

MINUTE BOOK

- **Board Meeting #8** -

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, February 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Leslie Cleary
David Colburn
Sarah Hoffman

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner
Heather MacKenzie

Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka (via Skype)
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

Staff Group Representatives

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

A. **O Canada** 

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that Trustee Shipka would be participating in the meeting via electronic means. All other Trustees were present.

MINUTE BOOK

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that Wednesday, March 2, 2011 would be Edmonton Public Schools' 47th Night of Music held at the Jubilee Auditorium. The purpose of this event is to promote the importance of music education and recognize the musical accomplishments of our students. This year's theme is *Music: The Rhythm of Life*.

The Board Chair noted that at the last board meeting he advised that he brought greetings on behalf of the Board at the February 7, 2011 media launch of the Mayor's Community Sustainability Task Force. He noted that Trustee Ripley is the Board's representative on the Mayor's Community Sustainability Task Force.

The Board Chair advised that tomorrow, February 23, 2011 is Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Day. The initiative was started by two high school students in Nova Scotia in 2007 and occurs the third Wednesday in February.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that 56 district teachers including 3 principals have been nominated for Excellence in Teaching Awards. The names of the nominees will be released in the coming days by Alberta Education.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #7 – February 8, 2011

MOVED BY Trustee MacKenzie:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #7 held February 8, 2011 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – None.

MINUTE BOOK

G. Reports

2. Response to Alberta Food Banks

The Board heard from Ms Tina Jardine who was speaking on behalf of Mr. Le Sueur.

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the request from Alberta Food Banks be supported in the following way:

- 1. In the February 25, 2011 Bulletin Board, information about the Alberta Food Bank’s request will be shared with District staff.**
- 2. An email can be sent from the Board Chair to other Board Chairs across Alberta to inform them of the request from the Alberta Food Banks and ask them to consider supporting the request.”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

3. Rescheduling of the April 12, 2011 Board Meeting

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

**“That the April 12, 2011 board meeting be rescheduled to April 13, 2011.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Motion re Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee

The Board heard from Ms Betty Wedman

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“That the Board establish an Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee that will develop a list of recommendations for the Administration to consider implementing in an effort to identify the scope and reduce the extent of bullying in Edmonton Public Schools. The Advisory Committee would consist of one Trustee, a member of Central Administration who specializes in this area, one active staff member of school, one high school student, one elementary school parent and one person from the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities. The Committee would provide recommendations to the Administration by May 31, 2011.”

MINUTE BOOK

Trustee Colburn offered the following friendly amendment:

“That a junior high student be added as a member of the Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee.”

The Amendment was accepted by General Consent.

The Board Chair called the question on the following Recommendation as Amended: *That the Board establish an Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee that will develop a list of recommendations for the Administration to consider implementing in an effort to identify the scope and reduce the extent of bullying in Edmonton Public Schools. The Advisory Committee would consist of one Trustee, a member of Central Administration who specializes in this area, one active staff member of school, one junior high school student, one high school student, one elementary school parent and one person from the Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities. The Committee would provide recommendations to the Administration by May 31, 2011.*

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

OPPOSED: Trustee Ripley

The Motion was CARRIED.

5. Motion re Advocacy Committee

The Board heard from Edmonton Catholic School Board Chair Debbie Engel.

MOVED BY Trustee MacKenzie:

“That the Advocacy Committee consult with the Edmonton Catholic School Board on their latest postcard campaign for adequate, predictable and sustainable provincial funding and, in the context of our broader advocacy efforts, consider making a recommendation to the Board for the development of a comparable EPSB-appropriate document.”

MINUTE BOOK

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“That the last line of the motion be amended to read: ... for the development of a complementary EPSB form of advocacy.”

The Amendment was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Trustee Ripley offered the following friendly amendment:

*“That the motion be amended by adding *and relationships* after *broader advocacy efforts*.”*

The Amendment was accepted by General Consent.

The Board Chair called the question on the following Recommendation as Amended: *That the Advocacy Committee consult with the Edmonton Catholic School Board on their latest postcard campaign for adequate, predictable and sustainable provincial funding and, in the context of our broader advocacy efforts and relationships, consider making a recommendation to the Board for the development of a complementary EPSB form of advocacy.”*

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

6. School Closure Moratorium Committee – Terms of Reference

A report was distributed with revised terms of reference.

MOVED BY Trustee MacKenzie:

“That the Terms of Reference for the Edmonton Public Schools’ School Closure Moratorium Committee be approved.”

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the School Closure Moratorium Committee Terms of Reference be amended by deleting the following statement under Outcomes: *Advocacy Committee will incorporate and maintain a focus on issues related to school closures to increase public awareness of current pressures and realities.*”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Johner, Ripley, Shipka and Spencer

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

The Amendment was DEFEATED.

MINUTE BOOK

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board took a break at this point.

8. Budget Presentation from Staff Group:
- Edmonton Public Teachers

Mr. Ed Butler, president Edmonton Public Teachers, verbally presented the Local's brief.

The Board Chair advised that representatives from CUPE Local 474 (custodial staff), CUPE Local 3550 (support staff), CUPE Local 784 (maintenance staff) will make presentations at the March 8, 2011 board meeting. A representative from the exempt staff will make a presentation at the March 22, 2011 board meeting. A report in response to the employee group presentations will be prepared. A copy of the presentations as well as the report in response to the presentations will be disseminated to school principals and decision unit administrators for consideration in the development of their plans for the 2011-2012 school year.

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the verbal presentation from Edmonton Public Teachers be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Copies of the Edmonton Public Teachers' brief were distributed to Trustees.

7. Tri-Level Meeting Discussion Paper: School Closures and Sustainability: Factors to Consider

MOVED BY Trustee MacKenzie:

“That the report entitled ‘Tri-Level Meeting Discussion Paper: School Closures and Sustainability: Factors to Consider’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MINUTE BOOK

9. Bereavements

The Board Vice-Chair reported on the deaths of Mr. Bob Boruszczak, a member of the District's teaching staff, and Ms Vivian Shyry, a member of the District's support staff.

MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Hoffman:

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

10. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Cleary reported that, on February 18th, she attended the 6th Annual *Second Languages Matters! Best Practices Day*. She recommended to her colleagues that the Board recognize the necessity of global citizenship as an important quality necessary in the ever-changing world. She thanked the Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education and the event sponsor the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium.

Trustee Ripley, the Board's Representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation's Board of Directors, reported that on February 17, 2011, a supper and magic show was held for the Tipaskan full-kindergarten students and their families. The full-day kindergarten at Tipaskan has been made possible by donors to the Foundation. Food for 100 people in attendance was provided free of charge by the Fantasyland Hotel. Door prizes were provided by Dental Choice, the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation, Back to School Solutions, Troika foods, Mac's Stores and Apple Schools. Prior to the event, Tipaskan School was visited by the Bear Radio Station Children's Charity and \$5,000 was donated to the Foundation to purchase a smart board and resources for the Tipaskan full-day kindergarten classroom.

Trustee Johner, Chair of the Special Needs Task Force, reported that the Task Force Advisory Committee had its first meeting today. There are six planned consultations – 2 of which are for parents and community members – 2 for district staff – 1 for consultants and 1 for principals. The consultations will be completed before spring break. The first focus group will be held tomorrow with principals.

Trustee Johner reported that, last Thursday, she and a majority of the Trustees attended the EPS Long Service Awards Ceremony.

Trustee Johner reported that, last Friday evening, she and a number of Trustees attended the performance of the Nanjing University Orchestra in the Eva O. Howard Theatre in celebration of Chinese New Year.

MINUTE BOOK

Trustee Colburn, who also attended the performance, noted that the Nanjing University Traditional Instrument Orchestra also performed at a number of district schools.

H. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Ripley requested information be provided on the status of the 2020 graduates. Describe how the children who entered Kindergarten in 2007 are doing today in terms of their achievement against key performance benchmarks, including literacy. Are all of these students on track to graduate in 2020, and if not, why not? What resources are needed and what interventions can take place to support them?

Trustee Shipka requested information be provided regarding why Division I students have a 20-1 student-teacher ratio as contrasted to the ACOL-recommended 17-1 ratio while other divisions meet the ACOL standards. Further, what can be done within the current budget, and what are the implications to re-allocate resources to achieve the ACOL recommended class sizes for grades K-3?

I. Notices of Motion

Trustee Spencer served notice of the following motion:

That the Policy Review Committee develop a policy that affirms the District's commitment to providing a welcoming environment, free of discrimination and harassment, for all students and employees who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual/transgendered and queer (LGBTQ). The Committee shall look at LGBTQ policies of the Greater Victoria School District and Vancouver School Board as examples, and seek input from students, staff and members of the public.

J. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

K. Adjournment: 8:10 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary