that the potential impacts of reduced funding for education would be a timely topic for public discussion.

As a result, the Community Relations Committee is recommending that the focus of the town hall meeting be centered on fiscal challenges and educational outcomes. This discussion will include potential impacts on the District such as closing schools, being creative in offering services, reducing services, adaptability and critical thinking in reviewing the structure of the District. The discussion will also focus on District strengths with a view of retaining what is working well.

AS:mmf

APPENDIX I – Board Policy IGD.BP – Student Suspension and Expulsion

Edmonton Public Schools

Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: IGD.BP

TOPIC: Student Suspension and Expulsion

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-09-2006

ISSUE DATE: 20-09-2006

REVIEW DATE: 09-2011

The Board recognizes the role of discipline in maintaining a positive learning environment. The Board supports suspension and expulsion of a student as required in response to inappropriate, disruptive, or dangerous student behaviour.

1. Definitions:

- a. **Suspension:** The term used to describe an action by a principal or teacher which temporarily denies a student access to one or more of the following:

- i. one or more class periods,
- ii. one or more courses,
- iii. school, or
- iv. riding in a school bus.

- b. **Expulsion:** The term used to describe an action which temporarily or permanently denies a student access to one or more of the following:

- i. course(s),
- ii. one or more schools, or
- iii. riding in a school bus.

2. Student suspension or expulsion shall be applicable for violation of the Board regulation on student behaviour and conduct:

- a. where other means of corrective action have failed to bring about orderly or appropriate conduct on the part of the student; or
- b. where the student's behaviour is so severe that lesser corrective action would be insufficient.

3. Although a suspension cannot be appealed, a principal can reinstate a student who has been suspended.

4. Upon receipt of the principal's recommendation regarding expulsion, the Board or the Superintendent of Schools or any person(s) identified by the Superintendent of Schools under Section (6) shall within ten school days from the date of the student's suspension, either reinstate or expel the student, and shall specify the terms of any expulsion and any followup action to be taken regarding readmittance of the student at a later date.
5. Recommendations for expulsions from all district schools shall be heard by the board.
6. Recommendations for all other expulsions shall be heard by the Superintendent of Schools or by any person(s) identified by the Superintendent of Schools and who is on the roster of persons approved to preside at student expulsion hearings. This roster shall be composed of persons recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and approved by the Board. The person(s) who presided at the expulsion hearing shall direct a student who has been expelled from a school to an alternative placement. The Superintendent of Schools shall ensure that all duties and responsibilities of the Board are carried out with respect to any hearings conducted under this section.
7. Notwithstanding the Board's regulation on appeals [AB.BP](#), appeals of decisions made in the name of the board under Section (5) above shall be directed to the Minister of Education.
8. A student who is expelled from all schools by the Board shall be provided with information regarding steps to be taken to seek reinstatement to the District. Conditions for reinstatement will usually include, but are not limited to, demonstrable progress in counselling programs, academic pursuits, and conduct.
The Superintendent of Schools or any person(s) named by him from the roster referred to in Section (6) shall:
 - a. hear requests for reinstatement of students who have been expelled;
 - b. determine that any conditions specified for reinstatement and any conditions which in the circumstances seem appropriate to the person(s) presiding at the hearing regarding the reinstatement request, are satisfied; and
 - c. direct a student who has been reinstated to a placement within the District.
 - d. The parents, and the student if required by law, shall be informed of any decision regarding an expulsion recommendation or reinstatement request and of their right to request that the Minister of Education review the decision.

Reference(s):

[AB.BP](#) - Appeals

[IGD.AR](#) - Student Suspension and Expulsion

[School Act](#) Sections 6, 12, 24 and 61(1)
