

**MINUTE BOOK**

**- Board Meeting #10 -**

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, February 10, 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

Dean Power  
Betty Tams

**Board Chair:** Bev Esslinger

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

A. **O Canada** 

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

Mrs. Sherwood reported that Trustee Gibeault was absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair advised that this week (February 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>) is Random Acts of Kindness Week. The Board has endorsed and recognized Random Acts of Kindness Week since 1996. The Board encourages everyone to recognize and participate in random acts of kindness week whether it be to help a needy friend or anonymously shovel a neighbour's sidewalk.

The Board Chair advised that she had met with the Ambassador to France yesterday. She noted that the Ambassador commended the District for the work being done in second languages.

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

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The Superintendent advised of a change in the high school optimal enrolment limits for the upcoming enrolment process. High school principals came together with assistance from the Planning department to come up with a district solution to enrolment issues. The high school principals recommended that all grade ten classes of all high schools have an optimal enrolment limit to ensure a reasonable distribution of students and programming opportunities across the district. With the agreement of all principals, he accepted the recommendation, thereby ensuring long term viability of all of the district's high schools. In addition, high schools will ensure sufficient space is available for new students to the catchment area, as in the past. The information was shared with high schools and junior high schools this morning, with a great deal of agreement and acknowledgement of this work. With the opening of Lillian Osborne High School, we anticipate that some of pressure points at several south side high schools will be reduced. This information will be shared with parents and students as they prepare for the pre-enrolment process in the coming weeks.

### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #9 – January 27, 2009

Trustee Huff noted the correction required to page nine of the minutes with respect to Ms Grebenstein's comments regarding report two.

### **MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #9 held January 27, 2009 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### **F. Improving Student Achievement:**

2. Improving Student Achievement at S. Bruce Smith Junior High School

### **MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement at S. Bruce Smith Junior High School’ be received for information.”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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

3. Response to Petition Regarding Provision of Education to Students with Special Education Needs

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

**“That the current status and plan for district work relative to the Special Needs Review be approved as the Board’s response to the request for a Special Needs Task Force.”**

The Board heard from the following speakers:

- Ms Kathryn Burke, Chair Parent Council at the Academy at King Edward and the Executive Director, Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta
- Ms Madeline Rainey
- Ms Lori Fankhanel
- Ms Bev Oscar

The Administration undertook to provide the following information:

- all results for the 2006-2008 District Satisfaction Survey Eligibility Special Needs (Parents) be provided.
- number of respondents to the survey.

The Administration undertook to provide a copy of the *District Review: Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing* to Trustees.

Trustee Gibeault joined the meeting at this point.

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

4. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

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

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

5. Report #7 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held February 3, 2009)

**MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

- “1. That Report #7 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held February 3, 2009 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

**MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

- “2. That authorization of the Conference Committee to select names for the six Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement (ASAP) schools to be opened in 2010 from the list of names submitted for consideration through public input be approved.
3. That authorization for the Administration to enter into discussion with these individuals or, in the cases where the person is deceased, their family members to obtain consent for their name to be given to an ASAP school be approved.
4. That the Administration develop a comprehensive implementation plan that will stage the announcement of school names over the next five months be approved.
5. That the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Trustees Esslinger, Ripley and Gibson to assist the Conference Committee in selecting the names of the Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement (ASAP) schools be approved.”

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

6. Board Policy Review – GBCD.BP Mandatory Records Checks for Employees

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

- “1. That revised Board Policy GBCD.BP Mandatory Records Checks for Employees be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

- “2. That revised Board Policy GBCD.BP Mandatory Records Checks for Employees be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

- “3. That revised Board Policy GBCD.BP Mandatory Records Checks for Employees be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

7. Board Policy Review – GCA.BP Qualifications for Employment

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

- “1. That revised Board Policy GCA.BP Qualifications for Teacher Continuing Contract be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

- “2. That revised Board Policy GCA.BP Qualifications for Teacher Continuing Contract be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

- “3. That revised Board Policy GCA.BP Qualifications for Teacher Continuing Contract be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**I. Other Trustee Reports**

Trustee Huff advised that, on January 29, 2009, she attended the *Think Pink Day* at Westminster School with MLA Heather Klimchuk and the wife of MP Laurie Hawn. The school raised over \$25,000 for breast cancer research. Their 5-year total is now over \$100,000. The Oil Kings also came to show their support.

Trustee Huff advised that, on January 29, 2009, she went to Mayfield School to celebrate their receipt of the Garfield Award for Academic Excellence.

Trustee Huff advised that, on January 31, 2009, she attended the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association Chinese New Year of the Ox Carnival held downtown. MLA Doug Elniski was also in attendance. Parkview School was successful in their attempt to create the largest Chinese painting in North America.

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Trustee Rice advised that he attended the Public School Board Council Meeting held February 5 to 7, 2009. He provided some of the highlights and indicated that he would provide a more detailed report for Trustees.

Trustee Rice advised that he also attended the AISI Conference VII – Leading and Learning, Celebrating the Great Journey held February 9 and 10, 2009 in Calgary. The Conference was opened by the Minister of Education.

Trustee Colburn provided the Board with a progress report on the work of the Multi-Cultural Task Force. The Task Force completed its sixth meeting yesterday – this one with staff. On Saturday, the Task Force held a half-day symposium for the community. The Task Force has gone out into the community to speak to the stakeholder groups of parents, students, community and organizations that work in the area of supporting immigration and multiculturalism. It is the hope of the Task Force that the meetings will be completed by the end of February and work will begin on reviewing the information that has been gathered and determining what the implications are for policy and district practice.

Trustee Esslinger advised that she and Trustee Ripley attended the Setting the Direction Phase II Pilot Project on February 5, 2009 held by the ASBA and Alberta Education.

Trustee Esslinger advised that, this morning, she attended an event at Prince Charles School where the U.S. Consul General to Alberta, Tom Huffaker presented a number of books to the school about the United States. He shared his experiences as a Consul General in travelling around the world and representing the United States.

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

Ms Kathryn Burke advised that on April 13-16, 2008 the first World Summit on Learning Disabilities was held in Lake Louise. She provided the Board with a copy of the report from the Summit.

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

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding how the district engages staff, community and parents to stimulate stakeholder feedback regarding new and changing policies.

Trustees concurred with the request for information.

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Trustee Huff requested that information be provided from the schools that have experienced repeated late buses in terms of an estimation of how many instructional minutes have been lost since September and the plans from those principals on how these lost minutes will be recouped before June. She also asked that any costs schools may incur to make up these mandated minutes also be provided.

Trustees concurred with the request.

**L. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

*That the allotted time for people wishing to address the Board be changed from 2 minutes to 3 minutes and that the requirement for speakers to register ahead of time be removed and replaced with a sign-up sheet available at all public board meetings.*

**M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.**

**N. Adjournment: (8:15 p.m.)**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary