

A. O Canada:  (6:00 p.m.) – District O Canada Video**B. Roll Call:** Trustee Huff was absent.**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

1. The board chair noted that, yesterday, was 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 the community as possible throughout the year.

2. The board chair noted that this week (April 27 to May 3rd) is National Volunteer Week and expressed appreciation, on behalf of the board, for the district’s many volunteers.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

1. The superintendent advised that the district will be hosting the opening of the Confucius Institute this weekend. The events will be attended by Dr. Xu Jia Lu, Vice Chair of the Tenth National People’s Congress, and by Madam Xu Lin, Director General of Hanban. They will also be attended by the Lieutenant Governor and the Minister of Education.

The superintendent noted that the opening ceremonies will commence at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, 2008 at the Alberta School for the Deaf. A celebratory gala concert will take place at the Eva O. Howard Theatre later that evening. A special banquet will be held on Monday, May 5th which will feature a banquet by Dr. Xu Jia Lu. Tickets are available from Metro Continuing Education.

2. The superintendent advised that he had attended the official opening of the Alberta Project Promoting Healthy Living and Healthy Eating (Apple). Edmonton Public Schools is one of five school districts that are part of a pilot-project supported and funded through the Public Health Faculty of the University of Alberta. Of the ten participating schools, four are district schools. Each school receives a full-time staff member who works with students, staff and parents to encourage healthy life styles through activity and fitness and quality nutrition.

The program officially began in January and will continue for two and a half years. Research will be done to determine the best practices for enhancing student health that emerge from this project.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #11 – April 15, 2008

Trustee Gibson noted that the April 15, 2008 board meeting was held at Jasper Place School as part of the board's commitment to transparency in the work it does. He noted that the board chair had asked at the beginning of the meeting for those in the audience to indicate if they were attending the board meeting as a result of having the meeting at a district school and asked that this be indicated in the minutes.

The minutes were approved as amended.

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Update on the AISI Community Collaboration Project
 - a) Received for information.
 - b) Trustee Esslinger suggested that the information in the report be shared by trustees in future meetings with MLAs and the Mayor and City Councillors.

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. American Sign Language and Deaf Culture: Locally Developed Nine-Year Course

Approved recommendation.

4. Curriculum Additions and Deletions: Locally Developed Courses

Approved recommendation.

5. Continuing Care Facility at North Edmonton School

Approved recommendation.

6. Revised 2008-2009 Planning Base

Received for information.

7. Introduction of the 2008-2009 Proposed Budget

a) Received for information.

b) Trustee Gibson requested that trustees be provided with suggested questions that can be posed at the school budget reviews regarding how schools are addressing the board and Minister's priorities.

c) Trustee Esslinger suggested that the questions should be similar to those that the superintendent will be asking in his budget reviews so that we are collecting district-wide data.

8. Mid-Term Report: September 1, 2007 to February 29, 2008

a) Received for information.

b) Trustee Fleming asked for clarification of the note on page 5 of the Mid-Term Report **The 5 staff who were seconded to Edmonton Public Schools in February 2007 were exempt therapists. They are not here in 2008.* He asked if the loss of these therapists impacted the district given the district's shortage of therapists.

c) Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding a comparison of the district's student enrolment over time versus that of Edmonton Catholic Schools.

Trustee Gibson suggested that the information be broken out by student age and include information that may have impacted enrolment such as the opening of a new school.

- d) Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided regarding the number of expelled students who actually attend the school they have been directed to.
- e) Trustee Ripley suggested it would be helpful to find out the kinds of calls Leadership Services is receiving in order to determine trends.
- f) Trustee Esslinger requested information as to where the costs of two recent fires are reported if they are not included under vandalism costs.

9. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

- a) Received for information.
- b) The responses to Trustee Huff's requests were deferred to the May 13, 2008 board meeting.

10. Bereavement

Received with regret.

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports:

11. Report #9 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held April 15, 2008)

Approved recommendation.

12. Motion re Comprehensive School Health Symposium

The following amended recommendation was approved:

That Edmonton Public Schools' administration develop a plan for a one-day comprehensive school health symposium, in the context of the district's overall health initiative, and implementation timelines that would include staff and administration representatives from all district schools.

13. Motion re Uncommitted Operating Surplus or Capital Reserve

The report was deferred to the June 10, 2008 board meeting.

14. ASBA Issues, Budget and Bylaws Bulletin – Spring 2008

Approved recommendation.

15. Proposed Issues for the 2008 ASBA Fall General Meeting

a) Approved recommendation.

b) Trustee Ripley suggested that we include in the background information that this initiative is in keeping with the Minister's priorities and Zone 23's advocacy for early intervention.

I. Other Trustee Reports:

1. Trustee Shipka noted that he had visited five schools in his ward in the last two days. A comment that he heard from three or four of the principals was the great success of the Reading Recovery Program and the gratitude they had for the administration and superintendent for establishing the program.
2. Trustee Gibson thanked Roland Labbe and Jyde Heaven from the Planning Department for accompanying him to a public meeting with the Grange area parents April 24, 2008. The three concerns of the parents were the potential difficulty for communities to partner with P3 schools particularly in their neighbourhood. They were able to convey the board's position and the March 25th communication to Minister Hancock. The second concern was the location of the school. Mr. Labbe and Mr. Heaven did an excellent job explaining the rationale for the location which he believed help address some of the concerns of the community. The third concern was the working title of the school and they were able to advise that this is name that has not been picked by the district.
3. Trustee Esslinger noted that she accompanied the superintendent on April 28th to the Apple School kick-off. She noted that it was a well done event and there was great media coverage about the positive things happening in schools.
4. Trustee Esslinger noted that, last Friday, she attended the Learning Communities Strategies meeting which was a gathering of community leaders. She and the superintendent attended the meeting which was hosted by Councillor Don Iveson. They are looking at Edmonton becoming a learning city. The Minister of Education, Mayor and a number of other significant community members were also in attendance.
5. Trustee Esslinger advised that she and Trustee Ripley attended the Gala Français on April 24, 2008 at Ross Sheppard School. It was a wonderful event and a celebration of the second language work being done in the district.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mr. Dale Hudjik suggested that a more in-depth analysis of the reasons for student absences was required since absences impact student retention and achievement.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson requested that information be provided regarding the recent press release from the province regarding CTS funding. How will the district's portion of the funding be used?

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Esslinger served notice of the following motion:

That the board establish a multi-cultural task force to examine and make recommendations on how to enhance the education of the growing segment of our growing student population from other cultures. The terms of reference would be developed by the task force and approved by the board.

She asked the administration to provide information on the potentials costs and budget ramifications.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.
McCauley Chambers, Centre for Education

N. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 9:20 p.m.