

MINUTE BOOK

- **Board Meeting #9** -

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, January 26, 2010 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

Bruce Coggles
Ron MacNeil
Tanni Parker

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 all Trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair advised that, on Monday, January 25, 2010, at the former site of Woodcroft School (now the Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education), he had the privilege of taking part in the official opening the Confucius Institute Library. The library is set up to promote Chinese language and culture and contains over 24,000 volumes in print and electronic form. The library provides resources for Chinese language learning, Chinese history, economics, literature, geography and tourism.

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The opening was attended via video conference by the Executive Director General of the Hanban Ministry in Beijing and the Minister of Education of Shandong Province.

The Institute, a partnership formed in May 2008 between China and Edmonton Public Schools, is very active in supporting the learning of Chinese language and cultural activities in Edmonton schools. The Institute is also instrumental in linking the Edmonton region with business and cultural interests in China. The CIE also plays a role with the local World Trade Centre and Chamber of Commerce in helping to improve educational and economic connections between Edmonton and China.

Through this partnership, the Board of Trustees continues to nurture a commitment established by the District's first school board over a century ago to ensure youth can successfully offer their gifts and talents with an increasing integrated global community. The Board recognizes that, in the new millennium, employers across all continents are hiring people who have a diverse set of skills and abilities. We are very proud to be a school district that understands this concept, and we're also very proud to have a long history of offering internationally acclaimed instruction in Mandarin and a variety of other languages.

Providing a dynamic environment in which students can learn, thrive and advance their education is a hallmark of the District's success. By working together, an entire generation of students is being prepared to become the confident and capable leaders of tomorrow.

The Board Chair acknowledged Mr. Stuart Wachowicz and Dr. Wei Li who were in the audience. He noted that Mr. Wachowicz, the director of the Confucius Institute in Edmonton and a former director of the curriculum department at Edmonton Public Schools, received the Qilu Friendship Award -- the highest award that can be bestowed by Shandong Province on foreign experts in business and education.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that, this afternoon, he along with Assistant Superintendent Dr. Donna Barrett, Director Gloria Chalmers, Manager Karen Bardy, as well as two school principals Dean Michailides and Don Blackwell, met with representatives of various Canadian Somali groups of Edmonton.

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He was pleased to be able to report to them the progress being made as a District to meet the educational needs of these Canadian students and that the feedback received from the representatives was cautiously positive. They shared their appreciation for our efforts and expressed the desire to continue to work together to ensure even greater success for their children. He thanked District staff members who have had a positive impact in helping these students experience even more success.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #8 – January 12, 2010

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #8 held January 12, 2010 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement

2. Improving Student Achievement by Engaging Students in Second Language Learning

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement by Engaging Students in Second Language Learning’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Anna Marie Sewell, Norwood community resident, expressed concern about the sector review process and urged the Board to take a long-sighted view with respect to keeping schools in the inner city open.

Ms Kathleen Arnold, from the Norwood community, also expressed concern about the usefulness of the sector review process and urged the Board to engage in a conversation about reorganizing schools in the inner city instead.

Mr. Rory Koopmans had a number of questions regarding the granting of high school credits.

The Board Chair advised Mr. Koopmans to provide his questions to the Board Secretary for response.

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H. Reports

3. Report #6 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held September 15, 2009)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “1. That Report #6 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held September 15, 2009 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “2. That the protocols be approved and included in the Trustees’ Manual to serve as a guide for future boards.”

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

- “That the protocols be amended by deleting the third bullet on page 5 of the report: *Trustees will avoid speaking for the Board in areas where the Board has not yet taken a position.*”

IN FAVOUR: Trustee Huff

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

The Amendment was DEFEATED.

The Board Chair called the question on the original recommendation.

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

OPPOSED: Trustee Huff

The Motion was CARRIED.

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7. Locally Developed Courses - Renewals

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the following locally developed courses, currently in use in the District, be renewed for the school years from 2010-2013.

**Bible Studies 1-9
Jewish History and Israel Studies 1-9
Judaic Studies K-9
Creative Writing 9
Drill and Parade 7-9
Economics of a Foreign Nation 9
Survey of English Literature 9
Algebra 35
Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35
Audio 15-25-35
Dance Performance 15-25-35
Directing 25-35
Drill and Parade 15-25-35
Exercise Science 35
Fire Protection 25
Fitness Leader 35
History of Cinema 35
Philosophy 35
Physiology of Dance/Sport 35
Reading 15
Shooting the Screenplay 15-25-35
Technical Theatre 25-35
Theatre Performance 15-25-35
Video 15-25A-25B-35
Workplace Essential Skills 25-35
Writing for Stage and Screen 15-25-35”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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9. Dialogue Partners Presentation: Greater Hardisty Area and City Centre Education Partnership Reviews

The following individuals spoke to this item:

- Mr. Warren Champion, President Central McDougall Community League – Mr. Champion previously provided Trustees with a copy of his presentation
- Mr. Bill Glass, member of the Norwood Community – Mr. Glass provided a copy of his concerns to the Recording Secretary
- Ms Cathy Mercier, member of the Norwood Community
- Ms Kim Morrow, Capilano School parent
- Ms Anna Carlson, Capilano School parent
- Mr. Paul Kuefler, Capilano Community member
- Mr. Jeff Eisenkrein, Hardisty Community member
- Mr. Gene Hochachka, Capilano Community member

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the report entitled ‘Dialogue Partners Presentation: Greater Hardisty Area and City Centre Education Partnership Reviews’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Board took a short break at this point.

10. Joint Edmonton Public Teachers Local and Edmonton Public Schools Professional Development Framework

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the report entitled ‘Joint Edmonton Public Teachers Local and Edmonton Public Schools Professional Development Framework’ be received for information.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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4. Motion re Comparison of Student Achievement Outcomes Pre- and Post-School Closure

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“Provide information regarding the achievement outcomes for students who have experienced recent school closures pre- and post- closure prior to the Board’s consideration of the sector recommendations for Hardisty and CCEP.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn and Huff

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

The Motion was DEFEATED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the meeting extend past 9:00 p.m.”

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger and Gibeault

The Motion was CARRIED.

5. Motion re Presentation by Alberta Conflict Transformation Society (ACTS)

Trustee Huff withdrew the motion.

6. School Year Calendar 2011-2012

The report was deferred to the February 9, 2010 board meeting.

8. Board Position on Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta Work Plan and Initiatives

The report was deferred to the February 2, 2010 Conference Committee meeting due to the time-sensitive nature of the material.

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11. Responses to Board Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

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

The Board supported the following items for Trustee Huff to identify as possible priorities for the Linkages Committee: focus on vulnerable populations and on policy barriers and improved protocols for information sharing.

The Board did not support work on building teaching capacity and an administrator position at this time due to the fiscal uncertainty

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

12. Bereavement

The Board Vice-Chair reported on the death of Henia Correia a member of the support staff.

MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Huff:

“That the report be received with regret and the actions of the Administration in this regard be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

13. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Gibson reported on the ASBA First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Student Success Group meeting he attended as the Board’s representative. He thanked the Administration for their work on the District’s policy and regulation with respect to Aboriginal Education.

Trustee Huff reported that, on January 12, 2010, she and the Board Chair met with Chris Smith from the Muttart Foundation and Ilene Fleming from Success by 6 to discuss ways to further our shared focus on early education and strengthen our existing partnership.

Trustee Huff reported that, on January 20, 2010, the Board was hosted by the ATA Local for an annual dinner. She thanked Edmonton Public Teachers President Ed Butler.

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Trustee Huff reported that, on January 21, 2010, she and the Board Chair as well as a number of the Administration met with Carlana Lindeman of the Paul Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative. They heard some very positive news about the projects that Edmonton Public Schools is piloting to support high achieving Aboriginal students.

Trustee Huff reported on a meeting of the Sexual Exploitation working group that she is a member of as an education representative. She noted that March 15-20, 2010 has been selected as Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week. The theme of the week is *Dare to Care*. A Facebook page has been set up to provide information on the activities that have been planned.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided on what other revenue streams are available to the Board in addition to current revenue streams and what is required to pursue these revenue streams.

The Board unanimously concurred with the request going forward.

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding a comparison of Edmonton Catholic Schools enrolment versus the District's enrolment over past 5 years.

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

J. Notices of Motion – None.

K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

L. Adjournment: (9:20 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary