

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 29, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Leslie Cleary
David Colburn
Sarah Hoffman

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner
Heather MacKenzie
Via Skype

Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka
Christopher Spencer

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Bruce Coggles

Mark Liguori
Ron MacNeil
Jamie Pallett

Tanni Parker
Tash Taylor

Board Chair: David Colburn

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Ed Butler, President

A. O Canada 

B. **Roll Call:** (2:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all Trustees were present and that Trustee MacKenzie was participating via SKYPE.

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C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that 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.

Vice Chair Hoffman reported on the meeting she and the Superintendent attended on November 18, 2011 with Minister of Education Thomas Lukaszuk. Also in attendance were representatives from Alberta Education as well as the board chairs or vice chairs and superintendents from many other Alberta School Boards Association Zone 23 boards.

They took the opportunity to address:

- Some of the strengths and weaknesses in the proposed *Education Act*;
- What we are doing to support early education including programs that the District and the Foundation offer in terms of full-day kindergarten;
- Sharing the benefits of the \$7 million funding returned to the district this fall;
- Celebrating the increase in high school completion within the district.

Some of the key messages the Minister communicated included:

- Unrolling a ten-point plan for education that he referred to as “our marching orders” in the upcoming few months;
- Examining the role of Provincial Achievement Tests and reviewing the current process of administering them;
- Exploring how kindergarten is offered and supported with no changes to take place September 2012 but the possibility there could be changes in 2013.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent reported on the formal openings of the following two educational resource centres in the past two weeks:

- November 16, 2011 – the District opened the First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Learning Resource Centre which hosts print and multi-media materials, as well as Edu-Kits – hands on resources – in support of supporting FNMI perspectives and understandings into the curriculum. The resources are available for review and sharing.

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November 28, 2011 – the District opened the French Language Resource Centre, making print and multi-media resources available to staff. Both resource centres are located at the Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education at Woodcroft School.

The Superintendent reported that Alberta Education will inject \$1.3 million to help school boards across the province to increase SuperNet capacity. This will help our District realize the potential of increasing demands for digital, online information by increasing the bandwidth of current infrastructure. This is very good news for the District as we are quickly approaching the limits of current bandwidth.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #5 – November 8, 2011

Trustee Ripley referred to the second sentence on page ten of the minutes with respect to her report from the Foundation and noted that it should read as follows: *The full-day kindergarten at Lauderdale is possible because of a five-year commitment made by the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation. The full-day kindergarten programs at Tipaskan and Mee-Yah-Noh are made possible through the generosity of many organizations and individuals.*

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #5 held November 8, 2011 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mr. Butler, President Edmonton Public Schools, advised that the New Teacher Induction Ceremony was held on November 17, 2011 and he thanked the seven Trustees and the Superintendent who participated.

Mr. Todd Herron spoke in favour the proposed new board policy IFA.BP – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

G. Tracking Progress and Excellence in the 2011-2014 Priorities

2. Community Partnerships

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

“That the report entitled ‘Community Partnerships’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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H. Reports

3. Report #4 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting November 15, 2011)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “1. That Report #4 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held November 15, 2011 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “2. That the Board’s position with respect to each of the ASBA policy positions proposed for the 2011 ASBA Fall General Meeting be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the following answers to the questions posed by the ASBA be approved:

3. Does your Board wish ASBA to rejoin CSBA only if: “value for money and operational practice issues can be resolved?
- YES
4. Does your board wish ASBA to rejoin CSBA without “value for money and operational practice issues being resolved?
- NO
5. On a scale of 1 – 10 (with 10 being the highest), how strongly does your board feel about this issue?
- 6
6. Given that membership in the Canadian School Boards Association is no longer in the ASBA budget, is your board willing to support a special two per cent membership fee levy (raising approximately \$52K) draw to cover most of the costs of ASBA participation in CSBA?
- NO. We suggest that for this year the funds to cover the costs be found in reserves or incur a deficit.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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4. Certificate of Achievement – EPS Purchasing and Contract Services

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“That the report entitled ‘Certificate of Achievement – EPS Purchasing and Contract Services’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Review of Board Policy IFA.BP – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The Board heard from the following speakers:

- Mr. Jan Buterman
- Reverend Ray Baillie, Edmonton Family Worship Centre
- Ms Laura Gyoba
- Mr. James Ravenscroft

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That proposed new Board Policy IFA.BP – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity be considered for the third time and approved.”

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“That the final sentence of the policy be amended to read: *The Board also recognizes the need to develop and maintain mutually supportive relationships with a variety of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Two-Spirit, Queer, Questioning (LGBTQ) communities in order to ensure the ongoing improvement of the implementation of this policy.*”

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

That the amendment to the final sentence policy be amended to read as follows: *The Board also recognizes the need to develop and maintain mutually supportive relationships with a variety of sexual orientation and gender identity minority groups in order to ensure the ongoing improvement of the implementation of this policy.*”

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment to the Amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Janz, Johner, MacKenzie, Shipka and Spencer

OPPOSED: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Hoffman and Ripley

The Amendment to the Amendment was CARRIED.

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The Board Chair called the question on the Amended Amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Hoffman, Janz, Johner, MacKenzie, Ripley, Shipka and Spencer

OPPOSED: Trustee Cleary

The Amended Amendment was **CARRIED**.

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“That the first sentence of the third paragraph of the policy be amended to read: *The Board believes that all sexual and gender minority students, staff and families have the right to:...*”

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

The Amendment was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“That the third bullet of the fourth paragraph of the policy be amended to read: *Improve understanding of the individual lives of sexual and gender minorities and their families, cultures, and communities.*”

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

The Amendment was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

The Board Chair called the question on the Motion as Amended.

The Motion was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

The Board took a break at this point.

6. Edmonton Public Schools’ Combined Three Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report 2010-2014

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the Edmonton Public Schools’ Combined Three-Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report 2010-2014 be approved for submitting to Alberta Education.” (**UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**)

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7. Proposed TELUS Cell Phone Tower in Vicinity of Greenfield School

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the Board not consider the report.”

The Board Chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Hoffman, Janz, Johner and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Cleary, MacKenzie, Ripley and Spencer

The Motion was CARRIED.

8. Review of 2010-2011 Results and 2011-2012 Plans and Revised Budgets

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the report entitled ‘Review of 2010-2011 Results and 2011-2012 Plans and Revised Budgets’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

9. Feedback Received Regarding Modified District Calendar (Response to Trustee Request #86)
10. Annual Progress Reports to Board (Response to Trustee Request #102)
11. West 8 Project Exploring Half-Day Meetings to Provide Time for Professional Learning (Response to Trustee Request #110)
12. District Policy Review (Response to Trustee Request #115)
13. Criteria/Qualifications for Staff Providing Services for Mental Health and Addictions Counselling (Response to Trustee Request #119)
14. Class Size Breakdown of Ward I Schools (Response to Trustee Request #128)
15. District Survey Historical Information (Response to Trustee Request #130)

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the following reports be received for information:

- **Feedback Received Regarding Modified District Calendar (Response to Trustee Request #86)**
- **Annual Progress Reports to Board (Response to Trustee Request #102)**
- **West 8 Project Exploring Half-Day Meetings to Provide Time for Professional Learning (Response to Trustee Request #110)**
- **District Policy Review (Response to Trustee Request #115)**

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- **Criteria/Qualifications for Staff Providing Services for Mental Health and Addictions Counselling (Response to Trustee Request #119)**
- **Class Size Breakdown of Ward I Schools (Response to Trustee Request #128)**
- **District Survey Historical Information (Response to Trustee Request #130)”**

At 5:00 p.m. the board suspended discussion of reports 9 to 15 for the time-specific item – *Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives*.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives - None.

The board resumed discussion of reports 9 to 15.

Trustee Spencer referred to Report #9 - Feedback Received Regarding Modified District Calendar (Response to Trustee Request #86) – and requested that a listing of the survey information by postal code be provided.

Trustee Johner left at this point in the meeting.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Trustee Johner was absent for this vote.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Ripley, the Board’s representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, reported that the “*Create in 8 Art Showcase*” created by mixed teams of students from various high schools was tremendous. She gave special thanks to the art teacher who collaborated to make this happen, the students (of course), and the Foundation for inspiring it. She reported that the Mee-Yah-Noh full-day kindergarten has been officially launched. The launch was a fun day for the donors and Board members who attended. She noted Trustees Cleary and Johner and Board Chair attended the launch. She then presented each of the Trustees with a souvenir.

Trustee Johner returned at this point in the meeting.

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Trustee Colburn, the Board's representative on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors, reported that the next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2011. He will be unable to attend the meeting and Trustee Hoffman will attend in his place.

Trustee Colburn noted that he was pleased to present on the work of the District in the area of FNMI learning at a First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) showcase at the ASBA Annual General Meeting last week. He talked, in particular, about the creation and outcomes of the Aboriginal Task Force, and the District's best practices in this area.

Trustee Johner, the Board's representative on ASBA Zone 23, reported on the ASBA Zone General Meeting held Friday, November 25, 2011. There was a report from the ASBA Advocacy Committee, of which Trustee Hoffman is a member. The Committee will develop PowerPoint presentations for use by boards. An in-camera meeting was held to hear an update from the ASBA Executive Director regarding tripartite discussions. Mr. David Woloshyn, Alberta Education, reported on increasing terms of office from three to four years for those elected in municipal elections to align the terms with provincial terms. He also referenced the conference call the Minister of Education will hold with parents this evening at 7:45 p.m. and the ten-point plan which Trustee Hoffman referred to earlier in her comments.

Trustee Shipka, the Board's alternate representative on the Public School Boards Council (PSBC), did not have a report at this time.

Trustee Spencer, the Board's representative on the Capital Region Services to Children Linkages Committee, reported that Linkages representatives met on November 3, 2011 and provided the following highlights:

- Due to financial and time constraints, the annual Governor's Forum will not take place in 2012, but the event will resume in 2013.
- Sandy Litman, Director of Pediatric Rehabilitation at the Glenrose Hospital, shared information about the Positive Behaviour Support project, which has received the Opening Doors award from the Autism Society of Edmonton and Area.
- For 2012, Linkages will focus on child and adolescent mental health. This is a community issue which transcends the boundaries of medicine and which requires collective action from agencies which support kids.
- The next Linkages meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2012 at the Centre for Education.

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Trustee Cleary reported on the following:

- November 8, 2011 – attended a town hall meeting
- November 9, 2011 – attended Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Authority Annual Celebration "Celebrating Our Youth" where 29 youth received Heather Jacobs Governors awards.
- November 9, 2011 – attended Green Eggs and Ham celebration at Mee-Yah-Noh School
- November 10, 2011 – attended the Satoo School Remembrance Ceremony orgnaized by student teachers and run by students
- November 14-18, 2011 – attended results review with 9 schools. Assistant Superintendents Liguori and MacNeil were also in attendance
- November 15, 2011 - the first *Trustee Talk* column was published in the *Mill Woods Mosaic* which will be shared with Edmonton Catholic School Trustee Laura Thibert
- November 17, 2011 – attended the New Teacher Induction Ceremony. The following teachers from Ward I schools were inducted:
 - Laure Abinader – Menisa School
 - Katrina Field – Malcolm Tweddle School
 - Lorraine Zim – Kameyosek School
 - Chantal Davis – Crawford Plains School
- November 20-22, 2011 – attended Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Annual General Meeting and Conference and Second Language Caucus meeting where presentations by Canadian Parents for French and the Confucius Institute were made. She thanked staff members Dr. Kristopher Wells and Eileen Mathiensen for the support they provided to Trustees at the conference.
- November 24, 2011 – attended Crawford Plains Pasta Night and heard the Leader in Me program presentation to parents.
- November 25, 2011 – awarded a 30th Anniversary plaque to Menisa School on behalf of the Board.
- November 28, 2011 – attended the official opening of the French Language Resource Centre at the Institute for Innovation in Second Languages Education.

Trustee Cleary concluded by thanking all Mill Woods schools and staff for all they do to make Ward I the best in the city.

Trustee Ripley noted that, over the last eighteen months, she has been sitting on a folktale review committee for the United Cultures of Canada Association (UCCA), which looked at folktales from around the world to go into a collection. The UCCA approached the Resource Development Services for assistance in publishing and on November 17, 2011 the book that was developed, *World on a Maple Leaf: A Treasury of Canadian Multicultural Folktales*, was launched at the Centre for Education. The collection was

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developed in collaboration with the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund and the City of Edmonton Community Services. The first 1,000 copies of *World on a Maple Leaf: A Treasury of Canadian Multicultural Folktales* will be distributed free of charge to children's hospitals, emergency shelters and community organizations. She commended the staff in Resource Development Services for their work.

Trustee Hoffman reported on an event she attended on November 19, 2011 which was organized by a number of members of the Edmonton Farsi community who are actively working to try to have the provincial ban on new course development lifted. They have been very pleased with the support they have received from the Planning Department in terms of explaining the process involved in creating a new course. There were approximately 500 participants including representatives from Catholic Social Services, the Mennonite Centre and other community partnerships.

Trustee Colburn reported that this morning he co-chaired a meeting of the ASBA Task Force on Public Engagement. The work of the Task Force will last for a minimum of four to six months. The District and Board will receive information on that work in which the Task Force will examine theory and broad and strong arguments about why public engagement is important to school boards and what some best practices are across the province in this area.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Hoffman requested the following information:

- What internal advisory committees are active and in place to advance the work of diverse learners within the district? Do any of these committees have external representatives?

Trustee Hoffman requested the following information:

- Provide a brief report outlining some of the ways that EPSB shares qualitative data with Alberta Education and other stakeholders.

Trustee Johnner requested the following information:

- Provide an overall update regarding the stage of the reorganization of Student Learning Services. Include what has taken place and been completed. What is in progress and what has yet to be done?

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Trustee Janz requested the following information:

- Provide a cost-benefit analysis to the Conference Committee with regard to both the District Museum and the Blackboard Deli going forward into the future.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Shipka served notice of the following motion:

1. *That the 2012-2013 school year calendar commence one week prior to Labour Day and include a one-week break around the Remembrance Day holiday.*
2. *That the Administration survey students, parents and staff after the 2012 break to determine satisfaction with the school calendar.*

Trustee MacKenzie served notice of the following motion:

That the Board write a letter to the Government of Alberta requesting that Section 11.1 Notice to Parent or Guardian of the Alberta Human Rights Act be repealed.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment (5:50 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary