



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Special Board Meeting Held Thursday, March 22, 2007

A. O Canada:  (6:00 p.m.) – *District O Canada Video*

B. Roll Call: All trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair – None.

D. Communications from the Acting Superintendent – None.

E. Reports:

1. Possible Closure of the Regular Program at Mount Pleasant School

Approved recommendation to close the regular program at Mount Pleasant School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

2. Delegation – Save High Park School Committee

a) Heard presentation by Ms Kim Patten and Mr. Clare Peters of the Save High Park School Committee urging the board to keep High Park School open.

b) Received verbal report for information.

3. Possible Closure of High Park School

a) Heard from the following speakers urging the board to keep High Park School open:

- 1 - Dr. Bruce Miller, MLA Edmonton-Glenora
- 2 - Brandon Stewart, President High Park Community League
- 3 - Kim Kotyk, Parent
- 4 - Kim Patten, Community Member
- 5 - Clare Peters, Parent
- 6 - Jenn Reeve, Community Member
- 7 - Karen Johnson, Parent
- 8 - Naida Woycenko, Parent

b) Received speakers' comments for information.

- c) Approved recommendation to close High Park School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year.
- d) Trustee Esslinger requested that administration prepare a recommendation for the board's consideration that builds on the idea on page 8 of the High Park report that discussions be held with High Park Community league regarding the short and long term use of the school building and site by forming a Community Advisory Group whose make up could include community league members, senior, parent, local police constable, local CRC, and representatives from the Federation of Community Leagues or Area Council. This group could work together to source and/or support leases of the school building that would maintain their community hub. She also suggested that consideration be given to providing no cost use of the building for a 3-6 month period while grants and/or leases are put in place.

4. Possible Closure of Mill Creek School

- a) Heard from the following speakers urging the board to keep Mill Creek School open:
 - 1 - Karen Weis Bridges, President, Ritchie Community League
 - 2 - Kristin Morra, Parent, Mill Creek
 - 3 - Keri Walmsley, President, Ritchie/Mill Creek Parent Council
- b) Received speakers' comments for information.
- c) Approved Recommendation #1 to close the regular elementary program at Mill Creek School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year.
- d) Defeated Recommendation #2 to close Mill Creek School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year.
- e) Recommendation #3: *That a capital request for a full general modernization of the Ritchie School building, including the 1913 building, be included as a district priority in the next Three-Year Capital Plan submission to the province be approved.* was referred to the administration.
- f) Recommendation #4 was not dealt with as it was contingent upon the approval of Recommendation #2.

5. Delegation – Newton Community League

- a) Heard presentation by Ms Gerry Hofs and Mr. Rick Mackay of the Newton Community League urging the board to keep Newton School open.
- b) Received report for information.

6. Possible Closure of Newton School

- a) Heard from the following speakers urging the board to keep Newton School open:
- 1 - Donita Couto, President Parent Council Newton School
 - 2 - Roland Provost, Parent
 - 3 - Brenda Hovan, Community Member
 - 4 - Karren Brown, Individual
 - 5 - Leslie Bryant, Parent and Community League Member
 - 6 - Shamima Khan, Parent
 - 7 - Brian Mason, MLA Edmonton Highlands-Norwood
- b) Received speakers' comments for information.
- c) Approved recommendation to close Newton School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year.
- d) Trustee Hansen served notice of the following motion which will be considered at the April 10, 2007 board meeting:
- That the students currently enrolled in the regular program at (High Park, Newton, Mount Pleasant, Mill Creek schools) be provided with free transportation to the designated receiving school for the duration of their elementary enrolment at that school.*
- e) Trustee Esslinger suggested that similar consideration be given for community input for short and long term use of the building.

F. Committee and Board Representative Reports

• **Community Relations Activities**

1. Trustee Hansen advised that he and Trustee Nicholson had attended the annual ASCD Conference. He noted that the following six principals for the district made an outstanding presentation entitled *Instructional Talk Throughs* at the conference:
- Dean Michailides, Balwin School
 - David Morris, Britannia School
 - Linda Inglis, George H. Luck School
 - Mary Michailides, Glenora School
 - Nancy Petersen, Spruce Avenue School
 - Dorothy Cronk, Velma E. Baker School

He also commended Colin Inglis, Coordinator of CCEP; Nancy Peterson, principal Spruce Avenue and Brad Mamchur, Principal Abbott School for their presentation *All Children are Readers: Reaching the At-Risk Reader*.

2. Trustee Fleming commended Stuart Wachowicz for the work he and the curriculum department have done with respect to providing opportunities for students to explore careers in the hydraulics and fluid power industry. He noted that he had attended a fluid power challenge at Strathcona today sponsored by people in the industry.

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The secretary of Grovenor School Council suggested that parents from High Park School be provided with information regarding the advantages and disadvantages of having Grovenor School as the designated receiving school rather than Mayfield School.

H. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.

I. Notices of Motion – None.

J. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

K. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.