

**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 24, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees**

David Colburn  
Bev Esslinger  
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault  
Ken Gibson  
Sue Huff

George Rice  
Catherine Ripley  
Ken Shipka

**Officials**

Edgar Schmidt  
Donna Barrett

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

A. **O Canada** 

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

Mrs. Sherwood reported that all Trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair requested that Section H of the agenda be dealt with prior to Section G.

The Board concurred with the reordering of the agenda.

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The Board Chair advised that the Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations (NAARR) held its Commemoration Gala on March 21, 2009. The District was awarded the institutional recognition for gains made in positive race relations. This is a tribute to the Board's leadership and to the hard work of Programs staff and school-based staff in making our District a more friendly and inclusive place for all comers.

### **D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent advised that staff from Edmonton Public Schools and the City of Edmonton met to examine the intersecting purposes and community building actions being taken by each. The City staff shared the work related to the Great Neighbourhood Project (a neighbourhood revitalization program). District staff provided information related to planning directions. It was a fruitful meeting where discussion took place regarding possible alignment of activities that would serve student and communities. It is anticipated that we will hold ongoing workshops and meetings to develop common strategic outcomes.

The Superintendent advised that, on March 17, 2009, he along with Curriculum unit staff, including Director Stuart Wachowicz, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Alliance Française. One of the purposes of the Memorandum of Understanding was to create teacher development opportunities for French language teachers. The Agreement has the potential to enhance teacher practice and student engagement in French language classrooms. This illustrates the value and commitment other countries place in supporting the District's many second language initiatives.

### **E. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #12 – March 10, 2009

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #12 held March 10, 2009 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### **F. Improving Student Achievement**

2. Improving Student Achievement through the work of Facilities Services

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement through the work of Facilities Services’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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**H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**

8. Report #9 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held March 17, 2009)

**MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

- “1. That Report #9 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held March 17, 2009 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

- “2. That the Administration, Cambridge Strategies Inc. and Johnston Research present at public board the overview of the processes used in their research and a summary of the key findings of research.**
- 3. That the Board provide an invitation, where possible, to those stakeholders who participated in the processes to attend the Board meeting where presentations are made and recommendations reviewed.**
- 4. That the Administration communicate the completion of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Sustainability and School Closure Processes internally and externally.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

- “5. That processes that encourage two-way communication between stakeholders and the Board during the sustainability/school closure processes be enhanced.**
- 6. That the work of sustainability and school closure reviews be done on a sector analysis basis.**
- 7. That support for the smooth transition of students and staff in the case of a school closure be enhanced.**
- 8. That a process to monitor and record student success post transition be developed and implemented.**
- 9. That support for the school principals and staff as first point of contact for parents and community be formalized.**

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10. That the Board enter into advocacy related to removing the financial barriers, such as Plant Operation and Maintenance (PO&M) Funding currently in place as they relate to the use of school space for educational related lease holders.
11. That the Board engage with the community to gain a deeper understanding of the following three attributes from the Discrete Choice Measure (DCM) survey:
  - Focus on creativity, critical thinking and adaptability in schools (through Community Relations Committee)
  - Use of schools to serve broader community needs (through sector review process)
  - Community input into facility use once a school is closed (through sector review process)
12. That a Sector Review Advisory Committee comprised of a representative group of stakeholders outside the school district be developed.
13. That the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Sustainability and School Closure Processes now be dissolved.”

**MOVED BY Trustee Huff:**

“That Recommendations 5 to 13 be deferred until the research findings of Cambridge Strategies Inc. and Johnston Research are presented at an upcoming board meeting.”

**The Board Chair called the question on the Deferral Motion.**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Fleming, Gibson and Huff**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Gibeault, Rice, Ripley and Shipka**

**The Deferral Motion was DEFEATD.**

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**The Board Chair called the question on Recommendations 5 to 13.**

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

**OPPOSED:** Trustees Colburn, Gibson and Huff

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

9. Sector Reviews: Update

The Board heard from Mr. Christopher Spencer, Secretary Grovenor Parent's Association.

**MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Sector Reviews: Update’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The Board took a short break at this point.

10. Board Policy Review – DA.BP Fiscal Oversight and Management
11. Board Policy Review – DJ.BP Purchasing
12. Board Policy Review – GDB.BP Terms and Conditions of Employment
13. Board Policy – GBD.BP Vacations and Holidays
14. Board Policy – GFA.BP Reduction of Staff
15. Board Policy – GGB.BP Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools
16. Board Policy – GGC.BP Staff Performance

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

**“That new Board Policy DA.BP – Fiscal Oversight and Management; the rescission of Board Policy DIC.BP – Financial Reports and Statements; Board Policy DJ.BP – Purchasing; revised Board Policy GDB.BP Terms and Conditions of Employment for Exempt Staff; new Board Policy GBD.BP Vacations and Holidays; revised Board Policy GFA.BP Reduction of Staff; revised Board Policy GGB.BP Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools; and revised Board Policy GGC.BP Staff Performance be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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17. Multi-cultural Task Force: Interim Report

**MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Multi-cultural Task Force: Interim Report’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Board heard from Ms Kathryn Burke, Parent Council Chair King Edward School.

3. District Response to Phase 2 of the Provincial Review of Special Education – Setting the Direction: Towards a System Re-design

**MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:**

**“That the District response to Setting the Direction Towards a System Re-Design Phase 2 be approved for submission to Alberta Education.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Process and Timeline for 2009-2010 Planning

**MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:**

**“That the process and timeline for review of 2009-2010 plans and review of the 2009-2010 operating budget be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

6. Update on Employability Skills Achievement Certificate (ESAC) Pilot

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Update on Employability Skills Achievement Certificate (ESAC) Pilot’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Transportation Discussion Paper

**MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

**“That submission of the report as the Board’s response to the ASBA’s Transportation Task Force Discussion Guide be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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### 7. Bereavements

The Board Vice-Chair reported on the passings of Mr. Don Guy and Mr. Brian Warick, both members of the District's teaching staff.

**MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Ripley:**

**“That the report be received with regret and the actions of the Administration in this regard be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

#### **I. Other Trustee Reports**

Trustee Fleming noted that the Alberta Teachers' Association recently elected Ms Carol Henderson as its new President. Mr. Mark Ramsankar was elected as one of the Association's Vice-Presidents.

Trustee Ripley, Chair Community Relations Committee, reported on the Committee's work regarding the public engagement priority (within the Board's Strategic Plan). In this regard, Trustees Huff, Colburn and Rice as well as four community members attended the ASBA Conference Summit *Putting the Public Back Into Public Education*. A report from the conference regarding best practices will be coming. The Community Relations Committee will review this information and report back to Board members.

Trustee Colburn advised that during the last two days he had attended a School Health Symposium at the Nisku Inn co-sponsored by the Alberta Coalition for Health School Communities and the Alberta School Boards Association. The symposium was attended by over 200 people from across the province.

Trustee Esslinger reported that, on March 17, 2009 she and Trustees Huff, Ripley and Shipka attended the Student Conference for District High School Students with Alberta's Youth Volunteer! Society at Jasper Place School.

Trustee Esslinger reported that, on March 20, 2009, she and the Superintendent had attended the Alberta Association for Community Living President's Reception. Assistant Superintendent Donna Barrett was also in attendance.

Trustee Huff reported that, on March 16, 2009, she and Trustees Colburn, Rice, and Shipka attended the Building Healthy School Communities Symposium. She noted that she had attended a session called *The Way In* which is wrap-around service based on resiliency and operates in three junior high schools in Mill Woods.

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Trustee Huff noted that, on March 20-21, 2009, she attended several sessions of the Alberta Association for Community Living Conference.

Trustee Huff congratulated Ross Sheppard School student James Hoffman who recently won a \$75,000 Weston Loran Award – the largest undergraduate merit scholarship in Canada. Out of a country-wide pool of 3,200 applicants, just 30 awards are given out each year to high school students best demonstrating the qualities of character, service and leadership potential. James is the only recipient from Edmonton.

### **J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

Mr. Mark Ramsankar, President Edmonton Public Teachers, thanked staff from Personnel for their assistance in the resume writing session held this evening at Barnett House.

### **K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information**

**MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:**

“That the meeting extend past 9:00 p.m.”

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

**OPPOSED: Trustee Fleming**

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided with respect to the staff group presentations regarding the cost and implications of the following:

- head custodial training professional development
- custodial technology upgrades (e-mail and telephones)
- professional development conference for support staff (which may address worker wellness)

Board members concurred with the request for information.



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Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided regarding whether or not we are confident that each district student has an adult with whom he or she can talk to and share hopes, fears, problems and successes. What strategies and programs are in place at schools to enable children to build at least one positive relationship with a caring adult?

Board members concurred with the request for information.

Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided regarding any trends with respect to the success or struggles of 4 year olds in our kindergarten classrooms. What is the rationale for having a March 1<sup>st</sup> cut-off date for kindergarten entrance as opposed to a September 1<sup>st</sup> cut-off date? What are the practices of other urban boards in Alberta with respect to entrance into kindergarten?

Board members concurred with the request for information.

Trustee Esslinger requested that information be provided regarding how the impact of ASAP school openings in 2010 will be addressed in the sector review planning process.

Board members concurred with the request for information.

### **L. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

*That the District's current Board Policy EEA.BP – Student Transportation be amended to allow the Board the authority to allocate non-transportation funds (that is funds not identified as Provincial transportation grants or student transportation fees) to support student transportation needs.*

Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

*That the Administration provide information for Board consideration on the pros and cons of having an external member with financial expertise sit on the Audit Committee.*

**M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.**

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**O. Adjournment: (9:10 p.m.)**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary