

MINUTE BOOK

- **Board Meeting #17** -

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 25, 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
Donna Barrett
Bruce Coggles

Jenise Bidulock
Sultan Ibrahim
Ron MacNeil

Tanni Parker
Betty Tams

Board Chair: Don Fleming

Board 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 all Trustees were present.

C. **Multicultural Day Celebration**

A verbal presentation focused on celebrating cultural diversity within schools and the community, as well as how a welcoming environment in schools is a major aspect of celebrating diversity.

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The Board heard from the following speakers:

- Mr. Dawit Isaac, Board member, Africa Centre
- Ms. Mulki Ali, Home Language Speaker for the Early Learning Program at Balwin School
- Miss Aneela Iqbal, a Grade 8 student from Balwin School
- Miss Ateeqa Iqbal, a Grade 7 student from Balwin School

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the verbal presentation regarding the Multicultural Day Celebration be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that five district teachers will receive *2010 Excellence in Teaching Awards*. The recipients will be recognized at a gala hosted by Alberta Education in Calgary on May 29, 2010.

The recipients are:

- Amber Krause, M.E. LaZerte School
- Kerry Faber, Ekota School
- Joe Garreck, M.E. LaZerte School
- Stacey Mabey, W.P. Wagner School
- Lisa Beebe, Queen Elizabeth School, 2010 SMARTer Kids Innovative Use of Technology Award

A total of 23 teachers from across Alberta will receive an *Excellence in Teaching Award*. The recipients were chosen from 338 eligible nominees.

The Board Chair reported on the tri-level meeting that occurred on May 21, 2010 involving the Board, City Councillors and members of the Legislative Assembly with respect to school space. He noted the Mayor, Minister of Education, Minister of Service Alberta and the Minister of Health were also in attendance. He believed the meeting was very productive.

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E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent welcomed Ms Cheryl Oxford, Managing Director Communications, who began her duties today.

The Superintendent advised that, as part of the Bids for Kids event, a teacher at Delton School won the bid for his teaching services. As a result, he will teaching for the day at Delton School on May 31, 2010.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #16 – May 11, 2010

Trustee Huff referred to page 3 of the minutes and noted that the item should read: *Ms Kris Cannon-Reay expressed appreciation for the District's early intervention programs but noted that more students need to be able to access these services. She also expressed appreciation for the middle years program at Westmount School.*

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #16 held May 11, 2010 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Recognition

2. Margaret T. Stevenson Talented Young Writer Award Recipient: Shannon Fitz

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

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

H. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Diana Clifford, Lago Lindo Parent Council, presented a 69-name petition. The petition summary and background states: *We, the parents of children within the Community of Lago Lindo, Klarvatten and Schonsee, petition the Edmonton Public School Board to amend its zoning decision for Florence Hallock School. The boundaries for zoning for Florence Hallock should also include the above mentioned community as it is unreasonable to expect children who live across 167 Ave and east of 97 St to attend another school when Florence Hallock is within walking distance.*

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Children from our community should be allowed the opportunity to choose Florence Hallock Jr. High School. The action petitioned for states: We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our EPSB leaders to act now to rezone the school catchment area for Florence Hallock to include the Community of Lago Lindo, Klarvatten and Schonsee.

Ms Clifford provided a copy of the petition to the Board Secretary.

Mr. Rory Koopmans advised that he is first person in Alberta to obtain 200 high school credits and to be granted two high school diplomas.

I. Reports

3. Report #13 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held May 11 and 18, 2010)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “1. That Report #13 of the Conference Committee from the meetings held May 11 and 18, 2010 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “2. That the designation of the following individuals as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2012, be confirmed:

**Cynthia Drumond
Fred Hines
John Holmes
Chet Gosavi
Tracy Poulin”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Trustee Gibson apologized to Trustee Colburn for his comments at the May 11, 2010 board meeting which were in violation of the Trustee Protocols that: *Public statements will avoid criticism of the intentions or actions of other Board members, current or former.* He also apologized to his colleagues, staff and members of the public who attended that meeting.

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4. Motion re School Size and Student Achievement

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the Administration gather information to respond to questions identified in the Edmonton Public 2007 report entitled ‘School Size and Student Achievement: Key Ideas from Research and Literature’.

These questions are:

- 1) How can the benefits of small schools continue to be experienced as schools become larger through amalgamation because of economic necessity?**
- 2) Is there a perception amongst students and parents that the quality of education received has deteriorated as a result of amalgamation?**
- 3) Have the displaced students marks declined as measured by HLATs and provincial achievement results?**
- 4) Has satisfaction with the District declined because of displacement?”**

Trustee Huff offered the following friendly amendment:

“That question #3 be deleted.”

Trustee Colburn agreed to accept the friendly amendment.

Trustee Colburn offered the following amendment:

- “4) Has public satisfaction with the District declined because of displacement?”**

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The Board Chair called the question on the Recommendation as amended:

“That the Administration gather information to respond to questions identified in the Edmonton Public 2007 report entitled ‘School Size and Student Achievement: Key Ideas from Research and Literature’.

These questions are:

- 1) How can the benefits of small schools continue to be experienced as schools become larger through amalgamation because of economic necessity?**
- 2) Is there a perception amongst students and parents that the quality of education received has deteriorated as a result of amalgamation?**
- 3) Has public satisfaction with the District declined because of displacement?”**

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibson, Huff and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Rice and Shipka

The Motion was DEFEATED.

5. Policy Review – FO.BP - Environment

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That revised and renamed board policy FO.BP - Environment be considered for the third time and approved.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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6. Policy Review: Board Policy HGE.BP - Continuing Education and Board Regulation HGE.BR – Continuing Education

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

- “1. That revised Board Policy HGE.BP - Continuing Education and the rescission of current Board Regulation HGE.BR – Continuing Education be considered for the first time.”**

The Board Chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Huff, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustee Esslinger

The Motion was CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

- “That the policy be referred to the Planning and Policy Committee for rewording prior to being brought back to the next board meeting for second consideration.**

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Huff, Rice and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustee Shipka

The Referral Motion was CARRIED.

7. Locally Developed Courses - Addition

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

- “That the following new locally developed course, acquired from Edmonton Catholic School Division be approved for the school years from 2010-2013: Theory of Knowledge 25-35 (IB)” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The Board took a short break at this point.

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8. Response to Delegation – Alberta Somali Community Centre (ASCC)

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

- “1. That a formal letter of endorsement be provided to the ASCC for their initiative to raise the mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18.

2. That the Board submit a resolution to the Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta in support of extending the mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18.”

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the motion be amended to read:

1. That a formal letter of endorsement be provided to the ASCC for their initiative to raise the mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18 or graduation.

2. That the Board submit a resolution to the Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta in support of extending the mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18 or graduation.”

The Amendment was approved unanimously by General Consent.

The Board Chair called the question on the motion as Amended.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

9. General Banking and Borrowing Resolutions

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault

- “1. That the attached general banking resolution, pertaining to banking services of the Edmonton School District No. 7 with the Bank of Nova Scotia, be approved.

2. That the attached borrowing resolution, with respect to operating funds, be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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10. Framework for Involvement in Site-Based Decision Making

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the report entitled ‘Framework for Involvement in Site-Based Decision Making’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

11. Plan for Special Education 2010-2011

The Board heard from Ms Kathryn Burke and Ms Bev Oscar.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the report entitled ‘Plan for Special Education 2010-2011’ be received for information.”

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Huff, Rice and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustee Shipka

The Motion was CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

12. Introduction of the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the report entitled ‘Introduction of the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

13. Responses to Board Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

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

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14. Bereavement

The Board Vice-Chair reported on the death of Mr. Apolinario (Noli) Baylon, a member of the custodial staff.

MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Ripley:

“That the report be received with regret and the actions of the Administration in this regard be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

15. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Esslinger reported that, on May 20, 2010 she and Trustees Fleming, Huff, Rice and Ripley attended the inaugural Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Fundraising Breakfast *Ready for Life*. At that event, over \$100,000 was received towards early learning and early intervention with many more donations prepared to come. She commended Sandra Woitas, Director Edmonton Public Schools Foundation, for organizing the event.

Trustee Esslinger reported that, today, she participated, as the Board’s ASBA Board of Directors Representative, in an ASBA video conference *Communications Protocol/Guiding Principles For School Boards Operating Schools Within Another Board's Boundaries*. The draft information will be updated and presented at the ASBA Spring General Meeting business session.

Trustee Colburn reported that, on May 19, 2010, he attended the first ever Traditional Aboriginal Games Day hosted by the Rites of Passage Program at Prince Rupert School. The Rites of Passage Program is a transition program for Aboriginal junior high youth who are at risk of not being successful in their education. The day consisted of three games: Traditional Village Lacrosse, Run and Scream and Southwest Kickball Racing. Students from Lauderdale and Beacon Heights schools attended and were linked with Rites of Passage students who explained the games. The students also participated in making the objects they were going to use in the games.

Trustee Ripley reported that, last week, she attended an event at S. Bruce Smith School on behalf of the Board where The Honourable Rona Ambrose announced before a group of Grade 8 students that Parks Canada, Nature Canada and the Historica-Dominion Institute have generously funded a free Parks Pass to national parks in Canada as well as to Museums and other national historic sites for all grade 8 students across Canada. The Strive Team at S. Bruce Smith School greeted Minister Ambrose with courtesy and enthusiasm.

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Trustee Huff reported that, on May 12, 2010, she and a number of Trustees attended the 15-Years of Service Recognition and Reception for District Staff at the Muttart Conservatory. She commended the organizers of the event.

Trustee Huff reported that, on May 20, 2010, she and Assistant Superintendent Donna Barrett attended the memorial ceremony at Winterburn School for the Baxter family. She commended the Principal Dzivinski for organizing the ceremony.

Trustee Huff reported that, on May 20, 2010, she and Trustees Esslinger, Fleming and Gibeault as well as Superintendent Schmidt and Assistant Superintendent Barrett attended the 2010 Junior Achievement Gala. She thanked Mr. Jay Ball for hosting their group and for providing the tickets to attend the event.

Trustee Rice reported that, on May 14, 2010, he and Assistant Superintendent Jenise Bidulock attended the first official formal graduation exercise from Argyll School. Twenty-seven students were present; however over 100 students completed their diploma through the Argyll Centre. It was a very well done ceremony. He noted that some of the students completed their high school diplomas using the Argyll Centre in combination with attending regular school programs, on-line, or were home schooled. He also noted that a number of people who graduated from Argyll Centre do not come from Edmonton but live in other areas of the province.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

That Edmonton Public Schools ensure that schools offering regular programming (also known as local or community schools) receive an equitable level of district promotion and support as schools that offer alternative programs or programs of choice.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: (10:00 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary