

**A. O Canada:  (6:00 p.m.) – District O Canada Video****B. Roll Call:** All trustees were present.**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

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

Trustees concurred with the reordering of the agenda.

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

The Superintendent advised that he, Assistant Superintendent Donna Barrett and Director Gloria Chalmers will be presenting the District's work in relation to the Early Development Instrument (EDI) and its implementation in the District and provincially at a national forum in Montreal at the end of January. The Pan-Canadian Summit, as it is called, is hosted by the Council for Early Child Development. The theme of the conference is "Building Alliances for Children: Information – Inspiration – Interaction".

**E. Minutes:**1. Board Meeting #7 – December 9, 2008

Approved as printed.

**F. Improving Student Achievement:**2. Improving Student Achievement at Highlands Junior High School

Received for information.

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

5. Motion re Geothermal Heating

The motion was restated as the following Trustee request for information by Trustee Colburn: Provide a report to Board on current District practices and knowledge regarding geothermal heating and how it might be applied in the District.

Trustees concurred.

6. Motion re Environmental Policy

The Motion was referred to the Trustee Retreat for broader discussion.

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

Approved recommendation.

8. Board Policy Review – GBC.BP Employee Relations

Approved recommendation.

9. Board Policy Review – GIA.BP Pensions

Approved recommendation.

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

Approved recommendation.

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

Approved recommendation.

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

3. Response to Trustee Motion Regarding Continuation of Early Education Funding for Students with Severe Disabilities

a) Received for information.

- b) Trustee Ripley suggested the idea of MLAs being given tours of some of the District's early education sites, such as K.I.D.S. North, be considered at the Trustee Retreat in terms of the Board's Strategic Plan or by the Government Relations Committee for an advocacy plan.
- c) Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided regarding the costs for the continuation of funding for students with severe disabilities who had received early education funding.

Trustees concurred.

#### 4. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

Received for information.

### **I. Other Trustee Reports:**

1. Trustee Fleming noted that he is the Education Faculty Representative on the University of Alberta Alumni Council and advised that the Alumni Council presented scholarships for academic achievement and service to the community at a recent luncheon he attended to the following former EPSB students:

- Lindsay Jantzie, Faculty of Medicine, 2006 BSC Alumni Advantage Award (attended Harry Ainlay School)
- Amanda Perry, Faculty of Arts, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Leadership Award (attended McNally School)
- Sing-Chi Lam, Faculty of Science, Alumni Advantage Award (attended Old Scona School)

He noted that when he spoke to the award winners, each referenced the importance of their principals and school staff. He believed that these students are proof that at Edmonton Public Schools "Bright Futures Begin Here".

Trustees concurred with sending letters of congratulations from the Board Chair to the University of Alberta Alumni Council scholarship recipients.

2. Trustee Colburn advised that this morning he participated in a webinar sponsored by the International School Health Network on the subject of an examination of monitoring and reporting practices of school health in the United States. It is the first of six webinars on this subject matter that will examine practices all over the world.

3. Trustee Huff advised that before Christmas she served as Santa's elf. She commended Mac Fysh for his spirit of volunteerism for visiting many district schools over the years as Santa.
4. Trustee Esslinger advised that she had attended a joint media event on January 8, 2009 with Edmonton Catholic Schools to honour the Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth for their donation of Automated External Defibrillators to every Edmonton high school. There was also a demonstration of a defibrillator at the event.
5. Trustee Esslinger noted that last week she and Trustees Huff, Ripley and Colburn attended the K.I.D.S. North staff event.

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

Madeline Rainey presented a petition signed by 235 people requesting that the Board establish a Special Needs Task Force.

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

1. Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding the recidivism rate of students who have received out-of-school suspensions. Trustee Gibson requested that information also be provided regarding District and school policies with respect to suspensions; e.g. what are those schools that have implemented no suspensions doing in lieu.

Trustees concurred.

2. Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding what changes would need to be made to reach our goal of a 1-hour one-way ride time for special education needs students including the cost implications.

Trustee Gibson also requested that information be provided regarding the impact of parental choice on ride times as well as the expected impact on ride times of the new schools opening September 2010.

Trustees concurred.

3. Trustee Esslinger asked if District schools are marked with wheelchair accessibility signs.

Trustees concurred.

**L. Notices of Motion – None.**

**M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**

**N. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**