



Summary of Board Meeting #6 Tuesday, January 28, 2003

A. **O Canada** – District Video.

B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.) - All trustees were present.

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

D. **Communications from the Superintendent of Schools** – None.

E. **Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #5 – January 14, 2003 - Approved as printed.

F. **Focus on Student Achievement**

2. Dickinsfield, Balwin, Highlands – The “Three Amigos” Instructional Focus Project
Received for information.

G. **Reports:**

3. Report #5 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held January 21, 2003)

Approved recommendations re:

- Salary schedules, benefits and working conditions for exempt staff and lunchroom aides
- Trustee remuneration

Report #6 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held January 28, 2003) (Non-Agenda Item)

Approved recommendation regarding superintendent salary.

4. District Lease Rate Review

Received for information.

5. Trustee Initiatives

Received for information.

6. Presentations by Employee Groups on the Proposed 2003-2004 Planning and Operating Budget

- CUPE Local 3550 (Support Staff)
- Exempt Staff

- a) Received verbal presentations for information.
- b) A report in response to employee presentations will be prepared for the February 11, 2003 board meeting. Following that, the report as well as a copy of the employee presentations will be distributed to schools and central service decision units.

7. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Woodrow referred to Trustee Tracking #219 and noted that a terrorism exclusion has been attached to our general liability policy and asked if parents are signing a form releasing the district from liability in the event a student was injured by an act of terrorism on a school trip.
- c) Trustee Martin also felt it was important to follow up on this issue in terms of whether the Insurer could withhold payment in the event of a “terrorist” act.
- d) Trustee Odynski asked whether guidelines have been given to schools to advise parents regarding the change in our general liability policy with respect to the terrorism exclusion.
- e) Trustee Woodrow asked whether we have received any advice from the general counsel with respect to this issue.
- f) Trustees requested that the issue of the terrorism exclusion attached to our general liability policy with respect to school trips be brought to conference committee for further discussion.

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports

• **Community Relations Activities**

1. Trustee Woodrow reported on MLA Mark Norris’ visit to Lymburn School on January 17, 2003. Mr. Norris was given a tour of the school and made aware of the need to address education under funding.
2. Trustee Woodrow advised that she had attended Lynnwood School Council meeting last night and noted that MLA Kevin Taft was there to listen to concerns from parents. Mr. Taft is wanting to organize and facilitate a meeting of both Catholic and public parents in his constituency before the end of February.

3. Trustee Woodrow advised that she had attended a Logos Christian outreach meeting for church ministers and leaders at lunch yesterday. They spoke very highly of the Logos Program in our district and the way the administration and the Logos board cooperate. There was a question and answer period as well as a video show. It was very well received.
4. Trustee Woodrow advised that she had attended the ASBA Zone 23 meeting on Friday, January 24, 2003 at the Nisku Inn. An item discussed was satisfaction surveys. ASBA Zone 23 has requested that all school districts submit a sample of their satisfaction surveys and to indicate which questions are used as a tool and how to design questions so as not to get slanted information. Zone representatives have been asked to bring samples to the next meeting. Another question raised was who addresses the issues arising from the survey results; i.e., the board, superintendent or the principals.
5. Trustee Odynski reported on MLA Drew Hutton's visit to Westglen School. Principal Busby did an excellent job of providing information to Mr. Hutton with respect to the benefits of the instructional focus on writing which is being conducted in the school for the past three years and presenting information to Mr. Hutton with respect to the challenges the school faces given the fiscal and capital restraints we currently having to deal with in the district.
6. Trustee Odynski advised that she attended the Crestwood School Council meeting where MLA Kevin Taft sought input from parents with respect to their perceptions of the state of public education in Alberta.
7. Trustee Odynski advised that she and Trustee Woodrow had attended a Ward C and E council meeting last week. At that time, school councils from across Wards C and E had representatives attend the meeting. The meeting provided an opportunity for the school council chairs to share information about successes and challenges they face in involving families and parents in participation in school council activities and involving parents and families in their children's education in ways that support and enhance teaching and learning. The intent of the next meeting is to invite school council chairs to come and make a presentation to the various MLAs whose constituencies overlap with Wards C and E with respect to their perceptions about the effects that our current fiscal situation is going to have on their children's learning.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

1. Ms Trudy Grebenstein, President CUPE Local 3550 (support staff), expressed dismay on behalf of the district's support staff with respect to Report #5 of the Conference Committee that the message that there is no more money was not the same message for all district staff. She appreciated the votes of Trustees Martin and Odynski. On behalf of the district's support staff she appreciated the leadership and class of the superintendent in accepting the same wage increase as the CUPE Locals. While the teacher arbitration decision was an award that the district was directed to carry out what she sees in Report #5 indicates that the message that there is no more money is not the same for all staff in this district. Support staff are very disappointed and not impressed by this.

2. Mr. Doug Luellman, President CUPE Local 474 (custodial staff), referred to the report with respect to the district lease rate review. He commended Dr. Habinski and his staff with respect to the discussion they had today regarding some of the concerns the Local brought forward with respect to this issue. Local 474 wished to go on record as supporting the lease rate review. In their 2001 brief, they brought up concerns in this area.

Mr. Luellman referred to Trustee Odynski's initiative (in the Trustee Initiatives report) to: *Develop a policy and administrative regulations to govern how the district will regularly involve affected stakeholders in the development of district policies, priorities and initiatives.* He noted that a report recommending changes to the district lease rates is scheduled for late February and wished to indicate on public record that CUPE Local 474 would like input prior to that report coming forward. He noted that the Local could provide assistance in terms of providing information. He did not believe the entire costs of leases are reflect; for example, there is no reference to maintenance costs or the business manager dealing with lease groups. He also didn't believe that the \$18 million dollar yearly custodial costs are sufficiently explained; for example, custodians manage the heating plants, the snow removal, security, etc. He noted that this figure doesn't truly reflect some of the costs that are not being reported such as damage to schools. He estimated that 95% of the damage of the leased areas is not reported centrally. There needs to be formal communications of how this is going to be reported to accurately reflect those costs. Another item is the supplies that come from school budgets such as wax, etc., that is not factored in a lease rate.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Odynski referred to the January 24, 2003 issue of ASBA *Hot News* which indicates that at its January meeting the ASBA Board of Directors reaffirmed its recognition of the Alberta Home and School Councils Association as one of its education partners. The board also passed a motion to urge the AHSCA to become more representative of school councils from all regions of Alberta. How will the ASBA recognize parent and school council organizations such as EPSB Key Communicators, the Calgary Council of Home and School Associations, and the Whitemud Coalition, for example, who have chosen not to be members of or represented by the AHSCA?

Trustee Fleming noted, as the board's representative on the ASBA Board of Directors, that he would bring Trustee Odynski's question to the ASBA Board for a response and report back to our board.

K. Notices of Motion

- a) Notice of Motion was waived.
- b) The following motion was approved: *That the board chair send a letter to the Minister of Learning (cc'd as appropriate) requesting that the district be permitted to pay down the deficit over three years thus reducing the impact on staff reduction and on classroom reductions.*

L. Next Meeting Date: February 11, 2003 – 6:00 p.m. - Board

M. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.