

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 27, 2009 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

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Staff Group Representatives:

CUPE Local 3550 – Trudy Grebenstein, President

A. **O Canada** 

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

Mrs. Sherwood reported that all Trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair requested that Section H of the agenda be dealt with prior to Section G.

The Board concurred with the reordering of the agenda.

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The Board Chair advised that, at the January 13, 2009 board meeting, the Board referred consideration of a motion to establish a comprehensive environmental policy to a meeting of the Committee of the Whole at the Trustee Retreat on January 19 & 20.

The Board of Trustees agreed to address the issue of an environmental policy within its Strategic Work Plan and will be reported on at a later date.

The Board Chair advised that the Board acknowledges the receipt of a petition at the end of the January 13, 2009 Board meeting requesting the Establishment of a Special Needs Task Force.

The petition has been reviewed and although the petition does not meet the requirements of a petition under the *School Act*, the petition has been made available to all Trustees.

The Board will be taking the request under advisement and will consider its response at the next public board meeting.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that, on January 22, 2009, several district staff members attended the meeting held by the Canadian Language and Learning Network. This Network is working to establish national awareness of ongoing literacy needs of children and adults. A further invitation was extended to participants to provide a brief submission of ways organizations are supporting literacy. The Administration is considering a possible submission to the Network as a way of supporting its work.

The Superintendent advised that, this morning, he attended the Leading in Literacy breakfast, established by the Centre for Family Literacy. It was an opportunity to recognize two adults who were successful in their search and acquisition of literacy. The enormous efforts of caring adults who helped these two young men achieve their goals were recognized. Literacy advocate, Randy Boissonnault, spoke of how literacy is achieved through collective efforts. The Centre for Family Literacy serves over 5,000 families in the Edmonton area on a budget of \$2 million and with a host of volunteers. This event affirmed the District's alliance with the Centre for Family Literacy and our mutual goals of literacy for all.

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E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #8 – January 13, 2009

Trustee Gibson noted a correction on page 8 of the minutes.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #8 held January 13, 2009 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement Through Personnel Services – Staff Development

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement Through Personnel Services – Staff Development’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

4. Report #6 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held January 20, 2009)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“1. That Report #6 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held January 20, 2009 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“2. That, as follow-up to the 2007-2008 Board Evaluation, the following be approved:

- a) **Community Relations Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Board in improving its understanding of who, when and how to engage or promote opportunities and processes for community engagement;**

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- b) **Planning and Policy Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Board in examining the structure and function of all board meetings and how they interrelate;**
 - c) **Community Relations Committee and the Government Relations Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Board in gaining an understanding of and identifying means of communicating to the wider community the resources required to meet the varied needs of students;**
 - d) **The District Priorities, Planning and Policy, and Superintendent Evaluation Committees shall be responsible for assisting the Board in monitoring the alignment of their respective areas of responsibility with the Strategic Plan.**
3. **A post-meeting debriefing following every public board meeting and Trustee Retreat be approved.”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“4. That the following delegation of authority to the Committee of the Whole - Conference be approved:

- 1. **In accordance with Section 61 of the *School Act*, the Board delegates to the Conference Committee the following powers:**
 - a) **Discussing and, or developing recommendations to Board on matters pertaining to:**
 - **the personal or proprietary information of an identifiable individual or group, including staff, students and parents**
 - **labour relations and employee negotiations**
 - **a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of property**

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- law enforcement matters, litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals affecting the District
 - the security of the property of the District
 - the terms and conditions of a contract with the Superintendent of Schools in accordance with Section 113 of the *School Act*
- b) Studying a matter in depth to build Trustee understanding of an issue that may be coming before the Board;
- c) Engaging in strategic planning activities;
- d) Reviewing the functioning of the Board and Board development activities, and
- e) Providing advice to the Superintendent.
2. The first order of business for a Conference Committee meeting shall be approval of the agenda and confirmation of the items as appropriate for discussion in-camera.
3. All matters requiring Board decision arising from discussions in Conference Committee shall be reported to a public board meeting for Board approval. Recommendation reports to Board shall contain sufficient background information to explain the recommendation and implications of the decision to be made with due consideration to protection of personal or proprietary information.
5. That, the following process for trustee requests for information for inclusion in the Board's Rules of Order (Trustees' Manual) be approved:

When a Trustee brings forward a request for information, the Board Chair or Conference Chair will determine whether there is a majority of the Trustees in favour of the information request going forward to the Administration for response. If there is not a majority, the request may be brought forward as a notice of motion."

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MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That Recommendation 4 be deferred to allow for community consultation.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn and Huff

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

The Deferral Motion was DEFEATED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendations 4 and 5.

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn and Huff

The Motion was CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“6. That the Board undertake an activity to gather feedback from stakeholders who do not have students in our schools with regard to what they think is important in public education and their desired level of involvement in the operation of the school system.

7. Information gathered through this activity will be provided to Trustees attending the ASBA Summit on Public Involvement in Public Schools (March 13-14, 2009).”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The board took a short break at this point.

5. Board Policy Review – GB.BP Authority for Personnel Decisions

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That revised Board Policy GB.BP Authority for Personnel Decisions be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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6. Board Policy Review – GBC.BP Employee Relations

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That revised Board Policy GBC.BP Liaison Committees be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Board Policy Review – GIA.BP Pensions

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That revised Board Policy GIA.BP Pensions be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

8. Board Policy Review – GJ.BP Staff Leaves of Absence

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the reaffirmation of Board Policy GJ.BP Staff Leaves of Absence be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

11. Board Policy Review – GM.BP Acknowledgement of Deaths and Bereavements

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the reaffirmation of Board Policy GM.BP Acknowledgement of Deaths and Bereavements be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. Response to Trustee Request for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

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

I. Other Trustee Reports

Trustee Fleming noted that Mr. Don Bittorf, architect for the Centre for Education, passed away December 4, 2008 in Vancouver.

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Trustee Huff advised that the report from the Ad Hoc Committee to Review School Closure and Sustainability Review Processes that was scheduled for January (as per the Committee's Terms of Reference) will be presented at the end of February.

Trustee Huff advised that she had attended a first aid training course at the Centre for Education on January 15 and 16, 2009 along with a number of staff members.

Trustee Huff advised that, on January 21, 2009, she and the Board Chair attended the launch of the Olweus Anti-Bullying Program at Glenora School. It was sponsored by the Evan Grykuliak Memorial Society.

Trustee Huff advised that, on January 22, 2009, she had also attended the National Strategy on Early Literacy program mentioned by the Superintendent earlier in the meeting.

Trustee Huff advised that, today, she was at Westglen School. The school made a donation to the Ryan's Well Foundation which is an organization that is building wells in Africa.

Trustee Ripley advised that, on January 24, 2009, she attended Family Literacy Day at City Hall. The Centre for Family Literacy was attempting to break a world record for the most children and adults reading together in multiple locations across Canada. She noted Nellie McClung students attended the event as volunteers. Principals Pat Dougherty and Robin Preece were in attendance as official counters of the numbers of people reading.

Trustee Ripley advised that, last week, she attended a meeting of the Aboriginal Education Action Circle which is connected with Wicihitowin, the Circle of Shared Responsibility and Stewardship. The purpose of the Circle is to build, promote and strengthen new and existing partnerships aimed at addressing community-identified, current and emerging priority education issues for the urban Aboriginal community. Two members of the district staff were also in attendance.

Trustee Esslinger advised that she and Trustees Huff and Ripley attended the Parents as Partners Event on January 25, 2009 at the Fantasyland Hotel. The event was a Presentation by Lieutenant-General The Honourable Romeo A. Dallaire. She noted that over 600 parents were in attendance.

Trustee Esslinger advised that, on January 26, 2009, she and Trustees Huff and Shipka attended the Official Opening of the Citizen and New Arrival Information Centre at City Hall.

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J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Trudy Grebenstein, President CUPE Local 3550, noted the correction that was required to report two.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson requested that information be provided regarding the different methods of instruction in Math and different forms of assessment for and of learning in Math.

The Board concurred with the request for information.

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding how stress is impacting the District's disabilities claims and what measures are being taken to address this challenge.

The Board concurred with the request for information.

L. Notices of Motion – None.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: (8:20 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary