



Summary of Board Meeting #9 Tuesday, March 12, 2002

- A. **O Canada** – Britany David, a grade six student from North Edmonton School, sang O Canada.
- B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.) – Trustee Hansen was absent.
- C. **Communications from the Board Chairman**

The following is a text of the chairman's communications:

*Good evening. I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge the **Education Services Settlement Act** legislation introduced by the provincial government.*

I also want to acknowledge the significant effect that this proposed legislation has had, and will have, on our teachers' morale.

It was always our board's preference to reach a negotiated settlement. Binding arbitration is clearly a less than ideal resolution to any labour dispute.

There is still a window of opportunity between now and the start of the arbitration process for our board and the ATA to reach a negotiated settlement. We would welcome the opportunity to work towards this goal.

We appreciate that working conditions are an ongoing concern. Despite the fact that working conditions will not be included in the arbitration process, we recognize that concerns about these issues must continue to be addressed.

For years, the board's priority has been to advocate for public education to government. From meetings with MLAs to participating in joint advocacy initiatives with the other urban boards, my fellow trustees and I have repeatedly communicated to the government that the funding of public education is a serious issue in this province.

We have one of the best education systems in the world and if it is to remain that way, it needs to be funded adequately and appropriately.

We are pleased to know that the provincial government plans to conduct an examination of Alberta's education system. It is our hope that this examination will begin to address the serious and complex challenges that we currently face in public education.

In closing, I believe it is important to acknowledge that all parties – the board, the government and the teachers – all of us – have been motivated by what we believe to be in the best interest of students.

We must ensure that in the days and weeks to come that we continue to keep students and their learning our first priority. Thank you.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #8 – February 26, 2002 - Approved as printed.

F. Focus on Student Achievement

2. North Edmonton School's Instructional Focus on Literacy: Teamwork with Consulting Services and the Community – Received for information.

G. Reports:

3. Report #4 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held March 5, 2002)

Approved recommendations re:

- Purchase of Assumption Academy and Old Administration properties.

4. Student Accommodation Board Policy – Approved recommendation.
5. Extension of Child Study Centre Alternative Program to Grade 6
 - a) Approved recommendation.
 - b) Trustee Woodrow requested information regarding the titles of some of the research projects that have been conducted at the Child Study Centre.
6. Request for Approval of Advanced Placement as an Alternative Program

Approved recommendation.
7. Key Communicators' Program - Received for information.

8. The Kindergarten Study: Report on 2000-2001 Cohort - Received for information.
9. Technology Preparation Program (Tech Prep)
 - a) Received for information.
 - b) Trustee Dean requested that information be provided regarding the number of students graduating from the Tech Prep Program who took 10-20-30 level courses versus those who took 13-23-33 level courses (based on the Red Deer data).
10. Response to Presentations by CUPE Local 3550, CUPE Local 474, Edmonton Public Teachers Local 37 and Exempt Staff
 - a) Received for information.
 - b) Information to be disseminated to schools and central services decision units along with presentations.
11. Changes to the Basis of Allocation for 2002-2003 - Received for information.
12. Trustee Initiatives - Received for information.
13. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information
 - a) Received for information.
 - b) Trustee Woodrow suggested that a presentation on Literacy Map: Meaningful Applied Phonics considered for a future board meeting.

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports – None.

- **Community Relations Activities** – None.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives - None

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Woodrow referred to the March 10, 2002 Edmonton Journal article regarding teaching energy efficiency on the Supernet and the article in the CSBA February 2002 issue regarding funding from Natural Resources Canada for energy retrofit assistance and asked that information be provided as to whether the district is involved in such programs in order to save money on energy costs.

2. Trustee Woodrow referred to the Winter Issue of the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CASE) and noted that Elaine Decker is the vice-president of CASE this year. She congratulated communications staff for their awards in excellence for the program for Fiddler on the Roof and the publication for GETCA Keynote Address: Polishing the Profession.

K. Notices of Motion – None.

L. Next Meeting Date: April 16, 2002 – 6:00 p.m. - Board

M. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.