

**MINUTE BOOK**

**- Board Meeting #11 -**

Minutes of the board meeting of the trustees of the Edmonton School District No. 7 of the Province of Alberta held in Room 188, Jasper Place High School (8950 – 163 Street) on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 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  
Betty Tams

Eddie Mah  
Brad Mamchur  
Jane Moore  
Kathy Muhlethaler

**Board Chair:** Bev Esslinger

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

A. **O Canada** –  *District DVD*

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 that the board is committed to transparency in the work it does on behalf of parents and community members to provide a quality public education system to Edmontonians and she was pleased that, to that end, the board was holding its public board meeting in a community school. She thanked Principal Jean Stiles and the wonderful students and staff at Jasper Place High School for providing this facility and their assistance in making this meeting possible. She asked the audience to indicate by a show of hands if they were attending the board meeting as a member of the public.

Approximately six people in the audience raised their hand.

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The board chair advised that April is Earth Month and Tuesday, 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. We encourage schools to participate. 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.

The board chair added that, in the same vein, it has come to the board's attention that the students and staff of Westglen School have achieved Earth III status from the SEEDS Canada Foundation – the first school in Alberta and the third in Canada to receive this status. It involved the completion and write up of 3,000 environmental projects.

The board chair advised that next week is Support Staff Appreciation Week with Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</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.

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

The superintendent reported that 40 district teachers are among the 130 semi-finalists for 2008 Excellence in Teaching Awards announced by Alberta Education on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The semi-finalists were selected from 334 eligible nominations. Trustees will honour all semi-finalists at a Board event on May 6<sup>th</sup>; however, the province will be announcing the finalists in a release on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. From the 130 semi-finalists, 20 teachers will receive a provincial Excellence in Teaching Award and three will be recipients of the SMARTer Kids Foundation Innovative Use of Technology Award. Alberta Education will honour the 2008 award recipients at a dinner and ceremony in Calgary on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The following benefits have been added to the Excellence in Teaching program this year:

- Support for the 130 semi-finalists to attend an education conference to a maximum value of \$1,500;
- Support for the 20 finalists to register in a North American education conference of their choice, up to a maximum value of \$4,000;
- Special celebration dinners in Edmonton and Calgary for all the semi-finalists; and
- An acknowledgment certificate signed by the Education Minister for each eligible semi-finalist in recognition of their work with Alberta students.

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The three teachers who receive SMARTer Kids Foundation Innovative Use of Technology Awards will receive a comprehensive technology package, which includes a SMART board.

### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #10 – March 25, 2008

### **MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #10 held March 25, 2008 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

2. Improving Student Achievement at Glendale Elementary School

### **MOVED BY Trustee Huff:**

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

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

3. S.T.A.R. Program – Interagency Program at Jasper Place School

### **MOVED BY Trustee Huff:**

**“That the report entitled ‘S.T.A.R. Program – Interagency Program at Jasper Place School’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Cree Extended Alternative Program

### **MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

**“That the Cree Extended Alternative Program be approved for implementation in September 2008.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Delegation – Student Pass Initiative (SPI) Committee

Ms Judy Robinson and Ms Pauline Voon spoke on behalf of the delegation.

### **MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

**“That the delegation’s verbal comments be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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The board took a short break at this point.

6. Unrestricted Bus Pass Initiative

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

**“That the Board of Trustees approve the provision of a seven-day per week Unrestricted Student ETS Bus Pass, in replacement of the current five-day per week Restricted Student ETS Bus Pass, effective for the 2008-2009 school year.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

7. Old Scona – Approval for Designation as a Provincial Historic Resource

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

**“That Strathcona Collegiate Institute, now known as Old Scona School, proceeds with the application for designation as a Provincial Historic Resource.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

8. Support for Second Languages and the Confucius Institute

**MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Support for Second Languages and the Confucius Institute’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

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

9. Response to Staff Group Budget Presentation

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

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

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

10. Report #8 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held March 18 and April 8, 2008)

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“1. That Report #8 of the Conference Committee from the meetings held March 18 and April 8, 2008 be received and considered.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“2. That the revised planning base for 2007-2008 in Table 1 be approved.”**

**Table 1**

	<b>2007-2008 Actual Budget Planning Base October 2007</b>	<b>2007-2008 Revised Budget Planning Base March 2008</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Projected Revenue	\$ 699,489,000	\$ 699,489,000	\$
New Revenue	\$	\$ 3,800,000	\$
Total	\$ 699,489,000	\$ 703,289,000	\$ 3,800,000
District Level Committed Funds	\$ 101,889,817	\$ 101,889,817	\$
Resources to Central DUs	\$ 49,535,925	\$ 50,635,925	\$ 1,100,000
Resources to Schools	\$ 526,952,258	\$ 529,652,258	\$ 2,700,000
School Generated Funds	\$ 21,111,000	\$ 21,111,000	\$
Total	\$ 699,489,000	\$ 703,289,000	\$ 3,800,000

**The board chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“3. That the three locations offering the Edmonton Christian School alternative program be established as three separate schools, effective September 2008; and that the names the locations have had since their inception, which predates by many years their partnership with the District, be retained be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

11. Motion re Comprehensive School Health Symposium

This item was deferred to the next board meeting.

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

Trustee Huff reported that she had attended the following:

- March 12, 2008 – open house at Westminster School
- March 14, 2008 – performance at Brightview School directed by one of the district's Edwin Parr nominees
- March 19, 2008 – RAP information session at the Centre for Education
- April 9, 2008 – parent council meeting at Britannia School
- April 9, 2008 – ASBA fiscal accountability training session with Trustees Colburn and Esslinger
- April 11, 2008 – performance at Coronation School put on by the QUEST Theatre involving Coronation students
- April 12, 2008 – CUPE 474 (custodial staff) general meeting

Trustee Huff also noted that, on April 14, 2008, she visited Prince Charles to learn about their Aboriginal history quiz.

Trustee Colburn reported that the School Health Symposium held March 19 and 20, 2008 held in Sherwood Park and sponsored by the Alberta Coalition for Healthy School Communities and the Alberta School Boards Association was a great success. Over 200 people registered for the symposium including 30 new trustees representing 25 boards from across the province, seven physicians representing 9 of the Alberta health regions, 2 medical officers of health, 9 superintendents, many front-line health professionals as well as parents and teachers and principals.

Trustee Colburn advised that he had attended the Closing the Gaps conference with Assistant Superintendent Barrett and Gloria Chalmers April 13 to 15<sup>th</sup> in Kananaskis. The conference focus was on improving achievement for Alberta's First Nations, Metis and Inuit students. The conference was sponsored by the Alberta School Boards Association. Two of the highlights of the conference were:

- A presentation by Former Superintendent Emery Dosdall regarding the practice in British Columbia of disaggregating Aboriginal achievement data. British Columbia is the only province in the country that is doing so. Dr. Dosdall spoke about the value of this practice and the need for data to support policy development and a better understanding of what the challenges are of Aboriginal need.
- Minister of Aboriginal Relations Gene Zwozdesky committed that his priority in his term as minister of this new ministry will be focusing on the education of Aboriginal youth.

Trustee Rice reported that the Terra Association held their annual breakfast/recognition/fundraiser on April 10, 2008 in support of Breamar School students

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and the programs being offered. He noted that more than 300 people were in attendance from businesses, community, members of the government, MLAs and the Minister of Education.

Trustee Rice reported that he attended the Public School Board Council meeting April 10-11, 2008 in Nisku as the board's representative. He added that he would provide trustees with a more extensive report later but provided the following highlights:

- MLA George Rogers spoke on Friday night encouraging intergovernmental cooperation/collaboration
- Minister of Education David Hancock spoke on Friday morning. He was concerned with school boards providing excellent programs for students so they can all reach their potential, specifically, Aboriginal students. The Minister clearly stated that the critical factor for students to be successful is their teachers. He is committed to promoting and enhancing teachers and school leaders and their value to society.

Trustee Esslinger reported that she and Trustee Rice attended the Time is Now Health Symposium with Trustee Colburn.

Trustee Esslinger reported that for the past two days she had attended the Pan Canadian Literacy Forum. The forum was supported by the Ministers of Education from across the country to look at literacy. She noted that it was alarming to hear that one-third of Albertans are considered to have low levels of literacy.

Trustee Esslinger, as the board's representative on the Alberta School Boards Association, reported that she had attended a presentation last weekend on distributed learning by Alberta Education.

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

Ms Lora Yaskow, a Woodcroft parent, thanked Trustee Huff, Shipka, Colburn and Gibeault for their support and expressed concern about the impact of the school closure on the children currently attending the school.

Ms Sonya Chudyk, a Woodcroft parent, expressed her concern about the closure of the school.

Ms Carrie Der, Chair of Parent Council for Woodcroft, spoke about the school closure.

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

Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided regarding whether student pedestrian safety is a concern across the district or just to particular schools in Ward H. What is the scope of the problem? What are the best practices at schools that have had the problem in the past and have successfully dealt with it? How or does the district support solutions for this issue at individual schools beyond the regular block funding way of distributing money? Is there any district resource material or recommended procedures with regard to student pedestrian safety for schools and school councils?

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding the current practices and notification procedures for schools scheduled for sustainability review in the next five years, in particular, what are the principals and parent councils and community members being advised regarding their school's status and the steps they should be taking in the years prior to review. She would like similar information provided regarding schools whose viability could be affected by the opening of the ASAP schools in 2010.

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding what the proposed drop-off and pick-up point is for Woodcroft students who will be bused to their designated school in the new year.

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided on the status of the district review of its data management practices with a particular focus on the feasibility of a trustee-only website for data retrieval and what plans are in place to make it easier for the public to acquire information from the district website.

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

Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

*To establish a Student Advisory Committee, which would meet directly with the Board of Trustees on a periodic basis with the intent of:*

- (a) enhancing the Board's understanding of the student perspective of education; and*
- (b) encouraging civic engagement and leadership in our youth.*

Trustee Huff noted that the composition of the Student Advisory Committee, frequency of meetings and start date would be determined by the Board, in consultation with EPSB administration and staff.

Trustee Huff requested that the debate of this motion take place at the May 13, 2008 board meeting. In the interim, she requested that the administration provide information on the



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pros and cons and the cost implications of this proposal to round out the board's consideration.

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

*That the expenditure of any uncommitted operating surplus or capital reserves in the district require the formal approval of the Board of Trustees.*

**M. Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.  
McCauley Chambers, Centre for Education

**O. Adjournment:** (9:20 p.m.)

**The board chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary