

**MINUTE BOOK**

**- Board Meeting #3 -**

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 27, 2007 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

Elizabeth Norris-Kartz  
Jane Moore  
Pat Davidson  
Phillip Grehan

**Board Chair:** Bev Esslinger

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

**Employee Representatives:**

Edmonton Public Teachers – Mark Ramsankar, President  
CUPE Local 3550 (Support Staff) – Trudy Grebenstein, President

A. **O Canada** – 

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

Mrs. Sherwood reported that all trustees were present.

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### **C. Communications from the Board Chair**

The board chair reported that, at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta, Trustee Don Fleming was again elected to the position of President of the PSBAA. Trustee Fleming brings a wealth of experience to the position, not only as a trustee, but also as a past president of the Association. She congratulated him on behalf of the board.

The board chair advised that the White Ribbon Campaign began yesterday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and will run through December 6<sup>th</sup>. 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 with a white ribbon.

The board chair noted that Mr. Will Simpson and Dr. Maureen Stratton Lemieux were present this evening in the audience along with a number of students from an after-degree education course at Concordia University College of Alberta. The course taught by both he and Dr. Maureen Stratton Lemieux focuses on issues in the organizational framework of teaching. One of the requirements of this course is that the students have a first-hand experience to see how public school governance works.

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

The superintendent noted the presence of some of the members of superintendent's council. Principals from superintendent's council will be attending board meetings on a rotational basis and represent different divisions of schools from across the city.

### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #2 – November 13, 2007

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

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #2 held November 13, 2007 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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**F. Improving Student Achievement**

2. Improving Student Achievement at McLeod Elementary School

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

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

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

3. Locally Developed Courses

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

- “1. That the following locally developed courses, currently in use in the district, be renewed for a three year term:**

<b>Course Name (Year):</b>	<b>Credit Value</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Course Code</b>	<b>First Approved</b>
<b>Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 (2007)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>PD</b>	<b>LDC 2343 LDC 3343</b>	<b>August 2009</b>

- 2. That the following new locally developed course, developed during the 2007-2008 school year, be approved for a three year term starting with the second semester of 2007-2008:**

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Value</b>	<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Course Code</b>
<b>Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 (2007)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>PD</b>	<b>LDC 2343 LDC 3343”</b>

**The board chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

4. International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2007

**MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:**

**“That the report entitled ‘International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2007’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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5. Advanced Placement Examination Results: 2007

**MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Advanced Placement Examination Results: 2007’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

6. Response to Trustee Request for Information

**MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

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

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

- **Other Trustee Reports**

7. Report #2 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held November 13, 2007)

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“1. That report #2 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held November 13, 2007 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“2. That authorization of the Board’s Joint Use Agreement review team to negotiate new provisions of a Joint Use Agreement on land following Board ratification be confirmed.**

3. **That the following objectives be confirmed:**

**To negotiate terms of a new Joint Use Agreement in respect of land:**

- ✓ **that maintains district authority to acquire and dispose of lands as required to meet the educational needs of the community,**
- ✓ **that maintains district interests in land, in particular as related to land value,**
- ✓ **that facilitates a positive and collaborative long term relationship with the City of Edmonton, in particular, and with the other school authority parties to the agreement.”**

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**The board chair called the question.**

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Gibeault, Gibson, Huff, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

**OPPOSED:** Trustee Fleming

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

The board took a break at this point.

8. Report #1 of the Audit Committee (From the Meeting Held November 21, 2007)

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

- “1. That report #1 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held November 13, 2007 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

- “2. That the financial statements, those audited and as required by Alberta Education, for the year ended August 31, 2007 be received for information.

- 2a. That the auditor’s report be received for information.”

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding how much parents are paying in fees (e.g. Schedule A – transportation fees and Schedule E - student fees of the audited financial statements) with a comparison to previous years.

**The board chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

- “3. That an operating reserve be created that would fund the unspent budget allocations for school and central service decision unit surpluses which are carried forward to the following year, be approved.

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4. That \$22.7 million be transferred from the unrestricted net assets to the operating reserve, be approved.”

Trustee Esslinger requested that information be provided to trustees regarding how additional monies from the operating reserve might be spent to meet student needs.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “5. That the request for proposal for forwarding to qualified firms and individuals for external auditor be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)
9. Motion re Revision of Board Policy JAB.BP – Formal Delegations, Presentations, and Comments to the Board

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That Board Policy JAB.BP – Formal Delegations, Presentations, and Comments to the Board be amended as follows:

- a) In Section A (Formal Delegations and Presentations to Board), subsection 7, delete the sentence: *Trustees may not comment on the presentation but may ask clarifying questions of the speaker through the Chair.*
- b) In Section C (General Comments on an Educational Issue at the End of a Board Meeting), subsection 5, delete the sentence: *With the exception of the Chair, who may provide or request clarification as required, trustees will not make comments or ask questions of the speaker.”*

The board chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault, Huff, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson and Rice

The Motion was CARRIED.

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10. Motion re Elimination of the Sale of Junk Food

The board heard from the following speakers with respect to the motion regarding the elimination of the sale of junk food:

- Wendy Keiver
- Amanda Beisiegel
- Randy Lee
- Lynn Odynski
- Karen Bridges
- Terry McKinnon
- John Spence
- Nancy Rempel

**MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:**

**“That the district eliminate the sale of junk food in all Edmonton Public Schools and that the administration be directed to deliver a report to public board on the process and timeframe necessary to achieve this end, by no later than March 30, 2008.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Gibeault, Gibson, Huff, Rice, Ripley and Shipka**

**OPPOSED: Trustee Fleming**

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

The board took a break at this point.

11. Trustee Subcommittee Review of 2006-2007 School and Central Department Results

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Trustee Subcommittee Review of 2006-2007 School and Central Department Results’ be received for information.”**

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Trustee Gibson suggested the following information would be helpful for future results reviews:

- a roll up of the information for students who did not write achievement tests because they are in non-graded programs
- a common definition of at-risk students so that growth could be shown at the district-wide level
- transition rates for students in specialized programs moving back into mainstream programs
- a comparable HLAT test for measuring math level growth
- a district-wide picture at each of the divisions regarding what percentage of our teaching staff are trained in best practices; e.g., balanced literacy, Power of 10, etc.

Trustees identified the following from the results review meetings they had attended:

- the need for recruitment and retention strategies of support staff, custodial staff and supply staff
- finding qualified teaching staff for second language programs
- revisit the timing of teacher recruitment to make earlier offers
- provide mentorship of first and second year teachers
- provide assistance to low enrolment, single administrator schools; e.g., implementation of PO&M and Occupational Health and Safety requirements
- identify a strategy to ensure equity of bus service for all schools with alternative schools (e.g., dedicated routes and ride times)
- cost of technology
- low enrolment schools not able to operate without the support of parent councils – concern re the equity between schools without access to school council fundraising
- develop a well-thought-out policy to deal with staff and students with health risks due to allergies to minimize risk to those individuals and the district liability.
- concern that some new immigrant parents are resistant to having their children tested which makes it difficult to provide appropriate programming
- concern about PUFF grants ending and then needing to transition to those students to regular funding
- students are leaving our system to attend IB programs in the separate system for elementary and junior high level.
- cost of text books as we change courses
- staffing component moving up to 90% and 10% SES – concern teacher unit costs
- community access to school facilities after hours
- review the time allotted for results review presentations
- health and wellness for staff



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- consider addressing overcrowding at Woodside by providing access to closed schools and their gyms
- programs in competition with each other – high school in-house outreach and then outside outreach
- consider centralizing maintenance work to maximize dollars

**The board chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

### 12. Edmonton Public Schools' Annual Education Results Report 2006-07

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

**“That the Edmonton Public Schools’ Annual Education Results Report 2006-07 be approved for forwarding to Alberta Education.”**

Trustee Gibson suggested the following revisions:

- Page 6, 2nd bullet – indicate that the district is responding to the concern regarding the percentage of students meeting acceptable standard and standard of excellence on provincial achievement tests as indicated on page 35 under future challenges.
- Page 9, 2nd line under Aboriginal Education -- strike out the word “the” before elders
- Page 9, under Aboriginal Education – indicate with respect to the policy and regulation that resources will be aligned.
- Page 12, under resource development – delete incorrect line break between bullet 1 and 2 and an extra parentheses at the end of the bullet.
- Page 36 fourth line from the bottom under promoting success for Aboriginal students – deleted “interested” schools or re-examine this sentence to reference all schools.
- Page 39, 1st bullet – refer to work on Career-Focused Education and Learner Pathways
- Page 39 under summary of financial results – include some of the key messages on this issue to explain what the district’s surplus means

**The board chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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- Other Trustee Reports

Trustee Fleming reported that both he and Trustee Esslinger had attended the ASBA Zone 23 General Meeting. The Minister of Education presented awards under the new Accountability Pillars entitled the Minister's Education Leadership Recognition Award. The district received the most awards.

A Certificate of Recognition for significant improvement was awarded for:

- Safe and Caring
- Education Quality
- Diploma Examination Participation Rate
- Transition Rate
- Citizenship
- School Improvement
- Fine Arts
- Program of Studies
- High School Completion Rate
- Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate
- Work Preparation
- Parental Involvement
- Practical Arts
- Healthful Living
- Other Non-Diploma

Trustee Fleming noted that the district also received a Certificate of Recognition for very high achievement in Diploma Exam: Excellence

Trustee Rice, on behalf of the District Priorities Committee, advised that the committee will be inviting the district's various stakeholder groups to be involved in a public consultation process regarding the development of Edmonton Public Schools' 2008-2011 District Priorities.

The process will be held during December 2007 and January 2008, and includes seven face-to-face meetings with the District's various stakeholder groups. These group meetings will be held at the Centre for Education and will include principals, teachers, the District's staff groups representatives, junior and senior high school students, and representatives from businesses, community organizations and post-secondary education institutions.

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There will also be two face-to-face meetings that include parents, guardians and the general community. One meeting will be held at a school on the north side and the other will be hosted at a south side school.

Each group will be asked to reflect on the district's existing priorities and advised that the 2008-2011 District Priorities must be aligned with the Accountability Pillars mandated by Alberta Education.

In addition, those stakeholders not formally invited or unable to participate in the public consultation process can offer their feedback through an online survey.

At the February 5, 2008 Conference Committee meeting, the District Priorities Committee will provide the Board with a report that includes a summary of stakeholder feedback and the proposed priorities.

At the February 12, 2008 public board meeting, the District Priorities Committee will be recommending the 2008-2011 District Priorities.

The District Priorities Committee will share consultation dates and additional details with the Board through Transmittal Memorandum.

Trustee Huff advised of the following:

- She visited Jasper Place School on November 14, 2007 to learn about the STAR Program
- She attended the SAGE Awards on November 14, 2007 which honours senior citizens who have made outstanding contributions to public service
- She and Trustee Gibson and Westmount Principal Bob Smilanich visited the Aboriginal Youth Family Wellbeing and Education Society on November 16, 2007 to learn about their work to help Aboriginal students

Trustee Gibson advised that on November 20, 2007 he attended the Ward 1 session regarding a vision for the City 2040. Forty residents were in attendance and they were split into four working groups – the four groups separately identified the desire for Edmonton to be known as centre of learning, excellence and achievement and developing a knowledge-based society.

Trustee Ripley advised that she had attended the ASBALE (Alberta School Boards Association for Languages Education) professional development session at the recent ASBA Fall General Meeting. The topic of languages education was discussed and she suggested that this might also be a topic for a future Parents as Partners meeting.

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Trustee Esslinger advised that on November 8, 2007 she had attended the Robert Bateman science curriculum launch at Parkdale School. She noted that Trustee Huff also attended the same presentation at Stratford later that day.

Trustee Esslinger advised that yesterday she had attended the Lance Roberts presentation who discussed facilities and learning environments and the link to achievement. She indicated she would provide copies of the handouts to trustees.

Trustee Esslinger noted she had attended the Police Commission's invitation to Youth in Transition Evening on November 20, 2007. The superintendent presented the district's perspective at this function.

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

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

Trustee Gibson requested a report on the processes and the supporting documentation since June 2004 that illuminate the values, the discussion with the community and the outcomes of all of the work around the use of district space. Also include a discussion around the underlying values and beliefs of the district regarding student accommodation in district schools. Also provide information on the cost of operating schools at different enrolment levels; e.g., information from the ASBA regarding the cost differential of operating schools with less than 100 students.

**K. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

*That an Ad Hoc committee of the Board be established to review the school closure process and impose a one year moratorium on the closure of any district school until this review is complete and recommendations stemming from the review have been duly considered by the Board.*

*The scope of the committee's review shall include, but not be limited to:*

- *broad consultations with the public to determine their support for school closures*
- *evaluating the full impact of school closures on community*
- *evaluating EPSB policies to ensure equity in the promotion of all district schools*
- *evaluating EPSB policies regarding capping school sizes to facilitate a more even distribution of students*
- *transparently identifying the actual savings of closing a school*

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- *assessing current research on the value of a small school versus a big school education*
  - *reconsidering the timelines in the current Sustainability Review Process to allow schools sufficient time to implement ideas before initiating the school closure process*
  - *exploring expanded interagency and intergovernmental partnerships to support schools with declining enrolment*
- and most importantly:*
- *fully explore options other than school closure to respond to declining enrolment*

Trustee Esslinger requested that the motion be deferred to the first meeting in January since both she and the superintendent will be away for the next board meeting.

**L. Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

**M. Adjournment:** (10:15 p.m.)

**The board chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary