

**MINUTE BOOK**

**- Special Board Meeting -**

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 Thursday, March 22, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees**

David Colburn  
Bev Esslinger  
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault  
Ken Gibson  
Svend Hansen

George Nicholson  
Wendy Keiver  
Don Williams

**Officials**

Bob Holt  
Donna Barrett  
Ron MacNeil

Tanni Parker  
Edgar Schmidt  
Betty Tams

Sue Bell  
Bryan Evans  
Glen Haug  
Sherri O'Keefe

**Board Chair:** Bev Esslinger

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

Edmonton Public Teachers – Mark Ramsankar, President

A. **O Canada** –  *District's O Canada DVD*

B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood reported that all trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair** – None.

D. **Communications from the Acting Superintendent** – None.

**MINUTE BOOK**

**E. Reports:**

1. Possible Closure of the Regular Program at Mount Pleasant School

**MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:**

**“That the closure of the Regular Program at Mount Pleasant School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year be approved.”**

**The board chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

2. Delegation – Save High Park School Committee

Ms Kim Patten and Mr. Clare Peters, representatives of the Save High Park School Committee, made a presentation and requested the board not to close High Park School.

**MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

**“That the verbal report from the Save High Park School Committee delegation be received for information.”**

**The board chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

3. Possible Closure of High Park School

The board heard from the following speakers:

- 1- Dr. Bruce Miller, MLA Edmonton-Glenora
- 2 - Brandon Stewart, President High Park Community League
- 3 - Kim Kotyk, Parent
- 4 - Kim Patten, Community Member
- 5 - Clare Peters, Parent
- 6 - Jenn Reeve, Community Member
- 7 - Karen Johnson, Parent
- 8 - Naida Woycenko, Parent

MINUTE BOOK

**MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

**“That the speakers’ comments with respect to the report entitled ‘Possible Closure of High Park School’ be received for information.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:**

**“That the closure of High Park School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year be approved.”**

**The board chair called the question.**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Gibson, Hansen, Keiver and Nicholson**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Fleming, Gibeault and Williams**

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

Trustee Esslinger requested that administration prepare a recommendation for the board’s consideration that builds on the idea on page 8 of the High Park report that discussions be held with High Park Community league regarding the short and long term use of the school building and site by forming a Community Advisory Group whose make up could include community league members, seniors, parents, the local police constable, local CRC, and representatives from the Federation of Community Leagues or Area Council. This group could work together to source and/or support leases of the school building that would maintain their community hub. She also suggested that consideration be given to providing no cost use of the building for a 3-6 month period while grants and/or leases are put in place.

The board took a short break at this point.

4 Possible Closure of Mill Creek School

The board heard from the following speakers:

- 1 - Karen Weis Bridges, President, Ritchie Community League
- 2 - Kristin Morra, Parent, Mill Creek
- 3 - Keri Walmsley, President, Ritchie/Mill Creek Parent Council

MINUTE BOOK

**MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

**“That the speakers’ comments with respect to the report entitled ‘Possible Closure of Mill Creek School’ be received for information.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:**

- “1. That closure of the regular elementary program at Mill Creek School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year be approved.**
  
- 2. That closure of Mill Creek School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year be approved.**
  
- 3. That a capital request for a full general modernization of the Ritchie School building, including the 1913 building, be included as a district priority in the next Three-Year Capital Plan submission to the province be approved.**
  
- 4. That emergent fit-up costs to complete essential work at Ritchie School to accommodate elementary students for September 2007 if required be transferred from the Capital Reserve be approved.”**

**The board chair called the question on Recommendation #1.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

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

**The board chair called the question on Recommendation #2.**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustee Keiver**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Hansen, Nicholson and Williams**

**The Motion was DEFEATED.**

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming**

**“That Recommendation #3 be referred to the administration.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MINUTE BOOK**

5. Delegation – Newton Community League

Ms Gerry Hofs and Mr. Rick Mackay, representatives of the Newton Community League, made a presentation and requested the board not to close Newton School.

**MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Delegation – Newton Community League’ be received for information.”**

**The board chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

4 Possible Closure of Newton School

The board heard from the following speakers:

- 1 - Donita Couto, President Parent Council Newton School
- 2 - Roland Provost, Parent
- 3 - Brenda Hovan, Community Member
- 4 - Karren Brown, Individual
- 5 - Leslie Bryant, Parent and Community League Member
- 6 - Shamima Khan, Parent
- 7 - Brian Mason, MLA Edmonton Highlands-Norwood

**MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

**“That the speakers’ comments with respect to the report entitled ‘Possible Closure of Newton School’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:**

**“That the closure of Newton School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year be approved.”**

MINUTE BOOK

**The board chair called the question.**

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Hansen, Keiver and Nicholson

**OPPOSED:** Trustees Colburn, Gibeault and Williams

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

Trustee Hansen served notice of the following motion:

*That the students currently enrolled in the regular program at (High Park, Newton, Mount Pleasant, Mill Creek schools) be provided with free transportation to the designated receiving school for the duration of their elementary enrolment at that school.*

Trustee Esslinger suggested that similar consideration be given for community input for short and long term use of the Newton School building.

**F. Committee and Board Representative Reports**

• **Community Relations Activities**

Trustee Hansen advised that he and Trustee Nicholson had attended the annual ASCD Conference. He noted that the following six principals for the district made an outstanding presentation entitled *Instructional Talk Throughs* at the conference:

- Dean Michailides, Balwin School
- David Morris, Britannia School
- Linda Inglis, George H. Luck School
- Mary Michailides, Glenora School
- Nancy Petersen, Spruce Avenue School
- Dorothy Cronk, Velma E. Baker School

Trustee Hansen also commended Colin Inglis, Coordinator of CCEP; Nancy Peterson, principal Spruce Avenue and Brad Mamchur, Principal Abbott School for their presentation *All Children are Readers: Reaching the At-Risk Reader*.

**MINUTE BOOK**

Trustee Fleming commended Stuart Wachowicz for the work he and the curriculum department have done with respect to providing opportunities for students to explore careers in the hydraulics and fluid power industry. He noted that he had attended a fluid power challenge at Strathcona today sponsored by the fluid hydraulics industry.

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

The secretary of Grovenor School Council suggested that parents from High Park School be provided with information regarding the advantages and disadvantages of having Grovenor School as the designated receiving school rather than Mayfield School.

**H. Trustee and Board Requests for Information** – None.

**I. Notices of Motion** – None.

**J. Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

**K. Adjournment:** (10:30 p.m.)

**The board chair adjourned the meeting.**

---

Board Chair

---

Board Secretary