

**MINUTE BOOK**

**- Board Meeting #14 -**

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, April 14, 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  
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles  
Ron MacNeil

Tanni Parker  
Dean Power  
Betty Tams

**Board Chair:** Bev Esslinger

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

**Staff Group Representatives:**

CUPE Local 3550 – Trudy Grebenstein, 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 noted the exhibit *Icons of the Wall* located in the Atrium. This unique collection of photos commemorates the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and documents the search for visible and invisible remnants of the wall using cameras and acoustic recording devices. The District hosted the official opening of the exhibition earlier today. The exhibit will help the District's art, social studies, German and language arts students make connections to many curriculum outcomes in a very meaningful and relevant way.

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The Board Chair acknowledged the partnership that Edmonton Public Schools enjoys with the Goethe Institute and the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad and thanked the District's own Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education for its hard work in obtaining and maintaining this important partnership. District staff and students enjoy numerous cultural events, excellent resources and access to outstanding educational experiences as a result of this agreement.

The Board Chair advised that, on April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Government of Alberta released the provincial budget. The District appreciates that the Provincial Government continues to place a priority on education and has provided increased funding for the 2009-2010 school year. The Board has signed collective agreements with our staff groups in which the District will increase staff salaries based on the average weekly wage earnings index, which is 6.0 per cent. These agreements reflect the Board's commitment to honour staff and the important work that they do for public education. However, the Province has provided an increase of only 4.8 per cent to the base instruction grant, which is used to fund teacher salaries. This discrepancy puts the Board in an awkward position as it tries to honour its agreements and live within its means. It is the Board's expectation that the Province will live up to its commitment to provide funding to school boards based on the average weekly wage earnings index.

The Board Chair drew attention to the District's **SCHOOL IS \_\_\_\_\_** billboards, as well as the print and online ads that have appeared around the city over the past few weeks. The District's goal has been to reinforce in the hearts and minds of Edmontonians the important role public education plays in our lives. The Board of Trustees and Administration have sought to rekindle people's memories of school and spark conversations about what public education means to each of us. As elected representatives, it is vital that Trustees truly understand those things about public education that the community values most. This insight will enable the Board to reflect the priorities and interests of parents and community members in its decision-making. She encouraged people to visit the [www. school4you.ca](http://www.school4you.ca) website to share their own thoughts.

The Board Chair announced that 28 district teachers are among the 134 semi-finalists for 2009 Excellence in Teaching Awards. The semi-finalists were selected from 365 eligible nominees. These teachers were chosen because of their excellence in a variety of areas—including knowledge of subject matter, effectiveness with students, creative and innovative teaching practices, involvement with parents and collaboration with colleagues. Being named a semi-finalist is an acknowledgement from the local school community that these teachers are held in high esteem for their valuable and lasting contribution to the lives of their students – and it is testament to the outstanding teachers

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we have in Edmonton Public Schools. The Board of Trustees will recognize our district's semi-finalists during a special ceremony on Tuesday, April 30, 2009.

The Board Chair noted that next week is Support Staff Appreciation Week with Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> designated as Support Staff Appreciation Day in the district. On this day, schools and central service decision units will have the opportunity to recognize the important contributions of all support staff for the excellent work that they do in supporting the success of all students and staff.

The Board Chair noted that April is Earth Month and Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is International Earth Day which is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. Many district students will be involved in activities recognizing Earth Month and Earth Day – everything ranging from eco-tours, Earth Day assemblies, waste reduction projects, planting trees and gardens -- to pitch-in and clean-up drives. Several years ago, the Board identified Earth Day and Week as an initiative to promote within the district. To that end, the students of Westglen School have challenged all other Edmonton Public Schools to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, by observing "Power Hour". All schools and other district facilities are challenged to turn off their lights for one hour, from 2 to 3 p.m. Participating classrooms, schools or facilities will be supplied a form that will allow them to calculate the energy savings, as well as the resulting reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. This event is intended to bring awareness of the District's impact on the environment and bring about actions to help reduce it. While Earth Day and Week only come around once a year, taking pride in our school grounds and keeping our communities beautiful and litter-free is a worthy cause for all – every day of the year.

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

The Superintendent acknowledged educators from Belize who are visiting to learn about the education system in Alberta. They are attending the board meeting this evening to study the governance of school boards. The group is being sponsored by a number of rotary groups.

The Superintendent advised that there were a number of principals in attendance for the board meeting who will have their principal designations confirmed later in the board meeting.

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The Superintendent advised that April 26 to May 2, 2009 is Education Week. 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.

### **E. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #13 – March 24, 2009

Trustee Ripley referred to her comments on page seven of the minutes and advised that four community members had attended the ASBA Conference Summit along with Trustees.

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #13 held March 24, 2009 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

2. Improving Student Achievement at Forest Heights Elementary

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement at Forest Heights Elementary’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

4. Early Development Inventory and Community Mapping: Overview Presentation

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Early Development Inventory and Community Mapping: Overview Presentation’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. City Centre Education Partnership (CCEP) Update

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:**

**“That the report entitled ‘City Centre Education Partnership (CCEP) Update’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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The Board took a short break at this point.

6. Results of the Ad Hoc Committee for School Closure and Sustainability Review

**MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Results of the Ad Hoc Committee for School Closure and Sustainability Review’ be received for information.”**

The Board heard from Ms Dena Boyle, School Council Chair Fulton Place School.

Trustee Huff requested that the presentations of Johnston Research and Cambridge Strategies Inc. be posted on the District website.

Board members concurred with the request.

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

3. District Response to Alberta School Boards Association High School Completion Task Force Board Survey

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the District response to the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) High School Completion Task Force Board Survey be approved for submission to the ASBA.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

7. Response to Staff Group Budget Presentation

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Response to Staff Group Budget Presentation’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

8. Update on Plan to Promote Healthy Food and Beverage Choices

**MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Update on Plan to Promote Healthy Food and Beverage Choices’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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**MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:**

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

9. Response to Board Requests for Information

**MOVED BY Trustee Huff:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Response to Board Requests for Information’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

10. Report #10 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held March 24, 2009)

**MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

**“1. That Report #10 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held March 24, 2009 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

**“2. That the following principal designations to the District, effective September 1, 2009, be confirmed:**

Noreen Billey	Carolyn Lewis-Shillington
Randy Billey	Renee McLaws
Sandra Carl Townsend	Kent Pharis
Darrin DeGrande	Bryan Radmanovich
Dave Devin	Robert Steenwinkel
Tiziana Fiorillo	Darryl Sutherland
Fred Fonseca	Kathy Toogood
Fran Galbraith	Maureen Yates-Millions
Debbie Gawlik	Shaunda Yeoman
Leona Gordey	Brent Zmurchik”
Ken LeLacheur	

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

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- “3. That the following designation for the period September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2012 be confirmed:**

**Sandra Woitas – Director, Edmonton Public School Board District Foundation” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

11. Proposed Issues for the 2009 ASBA Fall General Meeting

**MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

**“That the following items for submission to ASBA Zone 23 for policy development and consideration at the 2009 Fall General Meeting, be approved:**

- 1. Policy Amendment: That Policy 4.P.03 Alberta SuperNet (Funding) be amended to read as follows:**

**The Alberta School Boards Association believes that funding for the accessibility to high-speed connectivity of the Alberta Supernet be increased to cover service costs for 100/20 Mbps connection speeds at all educational sites.**

- 2. Policy Amendment: That Policy 4.P.04 Technology (Funding) be amended to read as follows:**

**The Alberta School Boards Association believes that provincial financial support for technology should reflect the actual costs of technology; that such support should be determined in consultation with school districts, be an ongoing component of educational funding and be announced in a timely manner. The funding should be based on a current Total Cost of Ownership study of the costs to provide: an instructional computer, data projector and/or interactive white board in every classroom; a student computer for every five students; and the appropriate networking infrastructure and technical support for these learning technologies, on a five-year lifecycle replacement schedule.**

- 3. Directive for Action: That the Alberta School Boards Association urge the appropriate Ministers to make the training of Educational assistants a high government priority.**

- 4. Directive for Action: That the Alberta School Boards Association encourage the provincial government Ministry of Alberta Education to**

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**approve the provision of test accommodations (Reader and/or CD version and Scribe) for English as a Second Language Students (ESL) for Provincial Achievement Tests.”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

12. Motion re Student Transportation Policy

The Board heard from Ms Madeline Rainey, a member of the community.

**MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:**

**“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.”**

**MOVED BY Trustee Huff:**

**“That the item be referred to the Planning and Policy Committee to gather information as identified by Trustees and bring forward a recommendation to Board.”**

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

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Fleming, Huff, Gibeault, Ripley and Rice**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Gibson and Shipka**

**The Referral Motion was CARRIED.**



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13. Motion re Audit Committee

**MOVED BY Trustee Huff:**

**“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.”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

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

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

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**I. Other Trustee Reports – None.**

**J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – None.**

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

Trustee Shipka requested that information be provided regarding the implications of moving to a four-day school week indicating areas, including transportation, where cost savings may be possible and identifying other Alberta jurisdictions using this model.

Board members concurred with the request for information.

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided by the end of September 2009 on district and external practices that promote volunteerism in students.

Board members concurred with the request for information.

**L. Notices of Motion – None.**

**M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.**

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O. **Adjournment:** (9:55 p.m.)

**The Board Chair** adjourned the meeting.

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary