

MINUTE BOOK

- **Board Meeting #13** -

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, March 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Sue Huff

George Rice
Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Donna Barrett
Bruce Coggles

Jenise Bidulock
Ron MacNeil

Tanni Parker
Betty Tams

Board Chair: Don Fleming

Board Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Ed Butler, President

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that Trustee Gibson was absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair shared information about the new district marketing initiative, **Go Public**.

The **Go Public** initiative builds on the success of last year's **School Is** project, which was designed to remind citizens of the important role that public education plays in our society. This year's **Go Public** initiative will convey the idea that we need to stand up, be heard and celebrate the value of public education. **Go Public** helps to emphasize the

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ongoing value of public education in our city, which the Board of Trustees has overseen for the past 128 years.

Public education continues to welcome students of all backgrounds and abilities, provides them with an outstanding world-class education, and gives them the opportunity to realize their own bright futures.

Go Public was shared with district leaders and other staff last week.

Yesterday, the **Go Public** initiative was unveiled publicly, with television and newspaper ads, and a roadside sign in front of the Centre for Education. Online advertising will soon follow.

The Board Chair encouraged members of the public, as well as students, parents, and staff, to visit the www.school4you.ca website, where people can share what public education means to them. This website is the hub of the **Go Public** initiative and includes a blog, Twitter feed, and video and photo galleries.

The Board is very excited about **Go Public**; as elected officials, it is vital that Trustees understand what the community values most about public education.

By people sharing their interests and perspectives with the Board through **Go Public**, there will be a better understanding of the community's expectations and priorities for public education, which the Board strives to reflect in its ongoing decisions.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that, on March 22, 2010, he and a number of administrators attended the Racism Free Edmonton Institutional Leaders Action Planning Summit.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #12 – March 9, 2010

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #12 held March 9, 2010 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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F. Recognition

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

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

Ms Andrea Harrison, Spruce Avenue School, was announced as the District’s nominee for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Wendy Keiver, Chairperson Eastglen School Council, commented on the response to Tracking Request #277 contained in the Report 9 -- *Responses to Board Requests for Information* regarding the CEU funding formula for high schools. She urged the Board to advocate for a funding formula that serves the needs of all high school students

Mr. Brian Kopchia spoke against the possible closure of Capilano School and expressed concern regarding student safety going to and from school.

Ms Anna Carlson spoke against the possible closure of Capilano School. She also distributed a publication called *dollars & SENSE – The Cost Effectiveness of Small Schools* to Board members.

Ms Gwen Berdan expressed concern about obtaining information regarding the upcoming sector review process.

The Board Chair urged Ms Berdan to provide her questions in writing to the Administration for follow up.

Ms Laurie Simpson spoke as a parent whose children attended Woodcroft School and whose achievement has declined since the Woodcroft School was closed.

Dr. Raquel Feroe, as a physician and public school supporter, complimented the Board for its environmental policy and also for public engagement. She is involved with Riverdale School and noted that, because of six new ASAP schools and the technical support required, a scheduled solar project was cancelled at the school.

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The Board Chair urged Dr. Feroe to provide her concerns in writing to the Administration for follow up.

Ms Heidi Robinson, parent of students attending Westglen School, urged the Board to support Trustee Huff's motion regarding capacity measures for sector reviews.

H. Reports

5. Sakinah Circle Alternative Program

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

- “1. That, subject to sufficient enrolment, the establishment of the Sakinah Circle alternative program for Kindergarten to Grade 6 be approved for implementation beginning in September 2010.**
- 2. That the Sakinah Circle alternative program begin the school year four days earlier to provide additional time to accommodate significant Islamic festivals.”**

The Board Chair called the question.

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

OPPOSED: Trustee Huff

The Motion was CARRIED.

6. Child Study Centre Alternative Program: Addition of Kindergarten

Ms Heather MacKenzie expressed concern about the full implications of implementing a Child Study alternative program kindergarten class at Garneau School; particularly the impact on the University Child Care Centre currently at Garneau School.

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MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

- “1. That the Grades 1 to 6 Child Study alternative program be extended to include kindergarten.**
- 2. That, subject to sufficient enrollment, a Child Study alternative program kindergarten class be implemented in Garneau School in September 2010.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The Board Chair acknowledged City Councillor Tony Caterina and MLA Hugh MacDonald who were present in the audience.

The Board took a short break at this point.

8. Delegations re Possible School Closures

MLA Hugh MacDonald requested the Board not close any more schools based on upcoming City of Edmonton census data and the upcoming changes to the utilization rate by the provincial government. He provided a copy of the 2005 municipal census data to Board members which indicates growth in the school-aged population for Capilano and Fulton Place neighbourhoods.

- **Delegation from Community Response to Urban Disorder (CRUD) re Parkdale School**

Mr. Chris Hayduk and Ms Michelle Fillion, Program Manager Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (N.E.T.) spoke on behalf of the delegation.

The delegation provided a copy of their brief to Board members.

- **Delegation from Multicultural Health Brokers Coop re McCauley School**

Ms Donna-Mae Ford, Project Developer Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative, and Mr. Kelly Henning, Planning and Evaluation Coordinator, ABC Headstart (supporting partner with MCHB Coop) spoke on behalf of the delegation.

- **Delegation from the Muttart Foundation re McCauley School**

Dr. Christopher Smith and Dr. Jeff Bisanz of the Muttart Foundation spoke on behalf of the delegation.

The delegation provided a copy of their brief to Board members.

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MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the presentations of the delegations from Community Response to Urban Disorder (CRUD), the Multicultural Health Brokers Coop and the Muttart Foundation be received for information.”

The Board Chair advised the delegations that the information they provided will be considered by the Board in its decision regarding possible school closures at the April 13, 2010 board meeting.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

3. Motion re Capacity Measures for Sector Reviews

Ms Cassandra Haraba spoke in support of the motion and in particular support for using optimal enrolment limits (OEL) as the capacity measure.

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That, effective immediately, the provincially calculated ACU be discontinued as a capacity measure for sector reviews and that the Administration provide rationale supporting either ACOL or OEL in place of the ACU until the new provincial utilization formula is approved.”

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

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

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the recommendation be amended with the following substitute motion: *Until the new provincial utilization formula is approved, the ACOL, ACU and OEL figures for schools be provided as information during sector reviews.*”

The Board Chair called the question on the Substitute Motion.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Rice and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Huff and Shipka

The Substitute Motion was CARRIED.

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The Board Chair called the question on the Motion as Amended: *Until the new provincial utilization formula is approved, the ACOL, ACU and OEL figures for schools be provided as information during sector reviews.*

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Rice and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Huff and Shipka

The Amended Motion was CARRIED.

7. Financial Reporting Profile

Mrs. Pamela Mollison and Mr. Lenard Mollison expressed concern that schools are being closed when the report indicates that “the District is in good financial health”.

The Board Chair urged the Mollisons to provide their questions to the Administration for follow up.

Mr. Mollison provided a copy of his information to the Board Secretary.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the report entitled ‘Financial Reporting Profile’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

4. Motion re Creating a District Health and Wellness Committee
9. Responses to Board Requests for Information

The reports were deferred to the April 27, 2010 board meeting.

Upcoming Topics of Discussion for April 8-10 PSBC Meeting

This report was deferred to the April 6, 2010 Conference Committee meeting due to the time-sensitive nature of the information.

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10. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Esslinger advised that she and Trustee Colburn serve on the Edmonton Learning City Initiative Committee. Edmonton Public Schools is a founding member on this Committee. The Committee has requested that a letter of support for the Learning Cities Initiative be provided for the City Council meeting on March 24, 2010.

The Board unanimously concurred with the Board Chair sending a letter of support to City Council with respect to this initiative.

Trustee Huff commended Ms Arlene Lipkewich of Westmount School for receiving the Carol Braun Literacy Award. This national award is presented every two years to one individual who has made a tremendous impact in the area of Literacy promotion.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.

J. Notices of Motion – None.

K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

L. Adjournment: (9:50 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary