

**MINUTE BOOK**

**- Board Meeting #11 -**

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 24, 2009 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  
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles  
Ron MacNeil  
Tanni Parker

Dean Power  
Betty Tams

**Board Chair:** Bev Esslinger

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

**Staff Group Representatives:**

CUPE Local 3550 – Trudy Grebenstein, President

A. **O Canada** 

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

Mrs. Sherwood reported that all Trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair requested that Section H of the agenda be dealt with prior to Section G.

The Board concurred with the reordering of the agenda.

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The Board Chair advised that, this past Fall, 30 district schools participated in the country wide Student Vote program – a non-partisan parallel federal election program for developing habits of citizenship within young Canadians. Over 3,000 schools and 500,000 students across the county studied the democratic process, local candidates, party platforms and national issues before voting on the official candidates in their schools' ridings. Students themselves took on the roles of returning officers, poll clerks and scrutineers on Student Vote Day at their schools. Letters are being sent with Certificates of Recognition for the 30 district teachers who coordinated the project and submitted Student Vote results from their school.

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

The Superintendent advised that, each year, the Alberta Teachers Association designates one week as Substitute Teachers Appreciation Week. This year, Substitute Teachers Appreciation Week takes place March 9-13. He noted that the District will be recognizing the work and contributions of substitute teachers.

### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #10 – February 10, 2009

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #10 held February 10, 2009 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### **F. Improving Student Achievement:**

2. Improving Student Achievement at J. Percy Page High School

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement at J. Percy Page High School’ be received for information.”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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**H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**

8. Motion re Process for Comments from the Public at Board Meetings

**MOVED BY Trustee Huff:**

**“That the allotted time for people wishing to address the Board be changed from 2 minutes to 3 minutes and that the requirement for speakers to register ahead of time be removed and replaced with a sign-up sheet available at all public board meetings.”**

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

**“That the item be referred to the Planning and Policy Committee for further consideration.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

9. Board Policy Review – GBCD.BP Mandatory Records Checks for Employees

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

**“That revised Board Policy GBCD.BP Mandatory Records Checks for Employees be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

10. Board Policy Review – GCA.BP Qualifications for Employment

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

**“That revised Board Policy GCA.BP Qualifications for Teacher Continuing Contract be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:**

3. Waldorf Alternative Program

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

**“That an elementary Waldorf Alternative Program be re-approved for implementation in September 2009.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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### 4. Ready for the Future: Portfolio and Transition Planner

**MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Ready for the Future: Portfolio and Transition Planner’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### 6. Presentation from Staff Group Representatives re 2009-2010 Budget:

- CUPE Local 3550 (Support Staff)
- Exempt Staff

Ms Trudy Grebenstein, president CUPE Local 3550, verbally presented the Local’s brief.

Ms Miranda Forseth, representative for the District’s Exempt Staff, verbally presented the Exempt Staff’s brief.

The Board Chair advised that CUPE Local 474 (custodial staff) and Edmonton Public Teachers will make their presentations at the March 10, 2009 board meeting. CUPE Local 784 (maintenance staff) has declined to make a presentation this year. A report in response to the employee group presentations will be prepared and the presentations and responses will be disseminated to school principals and decision unit administrators for consideration in the development of their plans for the 2009-2010 school year.

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the verbal presentations from CUPE Local 3550 and the Exempt Staff be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Copies of the briefs were distributed to Trustees.

### 5. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

**MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:**

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

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### 7. Bereavement

The Board Vice-Chair reported on the passing of Mrs. Eileen Spillett, a member of the district's teaching 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)**

#### **I. Other Trustee Reports**

Trustee Fleming noted that Parkallen School Principal Vince Friesen had advised that the Parkallen community had been chosen to be the host community in Edmonton for the *Local Motion Project* which is a demonstration project to encourage eco-friendly modes transportation. The project looks at ways to transform a neighbourhood into a place where a variety of eco-mobility elements are brought together in a functioning system. The project will involve school programs, community challenges, public transit initiatives, community bikes and a bike-loan program, as well as physical changes to the community such as bike lanes. The process will be documented through film and the results will be reported to a World Congress called Local Governments for Sustainability. The Partners for this project are the City of Edmonton, Parkallen Community, Transport Canada, the Global Alliance for Eco-Mobility and Parkallen School.

Trustee Ripley reported that she brought greetings and presented a commemorative plaque on behalf of the Board at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Norwood School on Saturday. She commended the organizing committee for their efforts. The Minister of Education, MLA Peter Goldring, Mayor Mandel, City Councillors Tony Caterina and Ed Gibbons, the Superintendent, and past principals of the school Dr. Heather Raymond and Sandra Woitas were also in attendance.

Trustee Ripley reported that she had attended the ASBA expanded policy committee meeting yesterday. The committee has been working on streamlining and condensing the ASBA Policy Handbook. A section of the Handbook will be introduced at the Zone 23 meeting on Friday.

Trustee Esslinger reported that, on February 11, 2009, she and Trustee Huff participated in the provincial celebration Winter Walk Day 2009 at Westglen School. The Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation Cindy Ady was also in attendance.

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Trustee Esslinger reported that, also on February 11, 2009, she and Trustees Huff and Ripley, had lunch with the Police Chief and many district students as part of the Day with the Edmonton Police Service Chief Michael Boyd.

Trustee Esslinger reported that, on February 11, 2009, she attended the Open House for the New Languages Centre at Woodcroft School.

Trustee Esslinger reported that she had attended a cheque presentation, on behalf of the district, to the Boyle Street Co-op. The proceeds were the results of the *Heart2Art Campaign* (the campaign to raise awareness about homelessness) which many district students participated in. The Co-op was able to purchase a house they called “Valentine” to represent the work done by students throughout the city.

Trustee Fleming, reported that in his capacity as President of the Public School Boards Association of Alberta, he had recently signed a letter to be sent to the Reeve of the Municipal District of Opportunity located in northern Alberta and a copy sent to the Minister of Education, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of Labour and Employment. The letter is the result of a directive that the Reeve has put out to all employees of the Municipal District of Opportunity that they must choose if they wish to either remain an employee of the Municipal District or serve on the Northland School Board.

**J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – None.**

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

**L. Notices of Motion – None.**

**M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.**

**N. Adjournment: (8:35 p.m.)**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary