



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Summary of Board Meeting #16 Held Tuesday, May 11, 2010

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

B. Roll Call: All Trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that, on Wednesday, May 5th, he attended the U School Convocation at the University of Alberta. Students from Norwood, John A. McDougall and Parkdale schools were acknowledged by U of A Chancellor Linda Hughes for completing U School.

The University of Alberta Senate – U School Project Pilot is designed for those elementary students who rarely travel outside their own neighborhoods in the inner city, to have an opportunity to spend a full week exploring the learning and discovery opportunities at the University of Alberta.

The guiding principles of the U School project are to:

- expose children, their families, teachers and communities to future possibilities.
- engage and encourage students' independent and critical thinking skills.
- create a new ambassadorial corps for the U of A, including student participants and their families, teachers, and community members.
- maximize the opportunities for the U of A to learn from student participants.
- adopt an experiential and hands-on approach to learning.
- Engage with classroom teachers.
- Present project activities that tie in directly with the curriculum and school goals.

The benefits for those students participating in the U School are:

- To learn to slow down and see the world with all its nuances
- Gain enhanced literacy and writing skills
- learn in deeper ways in many curriculum areas
- gain increased independence of thought and critical thinking skills
- experience growth in awareness of diversity
- take ownership of the university and forming connections that will last a lifetime

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that yesterday, he, the Board Chair and Dr. Donna Barrett attended a dinner meeting with a delegation of 16 officials from Shandong Province as part of the partnership with the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. He noted that the partnership has offered a number of opportunities to enrich programming.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #15 – April 27, 2010

Approved as printed.

F. Recognition

2. An Act to Follow Staff Recognition Program

Received for information.

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

1. Ms Holly Newman urged the Board to consider its process with respect to the school closures and sector review relative to other important matters should be devoting its time to such as standardized testing in grade 3 and accessibility to alternative programs.
2. Ms Laurie Simpson urged the Board to consider posting verbatim minutes. She also expressed concern about the Board's process for dealing with Trustee requests for information.
3. Mr. Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers, thanked the Administration and Board for addressing the concern he expressed at the last board meeting regarding the District attitude survey. He also thanked the Board for being able to participate with respect to the Excellence in Teaching festivities.
4. Ms Chris Cannon-Ray expressed appreciation for the District's early intervention programs but noted that more students need to be able to access these services. She also expressed appreciation that Westglen School was chosen to pilot the Firm Foundation Program which is a kindergarten-play-based literacy program that leads to early identification of learning disabilities.

H. Reports

3. Report #12 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held April 27 and May 4, 2010)

Approved recommendation.

4. Election of Board Vice-Chair

Trustee Ripley was elected as Board Vice-Chair.

5. Motion re Schedule of Annual Reports

The following amended recommendation was approved: *The scheduling of annual reports on district work will be indicated on the district website.*

9. Delegation – Alberta Somali Community Centre (ASCC)

a) Heard delegation's presentation.

b) Response to the delegation's request to be prepared for the May 25, 2010 Board meeting.

6. Motion re Debate on Motions

Approved recommendation.

7. Motion re Policy for Setting Attendance Areas

Approved recommendation.

8. Motion re Special School Tax Levy

The recommendation was defeated.

10. Policy Review ACB.BP – Multiculturalism and National Identity

11. Policy Review – Board Policy JH.BP Public Gifts

Approved recommendation.

12. Policy Review – FO.BP – Environment

- a) Approved recommendation.
- b) Report to be prepared for May 25, 2010 Board meeting re 3rd consideration and final approval.

13. 2010-2011 Non-Resident Fees

Approved recommendation.

14. District Three-Year Capital Plan 2011-2014

Approved recommendation.

16. Student Transportation Fees

Approved recommendation.

15. Transportation Action Plan

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Gibson requested that the PowerPoint and Administration's comments for the Transportation Action Plan report be provided to Trustees and linked to the Board report on the District website.

17. Responses to Board Requests for Information

This report was deferred to the next board meeting.

18. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports – None.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.

J. Notices of Motion

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

That the Administration gather information to respond to questions identified in the Edmonton Public 2007 report entitled 'School Size and Student Achievement: Key Ideas from Research and Literature'.

These questions are:

- 1) How can the benefits of small schools continue to be experienced as schools become larger through amalgamation because of economic necessity?*
- 2) Is there a perception amongst students and parents that the quality of education received has deteriorated as a result of amalgamation?*
- 3) Have the displaced students marks declined as measured by HLATs and provincial achievement results?*
- 4) Has satisfaction with the District declined because of displacement?*

K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

L. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 10:10 p.m.