

**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 reported on her trip to China in December with the superintendent, Director of Curriculum Stuart Wachowicz, Curriculum Supervisor Sandy Forster, Consultant Iris Xu and teacher Mian Xie.

During this trip, the board successfully reached and signed two agreements. One was with China's National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (HANBAN) for the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. The other was an agreement with the Shandong Province Ministry of Education, opening possibilities for student, staff and principal exchanges. They are very interested in the district's successes in second language instruction.

There is a potential for other agreements to be developed as the group met with several delegations representing Chinese universities and publishing houses. An invitation has been extended for officials from the Communications University of China to visit the district which may lead to an agreement to develop an oral proficiency component of Chinese language tests.

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

The superintendent advised that two district English teachers, Brent McKeown, English Department Head at Harry Ainlay, and Scott Horton, Department Head of Student Leadership at Ross Sheppard School have had a chapter of their work on high school assessment included in a book entitled *What is Working in High Schools*. The chapter is entitled "Reading Our Students – A Foundation for Meaningful Assessment. The book is about classroom assessment and has been edited by Anne Davies. Ms Davies is a well-known and respected researcher as well as teacher in the area of assessment. She has visited the district a number of times as well as many other districts across Canada and the United States. He added that there were very few Canadian authors included in the book and he commended both teachers.

#### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #4 – December 11, 2007 – Approved as printed.

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

2. Improving Student Achievement at Parkdale Elementary/Junior High School  
Received for information.

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

3. School Year Calendar 2009-2010  
Approved recommendation.
4. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information  
Received for information.

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

5. Report #3 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held January 8, 2008)  
Approved recommendation re Memorandum of Agreement with teaching staff.
6. Motion re Ad Hoc Committee to Review School Closure Process
  - a) The following amended recommendation was approved:

*That an ad hoc committee of the board be established to review the school closure and sustainability review processes and all issues related to these matters as determined by the board and that the composition of the ad hoc committee be determined at the next conference committee.*

- b) The following motion was defeated:

*That a one-year moratorium on the closure of any district school be imposed.*

#### **• Other Trustee Reports**

1. Trustee Huff noted that she was Santa's elf in December visiting Westglen, Meadowlark and Coronation schools.

2. Trustee Huff noted the district priorities committee has been busy meeting with stakeholders.
3. Trustee Huff attended a number of Christmas concerts – one at the Winspear for the Winterfest concert for Victoria School, the McKay Avenue Christmas Concert and concerts at Youngstown, Meadowlark.
4. Trustee Rice noted that he had attending a consulting services leadership session on January 11, 2007. The topic of the session was improving student results and the guest speaker was Dr. Mike Schmoker, a leading expert in North America.
5. Trustee Esslinger noted that she had attending the opening of the University Downtown Enterprise Centre.

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

Mr. Mark Ramsankar, president Edmonton Public Teachers, advised that the idea of five years of stability on the labour front is appealing to teachers and he looks forward to working with the board in collaboration with all staff groups to support the education of students.

The board chair noted that the board is also looking forward to working together during the next five years.

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

Trustee Gibson requested clarification of what division the projected decline in enrolment for 2008-2009 is likely to occur.

#### **K. Notices of Motion – None.**

#### **L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.**

#### **M. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. – 9:50 p.m.**