

**MINUTE BOOK**

**- Board Meeting #9 -**

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, March 8, 2005 at 6:10 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees**

David Colburn  
Bev Esslinger  
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault  
Svend Hansen  
Wendy Keiver

George Nicholson  
Don Williams

**Officials**

Edgar Schmidt  
Bob Holt  
Donna Barrett  
Ron MacNeil  
Corinne McCabe

Ronda Borchert  
Les Duxbury  
Tony Fernhout  
Darren Fox

Heather Raymond  
Lorraine Ringrose  
Diane Rolin  
Lloyd Ungeran

**Chairman:** Svend Hansen

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

**Employee Representatives:**

CUPE Local 3550: Trudy Grebenstein

**A. O Canada** – District Video

**B. Roll Call:** (6:10 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood reported that Trustee Gibson was absent. All other trustees were present.

**C. Communications from the Board Chairman**

The chairman advised that, to honour the four R.C.M.P. officers who died in the line of duty last Thursday, their families and the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who protect our safety on a daily basis, staff and students throughout the district have been asked to pause for one minute of silence on Thursday, March 10, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. This

## MINUTE BOOK

coincides with the service being held at the Butterdome. Schools have also been asked to keep their Canadian flags lowered at half-mast until Monday morning, March 14, 2005.

A moment of silence was observed.

The chairman advised that the district has received a cheque for \$3,000 from Xerox Canada in recognition of the board's being a recipient of the Premier's Award for School Board Innovation and Excellence for the City Centre Education Project.

The chairman advised that a request has been received from CUPE Local 3550 for the Board to officially recognize March 8<sup>th</sup> as International Women's Day at tonight's board meeting. The Local believes such recognition will create a greater awareness of the Board's commitment to promote a safe work environment where both men and women can work together to eliminate discrimination in the workplace.

### **MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:**

**"That district recognition of March 8 as International Women's Day be approved." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

The superintendent advised that Alberta Education has asked that all districts post the Annual Education Results Review report on their websites. This report features information on class sizes. Among the four largest urban boards in Edmonton and Calgary, Edmonton Public Schools has the lowest average class sizes for Kindergarten to Grade 3, grades 4 to 6, and grades 10 to 12. Among the four largest urban boards, only Calgary Catholic Schools has a lower average class size for grades 7 to 9. He acknowledged the efforts of district staff in helping to make this possible. They did an outstanding job of hiring additional teachers and getting them into classrooms very quickly after the government had provided our district with additional funding to reduce class size. Our district will continue to work at reducing class sizes even further in the next few years as additional funding becomes available.

### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #8 – February 22, 2005

### **MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

**"That the minutes of Board Meeting #8 held February 22, 2005 be approved as printed." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK

**F. Focus on Student Achievement:**

2. Jackson Heights – Focus on Reading Comprehension

**MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:**

“That the report entitled ‘Jackson Heights – Focus on Reading Comprehension’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

**G. Recognition:**

3. “An Act to Follow” Staff Recognition Program

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

“That the report entitled ‘An Act to Follow Staff Recognition Program’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The board took a short break at this point.

**H. Reports:**

4. Conduct and Outcomes of Athlone, McArthur and Wellington Schools’ Cluster Study

Trustee Esslinger read comments that Trustee Gibson had provided with respect to the cluster studies.

**MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

“That the report entitled ‘Conduct and Outcomes of Athlone, McArthur and Wellington Schools’ Cluster Study’ be received for information.”

Mr. Kevan Warner, Chair McArthur School Council, and Ms Wendy Brown, President Wellington School Council made a joint presentation urging the board not to close Wellington School.

**The chairman called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

MINUTE BOOK

5. Recommendation Arising from the Athlone, McArthur and Wellington Schools' Cluster Study

**MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:**

- “1. That the administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and board mandated processes to consider the closure of Wellington School.
2. That in conjunction with recommendation one above, the administration bring forward information to the Board of Trustees regarding:
- a. necessary upgrades to Athlone and McArthur Schools;
  - b. upgrades to Dickinsfield, Rosslyn and Queen Elizabeth Schools to accommodate regular and special needs programs or to any other schools that may be considered through the closure process;
  - c. program enhancements for students at receiving schools;
  - d. other matters relating to the implementation of the recommendations.”

Trustee Esslinger urged that, if Wellington School is closed, Athlone and McArthur Schools be “protected” from consideration of closure for perhaps five years to bolster their enrolments.

**The chairman called the question.**

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustees Esslinger, Gibeault, Hansen, Keiver, Nicholson and Williams

**OPPOSED:** Trustees Colburn and Fleming

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

6. Conduct and Outcomes of Balwin, North Edmonton and Princeton Schools' Cluster Study

**MOVED BY Trustee Keiver:**

“That the report entitled ‘Conduct and Outcomes of Balwin, North Edmonton and Princeton Schools' Cluster Study’ be received for information.”

**MINUTE BOOK**

Ms Lisa Chartrand made a presentation urging the board not to close North Edmonton School.

**The chairman called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

7. Recommendation Arising from the Balwin, North Edmonton and Princeton Schools' Cluster Study

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

- “1. That the administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and board mandated processes to consider the closure of North Edmonton School.
2. That in conjunction with recommendation one above, the administration bring forward information to the Board of Trustees regarding:
  - a. emergent capital funding as required to complete a comprehensive modernization of Balwin School as a kindergarten to grade nine school;
  - b. program enhancements at Balwin School;
  - c. any other matters relating to the implementation of the recommendations.”

Trustee Esslinger also urged that, if North Edmonton School is closed, Balwin and Princeton Schools be “protected” from consideration of closure for perhaps five years to bolster their enrolments.

**The chairman called the question.**

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustees Esslinger, Gibeault, Hansen, Keiver, Nicholson and Williams

**OPPOSED:** Trustees Colburn and Fleming

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**MINUTE BOOK**

8. Conduct and Outcomes of Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty, Strathearn and Terrace Heights Schools' Cluster Study

**MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Conduct and Outcomes of Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty, Strathearn and Terrace Heights Schools’ Cluster Study’ be received for information.”**

Mr. Curtis Booth made a presentation urging the board not to close Strathearn and Hardisty Schools.

Ms Deanna Dixon, President Strathearn School Parent Advisory Committee, made a presentation urging the board not to close Strathearn School.

Mrs. Verna Hochachka made a presentation urging the board not to close Hardisty School.

Mr. Jeff Parkinson made a presentation urging the board not to close Hardisty School.

Mr. Bill Burtnik, President Capilano Community League, made a presentation urging the board not to close Hardisty School.

Mrs. Minerva Menzies-Haydon made a presentation urging the board not to close Hardisty School.

**The chairman called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

**“That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

9. Recommendation Arising from the Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty, Strathearn and Terrace Heights Schools’ Cluster Study re Terrace Heights School re Terrace Heights School

**MOVED BY Trustee Keiver:**

**“1. That the administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and board mandated processes to consider the closure of Terrace Heights School.**

MINUTE BOOK

2. That in conjunction with recommendation one, the administration bring forward information to the Board of Trustees regarding:
  - a. the modernization of Forest Heights School;
  - b. upgrades to any schools that may be considered through the closure process to accommodate regular, alternative and special needs programs;
  - c. programming enhancement for students at any schools that may be receiving schools for students through the closure process;
  - d. other matters relating to the implementation of the recommendations.”

Trustee Nicholson suggested that information be provided as part of the consultation process of what possible uses can be made of the building.

The chairman called the question.

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Hansen, Keiver, Nicholson and Williams

**OPPOSED:** Trustee Colburn

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

10. Recommendation Arising from the Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty, Strathearn and Terrace Heights Schools’ Cluster Study re Strathearn School

**MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:**

- “1. That the administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and board mandated processes to consider the closure of Strathearn School.
  
2. That in conjunction with recommendation one, the administration bring forward information to the Board of Trustees regarding:
  - a. upgrades to Kenilworth and Rutherford Schools;
  - b. upgrades to any schools that may be considered through the closure process to accommodate regular, alternative and special needs programs;
  - c. programming enhancement for students at any schools that may be receiving schools for students through the closure process;
  - d. other matters relating to the implementation of the recommendations.”

MINUTE BOOK

**The chairman called the question.**

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustees Esslinger, Gibeault, Hansen, Keiver, Nicholson and Williams

**OPPOSED:** Trustees Colburn and Fleming

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

11. Recommendation Arising from the Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty, Strathearn and Terrace Heights Schools' Cluster Study re Hardisty School

**MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:**

- "1. That the administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and board mandated processes to consider the closure of Hardisty School.**
  
- 2. That in conjunction with recommendation one, the administration bring forward information to the Board of Trustees regarding:**
  - a. upgrades to Ottewell School;**
  - b. upgrades to any schools that may be considered through the closure process to accommodate regular, alternative and special needs programs;**
  - c. programming enhancement for students at any schools that may be receiving schools for students through the closure process;**
  - d. other matters relating to the implementation of the recommendations."**

**The chairman called the question.**

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustee Nicholson

**OPPOSED:** Trustee Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Hansen, Keiver and Williams

**The Motion was DEFEATED.**



**MINUTE BOOK**

12. Revised Timelines for 2005-2006 Planning Process

This report was deferred to the March 22, 2005 board meeting.

13. Orientation to the Plan for Student Program Distribution

This report was deferred to the March 22, 2005 board meeting.

14. Bereavement

The vice-chairman reported on the passing of Adeline (Linda) Arnold, a teacher.

**MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:**

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

- I. Committee and Board Representative Reports – None.**
  - Community Relations Activities – None.
- J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – None.**
- K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.**
- L. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Gibeault served notice of the following motion:

*That the Edmonton Public School Board endorse Bill C261, currently before the House of Commons, which advocates the lowering of the voting age in Federal Elections from 18 to 16 and that a letter regarding this endorsement be sent to the Bill’s sponsor, MP Mark Holland .*

**M. Meeting Dates:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>COMMENCEMENT TIME</b>
Tuesday, March 22, 2005	Public Board	6:00 p.m.

**MINUTE BOOK**

**N. Adjournment: (10:00 p.m.)**

**The chairman adjourned the meeting.**

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**Board Chairman**

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**Secretary**