



# EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Summary of Board Meeting #18 Held Tuesday, June 15, 2010

**A. Roll Call:** All Trustees were present.

**B. Recognition of National Aboriginal Day**

**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

1. The Board Chair advised that an item would be added to the agenda following report 8 regarding attendance boundaries for Florence Hallock School.
2. Trustee Shipka noted that, at the March 23, 2010 board meeting, Ms Andrea Harrison, a teacher at Spruce Avenue School, was announced as the District's nominee for the Alberta School Boards' Association 2010 Edwin Parr Teacher Award which recognizes outstanding first-year teachers. He advised, it was announced at the ASBA Zone 23 Edwin Parr Awards Banquet held on May 28, 2010 that Andrea was selected to be one of the two nominees from Zone 23 as a finalist for the Awards. The winner of the Edwin Parr Teacher Award will be announced at the ASBA Fall General Meeting.

Andrea teaches Grade 7 language arts and Grades 7 to 9 social studies at Spruce Avenue School. By recognizing that students have diverse learning styles, Andrea ensures all her lessons combine visual, auditory and kinesthetic elements. Her practice of having students create cartoons depicting their perspectives of historical events is just one of the many engagement strategies she employs.

Her Grade 7 class consists of a cohort of 55 per cent of students who, in Grade 6, did not achieve the acceptable standard in their provincial achievement test in social studies. This year, the midterm exam that covered half the social studies curriculum revealed over 95 per cent of the students met the acceptable standard. These results are amazing.

In the words of her Principal Chris Morris, "Andrea is an excellent young teacher who has brought so many positive things to our school that it is difficult to give her impact true justice. She has the remarkable ability to connect with some of the most socio-economically disadvantaged students in our District, and to push, pull and drag them to success."

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

The Superintendent reported on the First Nations, Métis, Inuit (FNMI) 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Graduation ceremony that took place at McNally School on June 11, 2010. The event was co-hosted by McNally and Braemar Schools. He added there will be 300 self-identified FNMI students graduating this year.

#### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #17 – May 25, 2010 – Approved as printed.

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

1. Dr. Raquel Feroe noted that she had spoken at the March 23, 2010 board meeting to express concern about the cancellation of the solar project at Riverdale School. She noted that after working with the Administration, the program will go forward.
2. The following individuals spoke urging the Board to reverse the administrative decision to move the Riverdale School kindergarten class to Forrest Heights School:
  - Mr. Bill Moore-Kilgannon
  - Mr. Jason Scott
  - Ms Catherine Kloczkowski
  - Ms Michal Kaye
  - Mr. Wayne Simpson
  - Mr. Kevin Minaker
  - Ms Charity Ambs
  - Kim and Blaise Spence
  - Ms Heather Attia
  - Mr. Gene Chan

The Board Chair noted that the Board met with the Superintendent this afternoon and the Superintendent will bring an information report to the June 22, 2010 Conference Committee meeting with respect to the rationale for the Superintendent's decision and what options, if any, might be available with respect to the kindergarten class.

3. Ms Marya McVicar spoke about Westglen School and the opportunity to use it to set the standard of excellence for small schools.
4. Mr. Paul Wyminga, a parent of students attending Westglen School, advised that Westglen School has been named the winner of a 2010 Emerald Award in the Education - School category by the Alberta Foundation for Environmental Excellence. The school was recognized at the 19th annual Emerald Awards Ceremony on June 10, 2010 in Calgary. M.E. LaZerte School was also named as a finalist in the Education - School category.

## G. Reports

### 8. Delegation re Victoria School Arts Annex

- a) Heard from delegation.
- b) The Board Chair provided the following response based on the actions undertaken by the Board to date:

*This Board, and previous Boards have lobbied the Provincial Government over one full decade to acquire the funding to modernize Victoria School. This included a recognition that Victoria school requires additional spaces, at additional cost, that are not part of a regular school because of the fine and performing arts. The current Annex is not part of that additional space, and has not been funded for modernization from the province for that reason.*

*The Board has placed a request to the Province to determine if there will be any additional funding that could be applied to the Victoria Annex. The request has not been responded to. As all of funding for modernization comes directly from the province, in the absence of any additional funding, the District will have no alternative but to proceed with the demolition. He noted that he and the Superintendent will be meeting with the Minister of Education and other Metro Board Chairs tomorrow and he will raise this issue again.*

*The recommendations from the delegation will continue to be taken under advisement; however, there is no other alternative but to proceed with the demolition.*

- c) Received for information.

### 7. Inclusive Education

- a) Heard from the following speakers:
  - Ms Kim Edwards
  - Ms Wendy McDonald
  - Ms Lori Fankhanel
  - Ms Kathryn Burke

- b) Received for information.

### 2. Report #14 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held May 25 and June 1, 2010)

Approved recommendation.

### 3. Motion re Promotion and Support of Regular Schools

- a) The Board heard from Ms Laurie Simpson who spoke in favour of the motion.
  - b) The following amended recommendation was approved: *That Edmonton Public Schools work to ensure a more equitable level of district promotion and support for schools offering regular programming (also known as local or community schools) compared to schools that offer alternative programs or programs of choice.*
4. Policy Review: Board Policy HGE.BP – Continuing Education and Board Regulation HGE.BR – Continuing Education
- Approved recommendation.
5. Board Policy Review – AA.BP Stakeholder Engagement
- a) The Board heard from Ms Jodine Chase who expressed concern with the administrative decision to move the kindergarten class from Riverdale School and believes this decision undermines community confidence with respect to the sector review process. She asked the Board to respond to the community's request to reverse the Administration's decision with respect to the kindergarten class at Riverdale School.
  - b) Approved recommendation.
  - c) The policy will be brought to the September 14, 2010 board meeting for second consideration.
6. Policy Review – HGDD.BP – Performance and Exhibit Opportunities in the Fine Arts
- a) Approved recommendation.
  - b) The policy will be brought to the September 14, 2010 board meeting for third consideration and final approval.

Response to the Petition re Attendance Boundaries for Florence Hallock School

- a) Notice of the following motion was served by Trustee Esslinger: *That the school catchment area for Florence Hallock junior high be extended to include the Lago Lindo, Klarvatten and Schonsee communities and that notice of motion be waived.*
- b) Waiver of notice was not unanimous; therefore, the Board will consider this matter at its next meeting.

9. Board Review of 2010-2011 Plans and Proposed Budget

- Discussion of 2010-2011 Plans and the 2010-2011 Budget
  - Discussion of and questions arising from school budget reviews
  - Discussion of and questions arising from central services budget reviews

Received for information.

10. Approval of the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget

Approved recommendation.

11. Three-Year Education Plan 2010-2011: Changes in Process and Draft Plan

12. Major Maintenance Plan 2010-2011

13. Leasing Summary for 2009-2010

14. Update on Plan to Promote Healthy Food and Beverage Choices

15. Response to Board Request for Information

Deferred to the September 14, 2010 board meeting.

16. Delegation of Authority – 2010 Summer Recess

Approved recommendation.

17. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

- 1. Trustee Esslinger reported that she attended the graduation ceremony for Computer Literate ELL Parents on June 10, 2010 at Queen Elizabeth School. Queen Elizabeth School in collaboration with the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN) and Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA) started a community computer program. A five-session workshop on computer literacy targeted newcomer parents of students attending the ELL program. The 12 parents who completed the course were recognized and were given computers provided as a generous donation by 'Computers for Schools'.

2. Trustee Esslinger noted that she had decided not to seek re-election in the fall. It has been her privilege to serve as a Trustee for two-terms.
3. Trustee Rice reported that, on June 3, 2010, he addressed the Outreach Program graduating class. There were 42 students who graduated. He noted that the Outreach Program, which was the result of an initiative from Trustee Esslinger, is an excellent example of meeting the needs of students from varying backgrounds in completing their schooling.
4. Trustee Rice reported that, on June 6, 2010, he had the privilege of being the Honourary Inspecting Officer of the Basic Military Qualification Class. The 41 Brigade graduated in the Debney Armoury. The Brigade was also celebrating Edmonton Public Schools which has a co-op program at Centre High. The next Brigade going to Afghanistan of privates, sappers, gunners, troopers and signallers will include 2 students from Eastglen, 4 students from Centre High and one student each from Jasper Place, Strathcona, Victoria and W.P. Wagner schools. These young men and women are superb examples of young Canadians.
5. Trustee Huff reported that, on May 26, 2010, she brought greetings on behalf of the Board at the Ross Sheppard School graduation. The graduating class of just over 700 students, had 50 students with averages of over 90% and 170 with averages between 80-89.5%.
6. Trustee Huff reported that, on June 2, 2010 she and Trustee Gibeault presented the GAUSS Math Awards. District students did exceptionally well this year.
7. Trustee Huff reported that, on June 5, 2010, she along with Trustees Colburn and Shipka and Board Secretary Sherwood attended the retirement banquet for David King, the outgoing Executive Director of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta. It was announced on June 5<sup>th</sup> that Mary Lynne Campbell, Superintendent Parkland Schools, will be the next Executive Director of the PSBAA.
8. Trustee Huff reported that Indigo Book Award recipients this year include Inglewood School which is receiving \$40,000 and Brightview School which is receiving \$70,000 to buy supplies for their schools.

**H. Trustee and Board Requests for Information** – None.

**I. Notices of Motion** – None.

**J. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.**

**K. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 11:25 p.m.**