

**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 30, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees**

Leslie Cleary  
David Colburn  
Sarah Hoffman

Michael Janz  
Cheryl Johner  
Heather MacKenzie

Catherine Ripley  
Ken Shipka  
Christopher Spencer

**Officials**

Edgar Schmidt  
Bruce Coggles  
David Fraser

Mark Liguori  
Ron MacNeil  
Jamie Pallett

Tanni Parker  
Brian Smith  
Tash Taylor

**Board Chair:** David Colburn

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

A. **O Canada** 

**Staff Group Representatives**

Edmonton Public Teachers – Ed Butler, President  
CUPE Local 3550 – Trudy Grebenstein, President

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all Trustees were present.

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

The Board Chair advised that the White Ribbon Campaign began November 26th 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.

The Board Chair advised that, yesterday, he, the Superintendent and Metro Board Chairs and Superintendents met with Deputy Minister of Education Keray Henke and the Minister's assistant Spence Nichol. The following items were discussed: the impact of 2010 budget on current district operations, the response to the new *Education Act*, infrastructure issues, the Setting the Direction review and implementation date, and the status of tri-partite discussions.

The Board Chair advised that, last week, the Board, the Superintendent of Schools and the Director Executive and Board Relations had a two and one half-day retreat focused on governance. The retreat was facilitated by Dr. Keith Seel of Mount Royal College.

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

The Superintendent advised that the District was recognized along with a number of school jurisdictions, for our participation and positive outcomes in the Success in School for Children and Youth in Care: Provincial Protocol Framework. District staff members, as well as one student representative, were recognized for working collaboratively with other government departments – specifically Region Six of the Children and Family Services Authority. We are pleased to continue this project this year for the benefit of children and youth in care.

### **E. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #2 – November 16, 2010

**MOVED BY Trustee Johner:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #2 held November 16, 2010 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

Mr. Mack Fysh referred to the following issues raised during the election: the school being the centre of the community, open boundaries, program location versus school location, adequate resources to support regular programs, supports for language arts and math, the relationship between school achievement and employment preparation, social promotion, non-assignment of a mark of "0" to non-completed school work. He also indicated support for the revised mathematics curricula.

### **G. Reports**

2. Report #1 of the Audit Committee (From the Meeting Held November 24, 2010)

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

- "1. That report #1 of the Audit Committee from the meeting held November 24, 2010 be received and considered." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

- "2. That the financial statements, those audited and as required by Alberta Education, for the year ended August 31, 2010 be received for information." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

- "3. That the auditor's report be received for information." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

- "4. That \$18.7 million be transferred from the operating reserve to offset the excess of operating expenses over revenues and capital assets acquired there from, be approved." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

3. Report #2 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held November 24, 2010)

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

- "1. That Report #2 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held November 24, 2010 be received and considered." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“2. That the following be approved: That individual Trustees shall not expense alcohol with district funds with the exception of the Board Chair when hosting on behalf of the Board. The Board Chair shall report to the Board on such instances in accordance with procedures for the Board Chair Discretionary Expense Allowance.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Motion re Moratorium on School Closures

The Board heard from the following speakers on this issue:

Dr. Brian Staples  
Mr. Bill Moore-Kilgannon  
Ms Anna Wilson  
Ms Tina Jardine  
Mr. Kevin Minaker  
Ms Laurie Simpson  
Mr. Darryl Lagerquist  
Mr. Jamie Post  
Ms Madeline Rainey  
Ms Gerry Hoffs

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**“That the Board impose a renewable two year moratorium on school closures, and that during this time the board seek to further understand the issues and impacts surrounding school closures. During the moratorium, the board will also identify a number of ways to support schools instead of close them.”**

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That the item be deferred to the December 14, 2010 board meeting.”**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Ripley and Shipka**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Hoffman, Janz, Johner, MacKenzie and Spencer**

**The Referral Motion was DEFEATED.**

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**The Board Chair called the question on the original motion.**

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Hoffman, Janz, Johner, MacKenzie and Spencer

**OPPOSED:** Trustees Ripley and Shipka

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

The Board took a short break at this point.

5. Subcommittee Review of 2009-2010 School and Central Department Results

**MOVED BY Trustee Johner:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Subcommittee Review of 2009-2010 School and Central Department Results’ be received for information.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

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

6. 2009-2010 Parent, Student, Staff and Community Satisfaction Survey Results

**MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:**

**“That the report entitled ‘2009-2010 Parent, Student, Staff and Community Satisfaction Survey Results’ be received for information.”**

Trustee Hoffman requested that demographic breakdown of the staff survey results for schools; e.g. by staff groups.

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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7. Edmonton Public Schools' Combined Three Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That the Edmonton Public Schools' Combined Three Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report be approved for forwarding to Alberta Education.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

8. Responses to Board Requests for Information

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Responses to Board Requests for Information’ be received for information.”**

Trustee Hoffman, referred to the response to Trustee Tracking #13, and requested that a refined breakdown by grade level and, if possible, where those students come from; e.g. other schools or closed schools be provided.

Trustee MacKenzie, also referred to the response to Trustee Tracking #13 and requested that information be provided regarding the number of displaced students as a percentage of those still within the district.

Trustee Cleary referred to the response to Trustee Tracking #18 regarding leasing and noted that she had several other questions regarding this issue which she would provide to the Administration in writing.

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

9. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee MacKenzie reported on the meeting she had attended on November 18, 2010 with the Capital Region Services to Children Linkages Committee. The meeting was hosted at the Centre for Education. She advised that Trustee Marilyn Bergstra from Edmonton Catholic Schools was elected as Co-Chair for two years. Councillor Kim Krushell will continue to serve as the other Co-Chair. She also advised, that at the December 14, 2010 board meeting, she will be requesting that the Board approve in principle the Terms of Reference document that the Linkages Committee has prepared. The next meeting of the Linkages Committee will be on February 3, 2011.

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

Trustee Colburn requested that a comparison of data regarding FNMI students from our Accountability Pillar with other Metro Boards data be provided.

Trustee Cleary requested that the following information be provided with respect to the use of Wi-Fi in schools:

1. Do we have information available about the real and demonstrated non-thermal effects resulting from radiation related to Wi-Fi in district schools? If so, provide a summary of the information.
2. Are there any other studies (besides the Health Canada Regulation published in 1999) conducted over the last decade that address long term effects of Wi-Fi technology in Canadian schools?
3. What are the Canadian safety standard measurements in regard to high frequency waves from Wi-Fi? What are alternatives to using Wi-Fi in schools and what are the pros and cons?
4. What is EPSB's position and policy on use of Wi-Fi technology in schools?
  - a. Where can the community, including parents, find the District Technology Handbook?
  - b. With the increasing awareness in the community about Wi-Fi safety, what communication has gone to parents related to the safety of Wi-Fi in district schools?

### **I. Notices of Motion**

Trustee MacKenzie served notice of the following motion:

*That the Board create a committee to further understand the issues and impacts surrounding school closures and that this committee work to keep schools open by recommending initiatives to the Board that will address these issues and impacts over the period of the moratorium.*

### **J. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.**

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**K. Adjournment: 9:50 p.m.**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary