



# EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Summary of Board Meeting #13 Held Tuesday, March 23, 2010

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

B. Roll Call: Trustee Gibson was absent.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair shared information about the new district marketing initiative, **Go Public**.

The **Go Public** initiative builds on the success of last year's **School Is** project, which was designed to remind citizens of the important role that public education plays in our society. This year's **Go Public** initiative will convey the idea that we need to stand up, be heard and celebrate the value of public education. **Go Public** helps to emphasize the ongoing value of public education in our city, which the Board of Trustees has overseen for the past 128 years.

Public education continues to welcome students of all backgrounds and abilities, provides them with an outstanding world-class education, and gives them the opportunity to realize their own bright futures.

**Go Public** was shared with district leaders and other staff last week. Yesterday, the **Go Public** initiative was unveiled publicly, with television and newspaper ads, and a roadside sign in front of the Centre for Education. Online advertising will soon follow.

The Board Chair encouraged members of the public, as well as students, parents, and staff, to visit the [www.school4you.ca](http://www.school4you.ca) website, where people can share what public education means to them. This website is the hub of the **Go Public** initiative and includes a blog, Twitter feed, and video and photo galleries.

The Board is very excited about **Go Public**; as elected officials, it is vital that Trustees understand what the community values most about public education.

By people sharing their interests and perspectives with the Board through **Go Public**, there will be a better understand the community's expectations and priorities for public education, which the Board strives to reflect in its ongoing decisions.

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

The Superintendent advised that, on March 22, 2010, he and a number of administrators attended the Racism Free Edmonton Institutional Leaders Action Planning Summit.

#### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #12 – March 9, 2010

Approved as printed.

#### **F. Recognition:**

2. Edwin Parr Teacher Award

a) Received for information.

b) Ms Andrea Harrison, a first year teacher at Spruce Avenue School, was announced as the District's nominee for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award.

#### **G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

1. Ms Wendy Keiver, Chairperson Eastglen School Council, commented on the response to Tracking Request #277 contained in the Report 9 -- *Responses to Board Requests for Information* regarding the CEU funding formula for high schools. She urged the Board to advocate for a funding formula that serves the needs of high school students

2. Mr. Brian Kopchia spoke against the possible closure of Capilano School and expressed concern regarding student safety going to and from school.

3. Ms Anna Carlson spoke against the possible closure of Capilano School. She also distributed a publication called *dollars & SENSE – The Cost Effectiveness of Small Schools* to Board members.

4. Ms Gwen Berdan expressed concern about obtaining information about the upcoming sector review process.

The Board Chair urged Ms Berdan to provide her concerns to the Administration for follow up.

5. Ms Laurie Simpson spoke as a parent whose children attended Woodcroft School and whose achievement has declined since the Woodcroft School was closed.

6. Dr. Raquel Feroe, a physician and public school supporter, complimented the Board for its environmental policy as well as for its public engagement. She noted that, because of six new schools and the resources required, a proposed solar panel project was cancelled at Riverdale School.

The Board Chair urged Ms Feroe to provide her concerns to the Administration for follow up.

7. Ms Heidi Robinson, parent of students attending Westglen School, urged the Board to support Trustee Huff's motion regarding capacity measures for sector reviews (Report #3).

## **H. Reports**

5. Sakinah Circle Alternative Program

Approved recommendation.

6. Child Study Centre Alternative Program: Addition of Kindergarten

- a) Ms Heather MacKenzie expressed concern about the full implications of implementing a Child Study alternative program kindergarten class to Garneau School; particularly the impact on the University Child Care Centre currently at Garneau School.

- b) Approved recommendation.

8. Delegations re Possible School Closures

- Delegation from Community Response to Urban Disorder (CRUD) re Parkdale School
- Delegation from Multicultural Health Brokers Coop re McCauley School
- Delegation from the Muttart Foundation re McCauley School

- a) MLA Hugh MacDonald requested that Board not close any more schools based on City of Edmonton census data and proposed changes to the utilization rate by the provincial government. He provided a copy of the 2005 municipal census data to Board members.

- b) Heard from the three delegations.

- c) The delegations provided a copy of their briefs to Board members.

- d) The Board Chair advised the delegations that information they provided will be considered by the Board in its decisions regarding possible school closures at the April 13, 2010 board meeting.

3. Motion re Capacity Measures for Sector Reviews

- a) Ms Cassandra Haraba spoke in support of the motion and in particular support for using optimal enrolment limits (OEL) as the capacity measure.
- b) The following amended motion was approved: *Until the new provincial utilization formula is approved, the ACOL, ACU and OEL figures for schools be provided as information during sector reviews.*

7. Financial Reporting Profile

- a) Mrs. Pamela Mollison and Mr. Lenard Mollison expressed concern that schools are being closed when the report indicates that “the District is in good financial health”.

The Board Chair urged the Mollisons to provide their concerns to the Administration for follow up.

- b) Received for information.

4. Motion re Creating a District Health and Wellness Committee

9. Responses to Board Requests for Information

These reports were deferred to the April 27, 2010 Board Meeting

10. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Upcoming Topics of Discussion for April 8-10 PSBC Meeting

This report was referred to the April 6, 2010 Conference Committee meeting due to the time-specific nature of the information.

- a) Trustee Esslinger advised that she and Trustee Colburn serve on the Edmonton Learning City Initiative Committee. Edmonton Public Schools is a founding member on this Committee. The Committee has requested that a letter of support for the Learning Cities Initiative be provided for the City Council meeting on March 24, 2010.

The Board concurred with the Board Chair sending a letter of support to City Council in support of the initiative.

- b) Trustee Huff commended Ms Arlene Lipkewich of Westmount School for receiving the Carol Braun Literacy Award. This national award is presented every two years to one individual who has made a significant impact in the area of Literacy promotion.

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

**J. Notices of Motion – None.**

**K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.**

**L. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 9:50 p.m.**