



**Summary of Board Meeting #4
Held Tuesday, December 11, 2007**

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

B. Roll Call: Trustee Esslinger was absent.

C. Communications from the Board Chair – None

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

Acting Superintendent Barrett advised that tenders were received today for the Victoria School for Performing Arts modernization and new construction project. The tenders will be reviewed for compliance to specification by our cost consultant and forwarded to Alberta Education Infrastructure and Transportation for review and approval to award a contract. It is not expected that we will be in a position to award a contract until late January. Further information will be provided to trustees.

Trustee Gibeault requested that information be provided regarding when the modernization and new construction project at Victoria School will begin.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #3 – November 27, 2007

Approved with the following amendments:

- Page 2 agenda E – the minutes to be approved were from the November 13, 2007 board meeting
- Page 6 (Recommendation #4) the word should be “from” rather than “form”
- Page 9 (bullet 2) – strike out the word “the” before elders
- Page 9 (bullet 5) - add the words *to reference all schools* after the word “sentence”
- Page 9 (bullet 6) - the word should be “Learner” rather than “Working” Pathways
- Page 12 (top paragraph) – the last sentence should read: *She noted that Trustee Huff also attended the same presentation at Stratford School later that day.*

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement at Brightview Elementary School

Received for information.

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. Fall 2007 Update to 2007/08 Budget

Received for information.

4. Response to Trustee Request for Information

a) Received for information.

b) Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding the results of the students who wrote the provincial achievement tests from the other three large urban boards.

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports:

5. Review – Board Regulation FEE.BR – Site Acquisition and Disposal

Approved recommendation.

6. Request for Input on the ASBA 2008/2009 Budget

Received for information.

• Other Trustee Reports

1. Trustee Gibson reported that he had attended a reception celebrating the cooperation between the Departments of Education, Alberta, Canada and the Secretariat of Education, Jalisco, Mexico on December 3, 2007.

2. Trustee Gibson advised that he had attended the Capital Region Linkages for Children Committee meeting on December 5th. The Boards had previously agreed upon a priority for Youth in Transition and a preliminary proposal for this work will be brought forward for consideration of the governing partners in January. Trustee Gibson will be bring the proposal forward for consideration by the board.

3. Trustee Rice advised that he had attended a focus group for the Society for Safe and Caring Schools. Trustees from Elk Island, St. Albert and Edmonton Catholic Schools were in attendance. The Society is preparing a policy kit to assist districts in developing policies to address racism and address diversity.
4. Trustee Ripley attended the Grade 6 DARE graduation at Richard Secord School yesterday. She expressed appreciation to all of the police officers who volunteer their time to teach the program. There is an extensive waiting list for this program.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

1. Ms Wendy Keiver thanked the staff and the board on behalf of the Delwood Community League for their efforts to effectively and efficiently address the aftermath of the Delwood fire.
2. Ms Wendy Keiver referred to the recent article in the Edmonton Journal by Sheila Pratt regarding a supposed “gag” order approved by the board September 11, 2007. She asked that it be noted that as a former trustee she voted in support of the amendment to delete the sentences referring to a trustee’s inability to comment or ask questions of delegations or presentations from the general public. She expressed concerns with the inaccuracies contained in the article. She noted that the implication by a former colleague that she didn’t understand what “elected” means is untrue and borders on defamatory. The intent of the statement requiring trustees to ask questions through the chair was intended to prevent the board from entering into a debate, a challenge or attack with a delegation without first having all of the necessary information.

She noted that the Planning and Policy Committee had been asked to come up with a policy which was to clarify the expected behaviour of trustees who might wish to ask questions either siding with or challenging the speaker. The committee was not asked to change the rules so that trustees couldn’t speak during presentations. Perhaps what was presented was not the best way to ensure that trustees could with respect and courtesy respond to a public delegation or presentation but it was not a case of five trustees coming up with an “astoundingly undemocratic” solution.

She concluded by saying that the policy that came before the board in September was not a gag order as stated but a result of due process -- a democratic process duly presented by the Policy and Planning Committee to the board. To imply otherwise and to inaccurately implicate past, present and potentially future colleagues is irresponsible and unprofessional.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding whether there are any schools currently facing challenges in meeting curricular requirements due to infrastructure problems; e.g., are there any gymnasiums that are inadequate to meet the daily physical education recommendation?
2. Trustee Rice requested that information be provided as to whether Edmonton Public Schools receives provincial funding to operate day cares and after-school programs or receives funding to support library or health care units in our schools.

K. Notices of Motion – None.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

M. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 7:50 p.m.