



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Summary of Board Meeting #15 Held Tuesday, April 28, 2009

A. O Canada:  (6:00 p.m.) – *District O Canada Video*

B. Roll Call: Trustees Fleming and Rice were absent.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

1. The Board Chair advised that, today, was the 25th Anniversary of the National Day of Mourning for Workers Injured or Killed at the Workplace. In 2007, over 800 workers died from workplace injury and disease in Canada -- 154 were Alberta workers. It is these types of statistics that prompted the Canadian Labour Congress to set aside April 28th each year as a Day of Mourning for victims of workplace accidents and disease. In recognition of the men and women of our province and of the district who are part of those statistics, the Edmonton Public School Board on April 27, 1998 proclaimed every April 28th as an annual 'Day of Mourning' in recognition of workers killed, injured or disabled on the job. The Board encourages each and everyone to do their part to ensure that Edmonton Public Schools' work and learning environments are as healthy and safe for staff, students and community as possible throughout the year.
2. The Board Chair advised that this week was Education Week and this year's theme is *Learning Connections: Celebrating Student Engagement*. Education Week was established more than 75 years ago to call attention to the importance of education and to show the public some of the good things happening in Alberta schools.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent provided an update regarding the Swine Influenza outbreak and the suspension of all travel outside of Canada and all air travel within Canada instituted yesterday. The decisions that have been made are based on the District's ongoing communications with federal and provincial health authorities and the District's Emergency plan with respect to pandemic planning.

He noted that one of his key responsibilities as Superintendent is to ensure that the Board's values and commitments to staff and students are upheld.

Board policy HICA.BP – Field Trips

<http://www.epsb.ca/policy/hica.bp.shtml> states the Board's commitment to providing a safe learning environment for students extends to include school activities which occur outside the boundaries of the students' schools.

The information regarding the actions taken by the District has taken has been shared with Edmonton Catholic Schools and with other school jurisdictions in the province. Information has been provided to principals to share with parents and students. Information is also available on the District's website www.epsb.ca.

Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. André Corriveau, announced the province's first two confirmed cases of swine influenza. The Alberta cases bring the Canadian total to thirteen. Canada's chief public health officer, David Butler Jones, has warned that Canada will likely see more cases and even deaths. The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that the global influenza program is now at Phase 4. This is the first time that WHO has declared a Phase 4 outbreak.

Edmonton Public Schools' travel restrictions will remain in place for the foreseeable future, but might be tightened even further should circumstances warrant. One of the concerns is that staff or students might be stranded in a foreign country, should any bans on travel be instituted. It is recognized that there are cost implications to trip cancellations, but the District is committed to exercising due diligence in doing all it can to protect the safety of students and staff.

District staff members continue to be in ongoing contact with provincial health officials and are preparing additional communications materials as information is received.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #14 – April 28, 2009

Approved as printed.

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement Through Programs: Student, Staff, School and Community Foci

Received for information.

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. 2009-2010 Proposed Planning Base
 - a) Approved recommendation.
 - b) Trustee Ripley suggested examining the feasibility of linking a break down of budget plans to each of the items of the planning base.
 - c) Trustee Ripley suggested principals and decision unit managers provide information regarding initiatives they would like to pursue if they had the funding as well as the ones they do have the funds to pursue.
4. District Three-Year Capital Plan 2010-2013

Approved recommendation.
5. District Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2009-2018
 - a) Received for information
 - b) Trustee Huff requested that the letter to Alberta Education being sent with the District Ten-Year Facilities Plan reference the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Sustainability and School Closure Processes as well as information on the District's sector review work.

The Board concurred with the request.
 - c) The Administration undertook to examine the feasibility of Trustee Huff's request to post the research from Cambridge Strategies Inc and Johnston Research, the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Sustainability and School Closure Processes as well as District's sector review work on the main page of the District's website so that the information is all in one place.
6. 2009-2010 Major Maintenance Plan
 - a) Received for information
 - b) Trustee Gibson suggested that the District Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2009-2018 include an updated estimate of deferred maintenance costs of district buildings.
 - c) Trustee Gibeault suggested that maintenance costs be a discussion item for the upcoming meeting Trustees will be having with the Edmonton Region Caucus.

7. Responses to Board Requests for Information

Received for information

8. Bereavement

Received with regret.

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports:

9. Report #11 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held April 21, 2009)

Approved recommendation.

I. Other Trustee Reports:

1. Trustee Huff reported that she had attended the annual Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education (CAPSLE) Conference held in Toronto April 26 to 28, 2009. She attended a number of sessions on such topics as student rights, freedom of expression, rights for special needs students, methods of discipline for special needs students and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. She indicated that she will be sharing information from the Conference with Trustees. She noted that she also posted this information for those who are interested on her blog.
2. Trustee Ripley reported that, on April 23, 2009, she had attended the Gala Français on behalf of the Board at Ross Sheppard School. She commended Heather Huculak, the coordinator of the event.
3. Trustee Colburn reported that, several weeks ago, he and Trustee Huff had attended the first Aboriginal feast that Eastglen School hosted. He noted that at the event, an Aboriginal elder gave away four horses to commemorate becoming a proud first-time Kokum (grandmother) to two grandchildren. The horses were given to the principal, to a non-Aboriginal student who had recently attended a sweat and to two Aboriginal elders.
4. Trustee Esslinger reported that she had attended the following events representing the District:
 - April 15, 2009 – Opening of Centre for Global Education at Queen Elizabeth School. The virtual classroom and four-nations classroom were demonstrated. This was made possible through partnerships with some external groups and Alberta Education.
 - April 20, 2009 – Meeting with a delegation from Norway that was visiting the District to see how we handle Math and numeracy.

- April 20, 2009 – Community collaborations regarding AISI projects. Trustee Rice also attended. Representatives from schools and community members attended to talk about their joint work and how they were supporting students throughout the District.
- April 23, 2009 – Junior Achievement board meeting where she talked about the District and the value of Junior Achievement.
- April 23, 2009 – Kensington 50th Anniversary Celebration. MLAs and City Councillors were also in attendance.
- April 27, 2009 – Launch of the Vision Education website at Newton School. The Minister of Education and Trustee Colburn was also in attendance.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Kevin Martin, member CUPE Local 784, asked whether or not the Board will honour its collective agreements with all of its staff groups regarding the 5.9% wage increases.

The Superintendent advised that he will be meeting with staff group presidents tomorrow to discuss this.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided from General Counsel on whether the *School Act* restricts non-transportation dollars from funding the District's transportation budget.

The Board concurred with this request.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Gibeault served notice of the following motion:

That the travel restrictions announced by the Administration, in response to international developments regarding Swine flu, be amended to apply only to Mexico, pursuant to the advisory issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada, and that any further travel restrictions, for health reasons, be implemented on the advice of the Public Health Agency of Canada, or other recognized health authority.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

N. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 9:25 p.m.