

MINUTE BOOK

- **Board Meeting #5** -

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 11, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Leslie Cleary
David Colburn
Sarah Hoffman

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner
Heather MacKenzie

Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka
Christopher Spencer

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Bruce Coggles
David Fraser

Mark Liguori
Ron MacNeil
Jamie Pallett

Tanni Parker
Brian Smith
Tash Taylor

Board Chair: David Colburn

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 advised that, on January 16, 2011, Board Chairs, Superintendents and Secretary-Treasurers from across Alberta will be provided with an update from the ASBA regarding the status of the tripartite discussions with the Province.

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D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that, this morning, he attended the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation – ONEdmonton Leaders Forum and highlighted the high quality education system in the city. Public education in Edmonton is one of the positive reasons for living here. The message was well received from those in attendance.

The Superintendent advised that, last night, he and Assistant Superintendent Tanni Parker attended a meeting of the Education Society of Edmonton where Ms Parker presented information regarding the K-12 Literacy Framework. The presentation was well received.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #4 – December 14, 2010

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #4 held December 14, 2010 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The following people spoke regarding WiFi:

Ms Angela Halwa
Ms Carmelle Boston
Ms Gina Shimoda
Mr. Raymond Merhej
Ms Dimitria Fields
Ms Brinda Narayan
Mr. Bill Fraser

G. Reports

2. Report #3 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held December 7 and 14, 2010 and January 4, 2011)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“1. That Report #3 of the Conference Committee from the meetings held December 7 and 14, 2010 and January 4, 2011 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “2. That an item entitled ‘Generative Discussion’ be added as a standing agenda item for Conference Committee meetings from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “3. That support for the following resolution be confirmed:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta School Boards’ Association for Languages Education (ASBALE) Membership direct the Executive to pursue having ASBALE disbanded in its current structure and form as a Standing Committee under the direction of the ASBA. The Standing Committee would operate under the current governance structure of the ASBA with a commitment to provide effective representation and to focus on providing leadership in the area of second language acquisition for Alberta students.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “4. That for the 2011-2012 year, the District Priorities Committee mandate be expanded to review the District Mission, Vision, Values and Beliefs, Priorities and areas of emphasis in the Strategic Plan.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “5. That the following messages conveyed to the ASBA regarding the ASBA Strategic Plan on January 6, 2011 be confirmed:**

- That the Board supports the initiatives and priorities outlined in the ASBA Strategic Plan**
- That the Board encourages the ASBA to maintain its focus on providing support for implementation of a renewed system for special needs students as per the Setting the Direction review**

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- That the Board recommends the following additional priority initiatives for the ASBA 2011-2012 budget:
 - 1) strengthen supports for and awareness of the importance of the mental, nutritional and physical health of students in order to create healthy, active students and positively impact learning outcomes;
 - 2) work to revise infrastructure funding to more equitably address the infrastructure needs of schools with low enrolment and alleviate the associated school closure pressures;
 - 3) strengthen supports for schools in acknowledging and addressing discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying based on individual and/or systemic biases including race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation.
 - 4) create a strategy to support boards in responding to the rollout of the new *Education Act* and board involvement in the development and implementation of the subsequent regulations.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “6. That the Special Needs Task Force comprised of Trustees Cleary, Johner and Spencer be confirmed.
7. That the Moratorium Committee comprised of Trustees Colburn, Hoffman and MacKenzie be confirmed.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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3. Motion re In-Camera Meetings

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the Board examine its practices and policies with the view to reducing in-camera discussions and increase transparency of decision making.”

Trustee Shipka offered the following friendly amendment:

“That the motion be amended to read: *That the Board examine its meeting practices and policies with the view to reducing in-camera discussions and increase transparency of decision making.*”

The Amendment was accepted by General Consent.

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the recommendation be amended to read: *That the Board examine its meeting practices and policies with the view to improving Board governance.*”

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Hoffman, Janz, Johner, MacKenzie, and Spencer

The Amendment was DEFEATED.

Trustee Spencer offered the following friendly amendment:

“That the motion be amended to read: *That the Board examine its meeting practices and policies with the view to reducing in-camera discussions, increase transparency of decision making and improving Board governance.*”

The Amendment was accepted by General Consent.

The Board Chair called the question on the following Motion as Amended: *That the Board examine its meeting practices and policies with the view to reducing in-camera discussions, increase transparency of decision making and improving Board governance.*

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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4. Board Authorization of Trustee Absence

MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:

**“That Board authorization for Trustee Shipka to be absent from board meetings from January 25, 2011 to March 8, 2011 inclusive be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Declaration of Surplus Schools

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

- “1. That the declaration of the Idylwyld School building as surplus to district need, be approved.**
- 2. That the declaration of the Prince Rupert School building as surplus to district need, be approved.**
- 3. That the declaration of the Ritchie School building as surplus to district need, be approved.**
- 4. That the declaration of the Wellington School building as surplus to district need, be approved.”**

MOVED BY Trustee MacKenzie:

“That the Board defer making a decision on Motions 2, 3, and 4 until the next board meeting and that, in the interim, community league presidents in which the schools exist as well as the President of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) be sent the Administration’s recommendation and asked to provide a response before the next public board meeting.”

Trustee Colburn offered the following friendly amendment:

“That the word ‘motions’ be changed to ‘recommendations’.”

The Amendment was accepted by General Consent.

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The Board Chair called the question on the Deferral Motion as Amended.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Hoffman, Janz, Johner, MacKenzie and Spencer

OPPOSED: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Ripley and Shipka

The Deferral Motion was CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation #1.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Janz, Johner, MacKenzie, Ripley, Shipka, and Spencer

OPPOSED: Trustee Hoffman

The Motion was CARRIED.

6. Response to Board Request for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

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

7. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports – None.

Trustee Janz left at this point in the meeting for the duration of the meeting.

H. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Shipka requested that information be provided regarding the benefits and drawbacks, including any financial implications, to moving public board meetings from evenings to daytime.

Trustee Hoffman requested that information be provided regarding the raw numbers and the percentages of the district staff – broken down by teacher, custodial, administrative, support staff and exempt staff who leave the District prior to the five year mark as well as the ten year mark. She further requested that information be provided regarding the feasibility and costs associated with various methods that may be conducted for exit interviews as well as an examination of what is happening in other jurisdictions in terms of exit interviews with the intent of determining if there are themes or root causes for early departures.

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I. Notices of Motion

Trustee Ripley served notice of the following motion:

That Edmonton Public Schools continue the practice of relying on Health Canada and the World Health Organization safety standards to guide its decisions on the installation and use of WiFi in all its buildings with the understanding that the Administration will keep the Board informed should there be any changes to the standards.

J. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

K. Adjournment: 8:10 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary