

MINUTE BOOK

- **Board Meeting #10** -

Minutes of a 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, March 25, 2003 at 6:15 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Bill Bonko
Bob Dean
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Svend Hansen
Ray Martin

George Nicholson
Lynn Odynski
Jean Woodrow

Officials

Angus McBeath
Donna Barrett
Norm Diemert

Avi Habinski
Bob Holt
Rick Anderson
John Eshenko

Elvira Loewen
Nancy Peterson
Dale Skoreyko

Chairman: D. Fleming

Board Secretary: A. Sherwood
Recording Secretary: M. Fraser

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers: K. Beaton
CUPE Local 474: D. Luellman
CUPE Local 3550: T. Grebenstein

A. **O Canada** - District Video

B. **Roll Call:** (6:15 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all trustees were present.

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C. Communications from the Board Chairman

The chairman advised that, on Thursday, March 27, 2003 the Board of Trustees will pay tribute to staff members who have provided twenty-five and thirty years of service to Edmonton Public Schools. This year the board of trustees is proud to honour 143 staff members for 25 years of service and 82 staff members who have achieved 30 years of service.

The chairman advised that the district opened a new school in the Twin Brooks neighbourhood last fall, which was our first new school since 1994. The school was named after someone who has made and continues to make significant contributions to the district and to public education – Trustee George Nicholson. He noted that Mr. Dermot O’Neill, from the firm of O’Neill, O’Neill and Procinsky Architects, would be making a presentation to Trustee Nicholson on behalf of his firm. The firm of O’Neill, O’Neill and Procinsky Architects were commissioned by the district to design and oversee the construction of George P. Nicholson School. The challenges associated with developing and completing the project were extraordinary, and we are grateful for the work that Mr. O’Neill’s firm did. Trustee Nicholson was presented with a framed 3D computer rendering of the George P. Nicholson School.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #9 – March 11, 2003

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #9 held March 11, 2003 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Focus on Student Achievement:

2. Harry Ainlay Instructional Focus: Reading Comprehension

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“That the report entitled ‘Harry Ainlay Instructional Focus: Reading Comprehension’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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G. Recognition:

3. Edwin Parr Teacher Award

MOVED BY Trustee Bonko:

“That the report entitled ‘Edwin Parr Teacher Award’ be received for information.”

Mr. Brady Van Ry, a teacher at Edmonton Christian School Northeast Campus, was selected as the district’s nominee for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award.

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

H. Reports:

4. Issues for the 2003 ASBA Fall General Meeting

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the following items for submission to the ASBA for policy development and consideration at the 2003 Fall General Meeting, be approved:

1. **Directive for Action: That the Alberta School Boards Association urge Alberta Learning to provide, as part of its services to Albertans, Grade 9 transcripts in addition to its official high school transcript.**
2. **Policy Position: The Alberta School Boards Association believes that the design of provincial diploma examinations should provide for a balance of multiple choice and open-ended questions in all subject areas tested.**
3. **Directive for Action: That the Alberta School Boards Association establish a committee to review and develop recommendations for the consideration of the Minister of Infrastructure regarding proposed amendments to the School Act and provincial regulations on school closure such that the process of closing schools provides more flexibility for school boards.**

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4. **Policy (Directive for Action) Amendment:** That policy 6.D.02. be amended by adding the following to the end of the policy statement: ‘so that the rated capacity of a school reflects its actual capacity to deliver necessary programming to students.’

The new policy would read: That the Alberta School Boards Association request the Minister of Infrastructure to review the current Area, Capacity, and Utilization Guidelines with a view to changing the utilization formula with respect to school facilities built prior to 1980 so that the rated capacity of a school facility reflects its actual capacity to accommodate suitable classroom instruction.”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

6. Edmonton Preschool Association Delegation

Ms Vicki Delinger and Ms Helena Beca, President and Vice President, respectively, of the Edmonton Preschool Association, made a presentation regarding district lease rates with respect to preschool programs.

MOVED BY Trustee Woodrow:

“That the report entitled ‘Edmonton Preschool Association Delegation’ be received for information.”

The chairman advised that, normally, a response to a delegation is brought to the next public board meeting; however, he noted that the presentation relates to the next item on the agenda. It was his understanding that the delegation did have an opportunity to present its concerns to the administration and that the recommendations in the report on the agenda for lease rates reflects their input. He advised that the information the delegation provided would be considered by the board in its deliberations of the lease rate review recommendations. He added that, if the delegation did not believe that their concerns had been addressed by the next report, they should advise the board secretary.

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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7. District Lease Rate Review

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

- “1. That the minimum rate of \$0.86 per square meter per month from Community based play school programs set in 1982 be rescinded;**
- 2. That the minimum rate of \$1.94 per square meter per month for not-for-profit child care providers set in 1982 be rescinded;**
- 3. That the lease rates based on the categories identified in Appendix I and the five-year implementation plan as shown in Appendix II be approved.”**

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The board took a break at this point.

5. Proposed School Closures for 2002-2003

MOVED BY Trustee Dean:

- “1. That the administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and board mandated processes to consider the feasibility of closure of Bellevue School.**
- 2. That the administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and board mandated processes to consider the feasibility of closure of the junior high program at Horse Hill School.**
- 3. That the administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and board mandated processes to consider the feasibility of closure of Stratford School.**
- 4. That the administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and board mandated processes to consider the feasibility of closure of the Awasis Program at Sherbrooke School.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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8. Resolution Regarding Indemnification

This report was deferred to the conference committee.

9. Program Distribution Status Report

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report entitled ‘Program Distribution Status Report’ be received for information.”

The superintendent advised that the administration would be bringing forward a report with respect to providing programming for gifted students.

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

10. Second Quarterly Report: December 1, 2002 to February 28, 2003

11. Literacy M.A.P.: Meaningful Applied Phonics

Reports 10 and 11 were deferred to the next board meeting.

MOVED BY Trustee Woodrow:

“That the meeting be extended to complete the agenda.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

12. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“That the report entitled ‘Responses to Trustee Requests for Information’ be received for information.”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

- I. **Committee and Board Representative Reports – None.**
•**Community Relations Activities – None.**

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J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Trudy Grebenstein, President CUPE Local 474, read the following resolution that was unanimously passed by the CUPE Alberta Division Convention on March 22, 2003:

WHEREAS learning is a lifelong process; and

WHEREAS Metro Community College (formerly Edmonton Public Schools Continuing Education) has offered support for adult learners seeking affordable self-improvement in arts, crafts, music, family programs, career programs, language programs, vocational programs, computers, academic, internet on-line courses and high-school completion programs; and

WHEREAS through Metro Community College, the expertise, services and resources of Edmonton Public Schools are linked with the people, institutions, businesses, and communities of the greater Edmonton area to help meet the educational, social and economic needs of adult learners; and

WHEREAS Metro Community College has an extensive history and excellent reputation of offering relevant, meaningful and affordable education for adult learners, on a cost-recovery basis; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Learning has directed Edmonton Public Schools to divest itself of providing education for adult learners over twenty (20) years of age at Metro Community College;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CUPE Alberta in conjunction with Edmonton and area locals and interested groups demand that the Minister of Learning reverse this arbitrary and regressive decision; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CUPE Alberta, area locals and community groups condemn this decision and mobilize the community in support of affordable education for adult education opportunities at Metro Community College.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Martin provided a copy of an article from Seattle University with respect to a “poverty unit” being taught to middle school students and asked that the administration provide more information about the unit and whether or not this would be something that would be appropriate for the district.

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Trustee Odynski indicated that she would provide the administration with a list of questions with respect to the issue of the school closure process.

The superintendent advised that the administration would bring answers to her questions at a public board meeting.

Trustee Odynski subsequently submitted the following list of questions pertaining to the proposed school closures for Stratford School and Sherbrooke School:

- Will students who currently attend Stratford School be required to attend Jasper Place High School?
- How much of a cost savings will there be for Jasper Place High School if Stratford School is closed?
- Will the program, class sizes and teachers currently provided at Stratford School remain the same if Stratford school is closed and the students are accommodated at Jasper Place High School?
- What impact will the closure of Stratford School have on the IB program?
- Will the Awasis program continue to be offered to junior high students in EPSB if Sherbrooke School closes?
- Is there room at Prince Charles School to accommodate the grade 5 and 6 students in the school building – or will the school have to utilize portables to accommodate the increased enrollment?
- Will the various partnerships with community agencies currently in place at Sherbrooke School be maintained if the school closes?

L. Notices of Motion – None.

M. Next Meeting:

DATE	MEETING	COMMENCEMENT TIME
Tuesday, April 22, 2003	Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: (9:25 p.m.)

The chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Chairman

Board Secretary