

MINUTE BOOK

- **Board Meeting #6** -

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

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Don Fleming

Ken Gibson
Sue Huff
George Rice

Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles
Ron MacNeil

Dean Power
Betty Tams

Board Chair: Don Fleming

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Ed Butler, President

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that Trustee Gibeault was absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair noted that the White Ribbon Campaign will begin November 25th and will run through December 6th. The White Ribbon Campaign is intended to make the public aware that violence against women is unacceptable. The Board endorsed this campaign in 1996 and urges schools and staff to recognize this initiative. CUPE Local 474 has provided each Trustee and staff member with a white ribbon.

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The Board Chair advised that the Board agreed to amend the order of the agenda by dealing with report 11 before report 10.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent noted that the District is participating in the United Way campaign. As a vital organization in the community, we recognize the significant contributions other organizations make in support of children and families. Their work has an impact on student learning and success. The District's campaign theme is the *Power of Five*, with a visual representation of a hand, a hand that supports students and one that gives generously. The five referred to in this campaign are all staff groups, the ATA Local, CUPE Locals 474 (Custodial), 784 (Maintenance), and 3550 (Support staff), as well as exempt staff. This means that all staff members are invited to participate in ways that demonstrate that the Edmonton Public School Board is also a good corporate citizen by participating in the United Way campaign. The District's campaign is wrapping up soon and, at this point in time, we have achieved 61% of our collective target. This represents \$71,000 our \$120,000 target.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #5 – November 10, 2009

Trustee Esslinger noted a spelling correction required on page 5 regarding PUF funding.

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #5 held November 10, 2009 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement

2. Improving Student Achievement: Engaging Students through Volunteerism

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement: Engaging Students through Volunteerism’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mr. Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers, noted that the Teacher Induction Ceremony was held on Monday, November 16, 2009 and was attended by a number of Trustees as well as the Superintendent. He thanked the Board, on behalf of the Local, for its support of these new teachers at the beginning of their careers.

Ms Holly Newman, a resident of the Norwood community and the mother of children attending Norwood and Victoria Schools, expressed concerns with respect to the sector review process. She noted that the Norwood community faces a number of challenges such as drugs and prostitution and an elementary school is a vital symbol of hope in the community. She urged the Board to consider the importance of schools in the inner city.

Ms Anna Marie Sewell, a resident of the Norwood community, also expressed concern with the sector review process. She noted there are currently several dozen volunteers working in support of keeping schools in the inner city because of their importance. She noted that group has a number of questions such as why the sector review process has been set up this way, as well as what can the volunteers do to work with the Board the City and the Province to keep inner-city schools open.

The Board Chair asked Ms Sewell to submit her questions to the recording secretary for follow-up by the Administration.

Ms Sewell provided her written questions to the recording secretary.

H. Reports

3. Report #1 of the Audit Committee (From the Meeting Held November 17, 2009)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

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

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “2. That the financial statements, those audited and as required by Alberta Education, for the year ended August 31, 2009 be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “3. That the auditor’s report be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “4. That \$14.7 million be transferred from the unrestricted net assets to the operating reserve, be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Report #4 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held November 17, 2009)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “1. That Report #4 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held November 17, 2009 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Ripley, Chair Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools Committee, provided the following verbal report:

The Board of Trustees recently completed its annual review of the Superintendent of Schools. This evaluation is for the period October 2008 to October 2009, and reflects on the work of Superintendent Edgar Schmidt for that period.

The evaluation of the Superintendent by the Board is a thorough process and a very important one as the Superintendent is responsible for ensuring the priorities, mission, and vision set by the Board on behalf of the community are realized. The Superintendent is evaluated in six categories including vision and leadership, Board and Superintendent relations, communications, management, personal attributes and accomplishments. Trustees rate the Superintendent against rigorous criteria for each category. The evaluation process also includes a review of the specific goals and outcomes the Superintendent has identified in his decision unit plan. During the evaluation, Trustees were asked to consider the Superintendent’s work in relation to the Board’s mission, district priorities and Superintendent’s decision unit plan, as well as his work in support of the Board Strategic Plan.

In its evaluation, the Board noted Mr. Schmidt’s integrity and vision which have brought about a focus and a calm sense of shared purpose to the organization. The Superintendent has been diligent in aligning the work of all staff with the Board’s priorities, mission and vision. Additionally, he has worked to communicate that alignment both internally and externally. In support of increasing student achievement and success, he has established an expectation that all students will participate fully in

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the education system and that all district staff are responsible for preparing all students for high school completion. By meeting with over 800 staff in small groups, Mr. Schmidt has worked to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the organization from a variety of staff perspectives, and his commitment to distributed leadership and empowering district leaders is noted.

The Board is pleased with the improvement in student achievement as reflected on the accountability pillar and with the continued gains in high school completion. The Board expects that the Superintendent will implement appropriate supports to bring about improvements in areas that still require attention.

Through its positive evaluation the Board has demonstrated a high level of confidence in Superintendent Schmidt. The Board views him as a man who acknowledges the diversity among the Trustees, and who is able to respond to each Trustee in a balanced and respectful way. The Board appreciates his strong assistance in helping Trustees better understand the effective practices that continue to deliver improved outcomes for students, and acknowledge the work of the Superintendent in continuous improvement as shown by his performance in leading the administration.

In conclusion, the Board applauds the Superintendent for his commitment to the goal of providing every student with quality learning experiences in every class every day. Mr. Schmidt acts with integrity, he is credible, he leads by example, he models life-long learning, and he is a man who holds himself accountable for achieving results. The Board looks forward to continued close dialogue with the Superintendent to address the challenges ahead and celebrate the successes of our students and staff.

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

- “2. That the verbal report regarding the 2008-2009 Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “3. That the Board’s position with respect to each of the ASBA policy positions proposed for the 2009 ASBA Fall General Meeting be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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5. Motion re Board Succession Plan

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the Board develop a succession plan to ensure a smooth transition for the next Board. This plan may include raising public awareness and interest in running for the position of Trustee, capturing the wisdom of outgoing Trustees, mentoring new Trustees in their first years. The exact terms of the plan would be determined by the Board.”

The Board Chair called the question.

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

OPPOSED: Trustee Rice

The Motion was CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

**“That the item be referred to the Planning and Policy Committee.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

6. Motion re District Priorities Committee

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That the mandate of the Board's District Priorities Committee be expanded to include a review of the District Mission Statement, and that this change take effect following the 2010 election.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

7. Proposed Early Years Policy

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That proposed Board Policy HGAJ.BP – Early Years be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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8. Policy Review JAB.BP – Formal Delegations, Presentations and Comments to the Board

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That revised Board Policy JAB.BP – Comments, Delegations and Presentations at Board Meetings by Public and Staff Representatives be considered for the third time and approved.”

Trustee Ripley offered the following friendly amendment to the policy:

“That the following item be added to Section B of the following: 5. *The Board Chair will thank the speaker.*”

The friendly amendment was accepted by general consent.

The Board Chair called the question on the recommendation as amended.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

9. Policy Review – GAA.BP Personnel Policies Priority Objectives

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“1. That revised and renamed Board Policy GAA.BP – Human Resources Framework be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“2. That revised and renamed Board Policy GAA.BP – Human Resources Framework be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

11. Trustee Subcommittee Review of 2008-2009 School and Central Department Results

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the report entitled ‘Trustee Subcommittee Review of 2008-2009 School and Central Department Results’ be received for information.”

Board members provided their comments regarding the Results Review meetings.

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The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board took a break at this point.

10. Approval of 2009-2010 Expenditures Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“That the 2009-2010 expenditures budget in the amount of \$835,046,082 be approved.”

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding the \$250,000 that he believed was set aside as a contingency for special needs transportation pending the results of the Transportation Review.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

12. Edmonton Public Schools’ Annual Education Results Report 2008-2009

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the Edmonton Public Schools’ Annual Education Results Report 2008-2009 be approved for forwarding to Alberta Education.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

13. Responses to Board Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

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

14. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Huff reported on the meeting she recently attended of the Sexual Exploitation Working Group.

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I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Esslinger requested that information be provided regarding the following:

- current list of schools offering full-day kindergarten
- the factors involved with schools getting full-day kindergarten
- listing of schools that will be getting full-day kindergarten soon
- the number of schools offering one or two classes of full-day kindergarten
- what is the cost of offering full-day kindergarten.

A majority of the Board agreed with the request going forward.

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding class sizes within the District that identifies the number of classes that are above ACOL standard, the number of students in these classes and a breakdown of the number of classes exceeding ACOL standards by 10%, 20% and greater than 20%.

A majority of the Board agreed with the request going forward.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

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

J. Notices of Motion

Trustee Esslinger served notice of the following motion:

That the Board rescind the requirement for a motion to extend the board meeting past the 9:00 p.m. adjournment time.

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

That a working committee be created by the Board consisting of Trustees, City Councillors and MLAs to engage in tri-level discussions examining all possibilities related to school closures, school viability and any other related matters deemed appropriate by the committee.

K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

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L. Adjournment: (9:00 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary