

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #4 -

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, December 11, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Sue Huff

George Rice
Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

Officials

Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock
Bruce Coggles

Ron MacNeil
Tanni Parker
Betty Tams

Judy Toews
Rod Kostek
Dean Michailides
Jennifer Lawley

Acting Board Chair: Gerry Gibeault

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers – Mark Ramsankar, President

A. **O Canada** – 

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

Mrs. Sherwood reported that Trustee Esslinger was absent. All other trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair** – None.

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D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

Acting Superintendent Barrett advised that tenders were received today for the Victoria School for Performing Arts modernization and new construction project. The tenders will be reviewed for compliance to specification by our cost consultant and forwarded to Alberta Education Infrastructure and Transportation for review and approval to award a contract. It is not expected that we will be in a position to award a contract until late January. Further information will be TM'd to trustees.

Trustee Gibeault requested that information be provided regarding when the modernization and new construction project at Victoria School will begin.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #3 – November 27, 2007

Trustee Gibson noted the following corrections:

- Page 6 (Recommendation #4) the word should be “from” rather than “form”
- Page 9 (bullet 2) – strike out the word “the” before elders
- Page 9 (bullet 5) - add the words *to reference all schools* after the word “sentence”
- Page 9 (bullet 6) - the word should be “Learner” rather than “Working” Pathways

Trustee Huff referred to the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 12 of the minutes and noted that it should read: *She noted that Trustee Huff also attended the same presentation at Stratford School later that day.*

Trustee Shipka referred to page 2 agenda item E. and noted that the minutes that were to be approved were from the November 13, 2007 board meeting.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #3 held November 27, 2007 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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F. Improving Student Achievement

2. Improving Student Achievement at Brightview Elementary School

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement at Brightview Elementary School’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. Fall 2007 Update to 2007/08 Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘Fall 2007 Update to 2007/08 Budget’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

4. Response to Trustee Request for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

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

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding the results of the students who wrote the provincial achievement tests from the other three large urban boards.

The acting board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

5. Review – Board Regulation FEE.BR – Site Acquisition and Disposal

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the replacement of Board Regulation FEE.BR – Site Acquisition and Disposal with new Board Policy FEE.BP – Site Acquisition and Disposal be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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6. Request for Input on the ASBA 2008/2009 Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘Request for Input on the ASBA 2008/2009 Budget’ be received for information.” (UNIMOUSLY CARRIED)

- **Other Trustee Reports**

Trustee Gibson reported that he had attended a reception celebrating the cooperation between Alberta Education and the Secretariat for Education, Jalisco, Mexico on December 3, 2007.

Trustee Gibson advised that he had attended the Capital Region Linkages for Children Committee meeting on December 5th. The boards had previously agreed upon a priority for youth in transition and a preliminary proposal for this work will be brought forward for consideration of the governing partners in January. He will bring the proposal forward for consideration by the board.

Trustee Rice advised that he had attended a focus group for the Society for Safe and Caring Schools. Trustees from Elk Island, St. Albert and Edmonton Catholic Schools were in attendance. The Society is preparing a policy kit to assist districts in developing policies to address racism and diversity.

Trustee Ripley attended the Grade 6 DARE graduation at Richard Secord School yesterday. She expressed appreciation to all of the police officers who volunteer their time to teach the program. There is an extensive waiting list for this program.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Wendy Keiver thanked the staff and the board on behalf of the Delwood Community League for their efforts to effectively and efficiently address the aftermath of the Delwood fire.

Ms Wendy Keiver referred to the recent article in the Edmonton Journal by Sheila Pratt regarding a supposed “gag order” approved by the board September 11, 2007. She asked that it be noted that, as a former trustee, she voted in support of the amendment to delete the sentences referring to a trustee’s inability to comment or ask questions of delegations or presentations from the general public. She expressed concerns with the inaccuracies contained in the article. She noted that the implication by a former colleague that she didn’t understand what “elected” means is untrue and borders on defamatory. The intent of the statement requiring trustees to ask questions through the chair was intended to prevent the

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board from entering into a debate, a challenge or attack with a delegation without first having all of the necessary information.

She noted that the Planning and Policy Committee had been asked to come up with a policy which was to clarify the expected behaviour of trustees who might wish to ask questions either siding with or challenging the speaker. The committee was not asked to change the rules so that trustees couldn't speak during presentations. Perhaps what was presented was not the best way to ensure that trustees could, with respect and courtesy, respond to a public delegation or presentation but it was not a case of five trustees coming up with an "astoundingly undemocratic" solution.

She concluded by saying that the policy that came before the board in September was not a "gag order" as stated but a result of due process -- a democratic process duly presented by the Policy and Planning Committee to the board and to imply otherwise and to inaccurately implicate past, present and potentially future colleagues is irresponsible and unprofessional.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding whether there are any schools currently facing challenges in meeting curricular requirements due to infrastructure problems; e.g., are there any gymnasiums that are inadequate to meet the daily physical education recommendation?

Trustee Rice requested that information be provided as to whether Edmonton Public Schools receives provincial funding to operate day cares and after-school programs or receives funding to support library or health care units in our schools.

K. Notices of Motion – None.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: (7:50 p.m.)

The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Acting Board Chair

Board Secretary