

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #8 -

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 12, 2010 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
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles
Ron MacNeil
Tanni Parker

Dean Power
Betty Tams

Board Chair: Don Fleming

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. **O Canada** 

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all Trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair reported that the Fourth Confucius Institute Conference was convened in Beijing on December 11 to 13, 2009. The conference is an annual meeting of the 287 Directors of Confucius Institutes in 87 countries. In addition to the Directors the heads of partner organizations which host Confucius Institutes were also invited to attend.

Of the 287 Confucius Institutes, 278 are hosted by universities, 8 hosted by governments or community organizations, and only one, the Confucius Institute in Edmonton, is fully hosted by a school district. The purpose of the conference is to share information about what is working to enable the Institutes to realize common goals, and also the identification of common challenges.

MINUTE BOOK

A selected number of Directors and Presidents of Institutes were requested by Hanban to make presentations. They were selected because of success realized in the implementation of their respective plans.

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton was selected to present on the central issue Hanban is now trying to address, that being “How Can Confucius Institutes Help Primary and Secondary Schools to Offer Chinese Programs?”

As Board Chair of the host organization for the Confucius Institute in Edmonton he was asked to present on this topic.

He provided the context and history of Chinese programming in our district, and identified ways in which Chinese is delivered, both through Bilingual and Second Language programs, providing the Alberta definition for each.

He also explained the uniqueness of the Confucius Institute in Edmonton in that it is not hosted by a university but rather by a public school district.

He talked about:

- the conditions that need to be in place to enable a Confucius Institute to work successfully with a school district in starting and supporting effective Chinese language education
- how a Confucius Institute can promote the learning of Chinese in the community, building both demand for the language and the confidence that it can be successfully learned within public education
- the role of the Confucius Institute in promoting Chinese culture and in so doing creating better understanding between our region and China, hence enhancing interest in learning Chinese, in particular on the part of students of non-Chinese heritage
- the role of the Confucius Institute in involving the business community and local government, helping them to see the cultural and economic benefits that accrue when a portion of the student population develops a working capacity in Chinese. I emphasized the importance of the Confucius Institute as a tool in encouraging early enrolment in Mandarin.

MINUTE BOOK

As a result of the presentation, Mr. Wachowicz, Director/Chair of the Confucius Institute Edmonton, received requests for information on Chinese support and bilingual models from Australia, New Zealand, England, and the United States.

The presentation provided much welcome information and helped to promote Edmonton Public Schools and its world class bilingual education model as a possible solution to Chinese language needs in many parts of the world. The Chinese Minister of Education made a special mention of the success of the Confucius Institute Edmonton as a model for Chinese language education abroad in his concluding speech of the Conference.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that the deadline to submit nominations for the 2010 Provincial *Excellence in Teaching Awards* has been extended. All nominations must be forwarded to the Superintendent's Office by 4:30 p.m. Monday, January 18. Submissions will be forwarded directly from Central Services to Alberta Education by the provincial deadline of February 5th.

The Superintendent advised that the 200-2010 *Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Jurisdiction Survey* will be administered in schools during the period of February 1 to February 19, 2010. Participants will include all certificated staff at all schools and all students in Grades 4, 7 and 10. A change from previous years affects schools with an enrolment of fewer than 100 students in Grades 4 to 12. At these schools, all students in Grades 4 and above will complete the survey.

Parent surveys will be mailed from, and returned directly to, Alberta Education beginning January 11 and until February 19. The survey mail out is sent to parents of students in Grades 4, 7 and 10. For smaller schools having an enrolment of less than 100 students in Grades 4 to 12, surveys will be sent to parents of all students in Grades 4 and above. Parents wishing to receive the survey in another language will be instructed to contact their principal, who will then contact Alberta Education for additional instructions.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #7 – December 8, 2009

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #7 held December 8, 2009 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement

MINUTE BOOK

2. Improving Student Achievement Through Reading Recovery

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement Through Reading Recovery’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Betty Wedman advised that, on February 3, 2009, she hand delivered information to each Trustee regarding her son Alex Wedman who was bullied and who took his own life but has not received feedback to date regarding a number of questions she had regarding the Board’s policies and practices with respect to bullying.

The Board Chair asked Ms Wedman to submit her questions to the Board Secretary for follow-up by the Administration.

H. Reports

3. By-Law No. 2010-1 a By-Law Relating to an Amendment to Edmonton School District No. 7 Electoral Ward Boundaries F and H

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“1. That By-Law No. 2010-1 be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“2. That By-Law No. 2010-1 be read for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“3. That By-Law No. 2010-1 be read for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“4. That, in accordance with the Section 69 of the *School Act*, By-Law No. 2010-1 be read for the third time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“5. That By-Law No. 2010-1 having been given three readings at this meeting, be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MINUTE BOOK

4. Agreement with the City of Edmonton for the Conduct of the 2010 School Board Election

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“That, in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act*:

- a) **Section 2(2), authorization for the Board Chair and the Board Secretary to sign an agreement with the City of Edmonton to conduct the school board election on behalf of Edmonton School District No. 7 in conjunction with the 2010 municipal election, be approved; and,**
- b) **Section 13(1), the appointment of the City’s Returning Officer as the Returning Officer for the purposes of the 2010 school board election for Edmonton School District No. 7 be approved.”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

5. Response to Board Request for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

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

6. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Colburn reported on initiatives of the Alberta Coalition for Healthy School Communities of which he is the Co-Chair. He reported that work has begun to establish five regional health teams aligned with the five CASS and ASBA Zones.

Each Zone organization will be asked to identify a representative to serve a one-year term on these teams. The ASBA Zone 23 meeting with the CASS and ASBA representatives will take place within the next month. The representatives will be responsible for reporting back to their organizations and thereby engaging all school boards.

They have also established an Aboriginal school health initiative to determine if there are any distinguishing challenges. Consultations have taken place with both reserve and off-reserve Aboriginal representatives.

MINUTE BOOK

Trustee Gibson reported that he would be representing the District at the ASBA FNMI (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) Student Success Group meeting tomorrow at which boards will be sharing their information regarding student achievement.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding the achievement outcomes for students who have experienced recent school closures pre- and post- closure prior to the Board's consideration of the sector recommendations for Hardisty and CCEP.

A majority of the Board did not support the request going forward. In accordance with Board practice, the request is automatically treated as a notice of motion.

Trustee Huff requested that the Administration provide an analysis of the impact of the findings of the Alberta Education High School Completion longitudinal study on the District in the future and in relation to the work on sector reviews.

A majority of the Board concurred with the request.

J. Notices of Motion

Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

That the Alberta Conflict Transformation Society (ACTS) be invited to make a presentation to public board and that the Parents as Partners consider including restorative practice as a topic for the 2010-2011 year.

K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTE BOOK

L. Adjournment: (7:45 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary