

**MINUTE BOOK**

- **Board Meeting #14** -

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, May 24, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees**

Leslie Cleary  
David Colburn  
Sarah Hoffman

Michael Janz  
Cheryl Johner  
Heather MacKenzie  
(via SKYPE)

Catherine Ripley  
Ken Shipka  
Christopher Spencer

**Officials**

Edgar Schmidt  
David Fraser  
Mark Liguori

Ron MacNeil  
Jamie Pallett  
Tanni Parker

Brian Smith  
Tash Taylor

**Board Chair:** Dave Colburn

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

**Staff Group Representatives**

Edmonton Public Teachers – Ed Butler, President  
CUPE Local 3550 – Trudy Grebenstein, President

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that Trustee MacKenzie was participating via SKYPE. All other all Trustees were present.

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### **C. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair noted that Trustee MacKenzie gave birth to a daughter earlier this month.

The Board Chair advised that, at the May 10, 2011 board meeting, Ms Pannu Bhatia, Director Ellerslie Daycare and Out of School Care, urged the Board to support her submission requesting expansion of her daycare. This matter was referred to the Administration to review and a letter has been sent to Ms Bhatia in response to her request.

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

The Superintendent reported that, on May 16<sup>th</sup>, he signed, on behalf of the Edmonton Public School Board's Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Language Research Centre at the University of Calgary. The Memorandum paves the way for vital exchange of information on effective teacher development for second language instruction, language credentials for second language students, and effective use of technologies to support language learning, among other mutually beneficial research areas. Future collaboration activities are being planned and this important partnership is appreciated.

The Superintendent reported that, also on May 16<sup>th</sup>, he and the Vice Chair attended the first International Spanish Academy conference to be held in Canada. The meeting was held in Calgary and they had an opportunity to meet Spanish officials and hear about innovative and important progress being made in Alberta regarding the Spanish Academies. District principals and leadership staff attended as well.

The Superintendent reported that, on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, he attended a Dialogue on Teaching Quality hosted by the Deputy Minister. Participants included representatives from the College of Alberta School Superintendents, ASBA, ASCA, ATA, universities with teacher education programs. They had an opportunity to examine a draft of the Professional Practice Competencies for Teachers. He was pleased to be able to provide ongoing input on this draft document and more information will follow as the work develops.

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The Superintendent reported that, over the last several months, the Racism Free Edmonton campaign has been wholeheartedly supported across the city. Edmonton Public Schools has been proud to be a part of this initiative and to collaborate with the City of Edmonton and a number of local organizations to build a racism free, inclusive community that respects cultural diversity.

It has been wonderful to see district schools rally around this cause and truly embrace it as well. It meant a lot to him, personally, to make the commitments he made on behalf of the District, along with other leaders in the city at the kick-off event last fall.

He and the Executive Team, along with several staff members and Trustees, participated in the first race and culture workshop a few months ago. It was a challenging experience, one in which everyone learned some very profound things. They will continue to challenge themselves to better understand the mechanisms that create race barriers, and more importantly, what it takes to break those barriers down.

He advised that, looking ahead, it's critical that we do everything we can to support this initiative in the coming months. He strongly encouraged all district schools to participate in this week's 'Count Yourself In' campaign if they have not already done so. He is counting on principals to get students involved in this effort – mind, body and spirit – and to help them feel empowered to fight prejudice.

He noted that we have a deep moral obligation to teach young people to see their classmates as their equals, and to reinforce to them, *and to one another*, that diversity is a gift and a source of strength for all civil societies.

He concluded by saying that he was very proud we are to support this campaign and how much we look forward to working with students, staff, parents and community partners to combat racism and create healthier communities in our city in the months and years to come.

### **E. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #13 – May 10, 2011

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #13 held May 10, 2011 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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### **F. Recognition**

2. Margaret T. Stevenson Talented Young Writer Award Recipient: Rachel Tyzuk

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Margaret T. Stevenson Talented Young Writer Award Recipient: Rachel Tyzuk’ be received for information.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

3. Celebration of Multiculturalism: Evansdale Elementary School

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Johner:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Celebration of Multiculturalism: Evansdale Elementary School’ be received for information.”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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

Ms Trudy Grebenstein, President CUPE Local 3550 (support staff), commented about District’s media conference earlier today and expressed great concern regarding the reduction in staff positions; particularly, support staff positions. She noted that the impact on special needs students will be significant with the reduction in support staff positions. She urged the Board to continue to lobby the Minister of Education and the Premier and their government contacts.

Mr. Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers, urged the Board to support the exclusion of publicly-traded companies providing day care and early education expressing concern for public companies providing early education services. He also urged the Board to develop a comprehensive early education policy.

Mr. Rory Koopmans spoke on behalf of his cousin, her wife and son to commend the Board regarding the approval of the development of a policy on sexual orientation and gender identity and also for the establishment of the Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee.

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**H. Reports**

4. Multicultural Policy and Regulation Implementation Plan: Year One Report

**MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Multicultural Policy and Regulation Implementation Plan: Year One Report’ be received for information.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Report #8 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held May 17, 2011)

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“1. That Report #8 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held May 17, 2011 be received and considered.”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“2. That the following designation for the period September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012 be confirmed:**

**Kevin Stevenson – Director EPS Metro Continuing Education”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“3. That the following designations for the period September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2014 be confirmed:**

**Darwin Martin – Director  
Tanni Parker – Assistant Superintendent  
Bonnie Zack – Director**

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4. That the following designations for the period September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2014 be confirmed:

Sandy Forster – Director  
Heather Raymond – Director  
Corrie Ziegler – Director”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “5. That Trustee Cleary be approved as the Board’s representative for custodial negotiations until Trustee MacKenzie’s return.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

6. Motion re Annual Reports on the Work of the District

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That, in order to monitor outcomes and improve student success, a series of annual reports on the work of the District be delivered by Administration to the Board. The subject matter of these reports will be determined by the Board and reports will be presented at public board.”

MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:

“That the motion be referred back to the mover to refine the language around the definition of *annual reports*.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Board took a short break at this point.

7. Response to Refugee Transportation Loan Sub-committee of Strategic Alliance for the Advancement of Immigrant and Refugee Children and Youth (SAAIRCY) Delegation

MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:

“That a letter in support of the SAAIRCY campaign be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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8. Issues, Budget and Bylaws Bulletin for the 2011 ASBA Spring General Meeting

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

- “1. That Board support for Motion 1B/SGM11: ASBA Budget 2011-2012 be approved.**
- 2. That Board support for Motion 2A/SGM11: Proposed Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 4.5(a) and (b) – Election of the Board of Directors be approved.**
- 3. That Board support for Motion 3A/SGM11: Proposed Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 9.5– Representation and Voting at General Meetings be approved.”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

9. Review of Board Policy JG.BP – Community Use of District Buildings

**MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:**

**“That revised Board Policy JG.BP – Community Use of District Building be considered for the third time and approved.”**

**MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:**

**“That the third last sentence of the policy be amended to read: *The Board expects that those organizations leasing or licensing space will be ethical, responsible and respectful.*”**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Johner, Ripley and Shipka**

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

**The Amendment was DEFEATED.**

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**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That the policy be deferred for a further level of public engagement.”**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Ripley and Shipka**

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

**The Deferral Motion was DEFEATED**

**MOVED BY Trustee Johner:**

**“That the third last sentence of the policy be amended to read: *Those organizations leasing or licensing space must meet recognized, acceptable, social and ethical standards through policies, practices and procedures.*”**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Johner, Ripley, Shipka and Spencer**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Hoffman, Janz and MacKenzie**

**The Amendment was DEFEATED.**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Hoffman, Janz, Johner, MacKenzie and Spencer**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Ripley and Shipka**

**The Motion was CARRIED.**



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10. Student Transportation Fees

**MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:**

**“That the schedule noting bus pass fees for the 2011-2012 school year be approved, effective August 2011.”**

**Moved by Trustee Cleary:**

**“That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

11. Introduction of 2011-2012 Proposed Budget

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Introduction of 2011-2012 Proposed Budget’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

12. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

**MOVED BY Trustee Johner:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Responses to Trustee Requests for Information’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

13. Special Needs Task Force: Interim Information Report

**MOVED BY Trustee Johner:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Special Needs Task Force: Interim Information Report’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports (Continued)

Trustee Ripley, the Board’s Representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, reported that the May 12, 2011 *Ready for Life* breakfast Foundation fundraiser was a great success. Over \$200,000 was raised which means full-day kindergarten at Tipaskan can continue.

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Trustee Colburn, the Board's Representative on the Alberta School Boards Association Board of Directors, advised that he would report on the May Board of Directors meeting at the next board meeting.

Trustee Johner, the Board's representative on ASBA Zone 23, reported that, at the April 29, 2011 ASBA Zone 23 meeting, she and Trustee Colburn brought forward the Directive for Action approved by the Board at the April 13, 2011 board meeting asking the ASBA to develop a policy advisory to assist school boards in supporting the specialized health, safety, and learning needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, and two-spirit (LGBT) students, families and employees in Alberta schools. She advised that, in accordance with a new process that has been developed with respect to all directives for action, this directive will be submitted directly to the ASBA Board of Directors for consideration. This means that the directive does not have to go to the floor of the ASBA Fall General Meeting. As a Directive for Action, the ASBA will develop a policy advisory to assist school boards in supporting the specialized health, safety and learning needs of lesbian, bi-sexual, trans-identified and two-spirit students, families and employees in Alberta schools.

Trustee Cleary, the Board's representative on the Alberta School Boards Association for Languages Education (ASBALE), reported that the next ASBALE meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the ASBA Spring General Meeting in Red Deer. She also reported that Alberta Education has requested an ASBALE representative to sit on the French Immersion Program Advisory Committee (FIPAC) for a three-year appointment ending in June 2013. She advised that, if she has the support of the Board, she would be willing to put her name forward for this committee.

The Board Chair advised that this item would be scheduled for the May 31, 2011 Conference Committee for discussion.

Trustee Cleary also reported that the ASBA Board of Directors, at their meeting in May, approved that the ongoing work of ASBALE would be incorporated into the ongoing work of the ASBA.

Trustee Spencer, the Board's liaison on the Public School Boards' Council, reported that the PSBAA Spring General Assembly will take place June 3 to 5, 2011 in Red Deer.

Trustee Cleary, the Board's alternate representative on the Capital Region Services to Children Linkages Committee, did not have anything further to report at this point.

Trustee Ripley advised that she had attended the Edmonton Public Library *Books2Eat* Gala on May 14, 2011. Trustees Cleary and Janz were also in attendance. It was a wonderful event.

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Trustee Cleary encouraged Trustees to make their commitment to the *I'm Committed to a Racism Free Edmonton* public awareness campaign by the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. She noted that she and the Superintendent attended the Kick-Off for Racism Free Edmonton last November. She is pleased to see the campaign in a lot of district schools. She has made her commitment. We want to be known and be part of an inclusive community that respects cultural diversity. She noted that, further to this, she will be participating in a celebration of the Punjabi language and cultural fair at Meyokumin School on Thursday.

Trustee Hoffman, the Board's Representative on the Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee, thanked the Board for giving its permission at the May 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting for the Advisory Committee to post a web survey with respect to the draft definitions for "violence" and "bullying". As of Friday afternoon, more than five hundred responses had been received. The final meeting of the Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee will take place on Monday, May 30, 2011.

Trustee Hoffman noted how warm the response has been from across the district to supporting the students and families of the Slave Lake region. She noted that local schools have been fundraising or trying to bring in kits to support families and toys for the children who are living in limbo. She noted that, at the Amiskwaciy Academy feast last week, a number of students who attend school in Slave Lake from the Sawridge First Nation attended the feast and are attending classes throughout the district. She thanked all of our staff who are opening their classrooms to support students affected by this tragedy.

Trustee Spencer, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, thanked the staff who contributed to preparing the media event today. This is the type of thing that happens behind the scenes and doesn't usually get recognition but the Board truly does appreciate the hard work that went into that.

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

Trustee Spencer requested that recent research into the sleep deficit problem affecting many junior high and high school students be summarized. He also requested that some options the District could implement to help address this issue be provided and briefly analyzed.

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**J. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Janz served notice of the following motion:

*That a question be added to the District annual staff and student attitude survey to ascertain how many students and staff walk or bike to school during the school year.*

Trustee Hoffman served notice of the following motion:

*That the Edmonton Public School Board withdraw from the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta.*

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

*That a qualified external member or members be added to the Audit Committee. The Administration will bring a recommendation to the Board based on best practices in the province to achieve this end.*

**K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.**

**L. Adjournment: 10:25 p.m.**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary