

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #15 -

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, April 27, 2010 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
Bruce Coggles

Jenise Bidulock
Sultan Ibrahim
Ron MacNeil

Tanni Parker
Betty Tams

Board Chair: Don Fleming

Board Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Ed Butler, President
CUPE Local 3550 - Carol Chapman, Treasurer

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that, tomorrow is the 26th Anniversary of the National Day of Mourning for Workers Injured or Killed at the Workplace.

In 2008, 1,036 workers died from workplace injury and disease in Canada -- 166 were Alberta workers. It is these types of statistics that prompted the Canadian Labour

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Congress to set aside April 28th each year as a Day of Mourning for victims of workplace accidents and disease.

In recognition of the men and women of our province and of the district who are part of those statistics, the Edmonton Public School Board on April 27, 1998 proclaimed every April 28th as an annual 'Day of Mourning' in recognition of workers killed, injured or disabled on the job.

The Board encourages each and everyone to do their part to ensure that Edmonton Public Schools' work and learning environments are as healthy and safe for staff, students and community as possible throughout the year.

The Board Chair advised that the Board had received a letter of resignation from Trustee Huff from her position as Board Vice-Chair effective immediately. He then read the letter: *I would like to inform you of my decision to resign from the position of Vice-Chair of the Edmonton Public Board of Trustees, effective immediately. I no longer feel I am the best choice for the role. In particular, I am not confident in my ability to speak on behalf of the Board to the media, in the event the Board Chair is unavailable. Therefore, I believe it is in the best interests of the Board for me to step down at this point. I look forward to welcoming the new Vice-Chair and will be happy to provide any support needed to ensure a smooth transition so that the Board may focus, without distraction, on the important work of governance.*

The Board Chair advised that Ernie Wynchuk, a Trustee with St. Albert Protestant Schools, passed away on April 25th. A Memorial service will be held in St. Albert on Thursday, April 29, 2010. A condolence note will be sent to the Board Chair of St. Albert Protestant Schools on behalf of the Board.

The Board Chair noted that Board members will be meeting tomorrow evening with the Board and Superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools. Edmonton Catholic Trustees have asked for an opportunity to speak about transportation routes and purchasing within the context of partnerships and collaboration. Board Chair Debbie Engel will speak to the two items.

The Board Chair provided Trustee Huff an opportunity to speak with respect to her letter of resignation.

Trustee Huff thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Board Vice-Chair.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.

E. Minutes

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1. Board Meeting #14 – April 13, 2010

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #14 held April 13, 2010 be approved as printed.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

F. Improving Student Achievement

2. Improving Student Achievement Through Authentic and Meaningful Opportunities for Writing

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement Through Authentic and Meaningful Opportunities for Writing’ be received for information.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Madeline Rainey asked when the findings and recommendations of the Transportation Service review will be brought to public Board.

The Superintendent advised that the report is scheduled for the May 11, 2010 Board meeting.

Mr. Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers, referred to report #11 *Response to Staff Group Presentations re: 2010-2011 Budget* and noted that the Local’s concern with respect to the District attitude survey and Teacher Code of Conduct was not addressed in the report.

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H. Reports

3. Report #11 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held April 6 and 20, 2010)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “1. That Report #11 of the Conference Committee from the meetings held April 6 and 20, 2010 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “2. That the following principal designations to the District, effective September 1, 2010, be confirmed:

Tanja Caley	Andrew Lummis
Sharon Clark	Jody Lundell
Darlene Eerkes	Cameron Mah
Sanaa El-Hassany	Tanis Marshall
Sandra Erickson	Sandra Mason
Les Hansen	Duncan McColl
David Jackson	Rick Pease
Errol Johnson	Chad Sheppard
Trish Kolotyluk	Carolyn Skinner
Kerry-Anne Kope	Darrell Sushynski”

The principals stood as their names were read.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “3. That the appointment of Sultan Ibrahim to the position of Acting Assistant Superintendent – Treasurer, effective April 26, 2010, be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “4. That, subject to the satisfactory completion of a banking agreement, the appointment of the Bank of Nova Scotia as the principal banker for Edmonton School District No. 7 for the five-year term commencing September 1, 2010 be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “5. That the following items for submission to the ASBA be confirmed:**
- a) Directive for Action: That, in support of the Minister’s strategic priority of *building healthy minds and bodies*, the ASBA create a school health policy, which can be supported by the membership, that speaks to the importance of creating active, healthy students and identify in that policy the principal ingredients of health, namely mental health, nutritional and physical well being.**
 - b) That current policy/directive for action Curriculum Content-Applied Math be rescinded.**
 - c) That current policy/directive for action *School Act* Amendment to Provide for Electronic Board Meeting Attendance be rescinded.”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

- 4. Motion re Creating a District Health and Wellness Committee**

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That a district health and wellness committee be created, consisting of Trustees, administration, and representation from all staff groups and that the mandate of the committee be to oversee and support the health and well being of students and staff. Terms and composition of said committee to be determined by the Board and the administration.”

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Trustee Huff offered the following friendly amendment:

“That a district health and wellness committee be created *of multiple stakeholders* and that the mandate of the committee be to oversee and support the health and well being of students and staff. Terms and composition of said committee to be determined by the Board and the administration.”

Trustee Colburn accepted the friendly amendment.

The Board Chair called the question on the Recommendation as amended.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn and Huff

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

The Motion was DEFEATED.

5. Responses to Board Requests for Information

Ms Cassandra Haraba addressed the Board and asked the following with respect to the response to TT#288: *Given the emphasis on the importance of wraparound services for vulnerable students, and given that the point of the Sector Review consolidations and closures is to fill available space with students, will – and how will – the district maintain and enhance the wraparound services that were in place in each of the CCEP schools before the closure vote?* She provided a written copy of her question to the Board Secretary for followup.

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

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

The Board took a break at this point.

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6. Locally Developed Courses – Additions, Renewals

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “1. That the following locally developed courses, currently in use in the district, be renewed for the school years from 2010-2013:**

Course Name (Year):

World Literature 35
AP Calculus 35 (BC)
Biology 35 (IB)
Statistics 35 (AP)
Chemistry 35 (IB)
Physics 35 (IB)
Theory of Knowledge 35 ^b
Extended Essay 35 (IB) ^a
Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 ^b
TEAM Leadership 15-25-35 ^b
Biology 35 (AP) ^a
Chemistry 35 (AP) ^a
Hebrew Language Arts 15-25-35
Arabic Language Arts 15-25-35
Punjabi Language and Culture 15-25-35 3Y
American Sign Language (LA) 15-25-35

^a Acquired from St. Albert Protestant Schools

^b Acquired from Calgary Board of Education (CBE)

- 2. That the following new locally developed courses, acquired from other school jurisdictions during the previous years, be approved for the school years from 2010-2013:**

Course Name	Acquired from
ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-9	CBE
ESL Introduction to Science 7-9	CBE
Accelerated English ESL Level 3 7-9	CBE
Choir 15-25-35	CBE
ESL English for Academic Success 35	CBE
ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 25-25	CBE
ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15	CBE
ESL Introduction to Science 15	CBE
Reading 25	CBE

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3. That the following new locally developed courses developed during the 2009-2010 school year, be approved for the school years from 2010-2013.

Course Name

Arabic Language & Culture K-12

Film 15-25-35

Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

- “1. That revised and renamed board policy ACB.BP – National Anthem and Flag be considered for the first time.”

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That revised and renamed board policy ACB.BP – National Anthem and Flag be amended to read: *Given that Canada is a multicultural and democratic nation identified by its national anthem and flag, the Board believes that patriotic exercises and the cultivation of patriotic sentiment contributes to a climate of mutual respect and trust conducive to student learning, personal development, social living and citizenship within a Canadian context. All Edmonton Public Schools shall display the Canadian flag and are **expected** to play or conduct regular singing of the national anthem.”*

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Huff, Rice and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault and Shipka

The Amendment was CARRIED.

The Motion as Amended was approved by General Consent.

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MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“2. That revised and renamed board policy ACB.BP – National Anthem and Flag as amended be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“1. That revised Board Policy JH.BP – Public Gifts be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“2. That revised Board Policy JH.BP – Public Gifts be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

9. 2010-2011 Proposed Planning Base

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the framework of the planning base be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

10. Process and Timeline for 2010-2011 Planning

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the process and timeline for review of 2010-2011 plans and review of the 2010-2011 operating budget be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

11. Response to Staff Group Presentations re: 2010-2011 Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the report entitled ‘Response to Staff Group Presentations re: 2010-2011 Budget’ be received for information.”

Trustee Huff referred to Mr. Butler’s earlier comments regarding the Local’s concern with respect the District attitude survey and Teacher Code of Conduct which was not addressed in the report. She asked whether the written response could be amended to address those concerns.

The Superintendent undertook to examine the appropriate wording and response with respect to this.

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The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

12. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Huff read the following statement: *I have a public statement to make. An apology. At the last public board meeting on April 13th, I referenced our Trustee protocol regarding Trustees engaging fully in debate. I understand that Trustee Shipka felt personally attacked and embarrassed by my remarks. It was never my intent to cause Trustee Shipka any embarrassment or to single him out personally. I am sorry he was distressed by my comments.*

Trustee Huff reported that, on April 17, 2010, she and Trustee Shipka attended the 8th Annual Literacy Learning Day at NAIT. 800 parents registered for this free day-long event. She commended the District's consultants who supported the event by presenting and District staff who manned the information tables. She also commended the event organizers -- Wendy Keiver, President and Luc Bouchard, Vice-President Literacy and Learning Day Society of Edmonton.

Trustee Huff reported that, on April 21, 2010, she brought greetings at the Healthy Eating, Active Living Parents as Partners Session. She noted that Carrie Harfield of Alberta Health Services, Patti McLeish and Don Zabloski spoke at the event. Staff from Ottewell and Beacon Heights Schools spoke about their efforts to become healthy schools. She congratulated the organizers of the event.

Trustee Huff reported that, on April 22, 2010, she represented the District at the Emerald Awards in Calgary honouring finalists for the awards. Westglen and M.E. LaZerte Schools were announced as finalists.

Trustee Huff reported that, today, she attended a Ryan's Well Foundation event at Westglen School. The Foundation's founder, Ryan Hreljac, started raising money when he was in Grade 1 to build wells in Uganda and has since raised over \$5 million which has helped to build over 500 wells. He inspired Garneau School student, Finn Case, to do the same and he has raised over \$29,000 which has helped to build 2 wells.

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Trustee Ripley reported on the following from the April 23, 2010 ASBA Zone 23 meeting:

- advocacy video clips will be sent to Edmonton MLAs this week
- Trustee Bev Esslinger and Trustee Lynda Akers (members of the ASBA Board of Directors) made a presentation about the 2010-2011 ASBA budget. The budget will be 2% higher than last year but membership fees will not be increased.
- There was a presentation by the ASBA Drug Awareness Committee. The Committee is looking for best practices with respect to drug awareness from around the province. There will be a round-table discussion on this issue in June.
- ASBA President Heather Welwood encouraged all Trustees to meet with MLAs regarding school board budget realities.

Trustee Esslinger reported, that on April 15th, she attended the Multicultural Day Celebration at Evansdale. It was an excellent celebration of food and costume. There were many nations represented. Mayor Mandel was also present for this event. She commended the organizers of the event.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Huff requested that the information that was recently TM'd regarding CCEP high school completion be brought to public Board.

A majority of Trustees concurred with the request going forward.

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided on the approximate cost and benefit of providing free transportation to children in care who are challenged with multiple moves in order to preserve the supportive relationships with teachers and school communities.

A majority of Trustees concurred with the request going forward.

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Huff, Rice and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustees Gibeault and Shipka

The Motion was CARRIED.

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Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided regarding an update on the transition plans for students and staff affected by school closures.

A majority of Trustees concurred with the request going forward.

Trustee Gibson requested that information be provided on how widespread the practice is of non-payment for student lunch supervision fees relative to the principal-assessed inability to pay or other factors.

A majority of Trustees concurred with the request going forward.

J. Notices of Motion

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

That the Administration prepare a series of annual reports on important work in the district, the subject matter of these reports will be determined by the Board, and the scheduling of these reports will be indicated on the district website no later than the end of September.

Trustee Shipka served notice of the following motion:

That the second bullet for the current policy on debate on motions be amended to read as follows: The mover of a motion may speak first to that motion. Thereafter, each Trustee will have an opportunity to ask questions for clarification. When the Chair calls for formal debate, Trustees will have 2 opportunities to speak, for a maximum of 3 minutes each time. Permission to extend the limits of debate may be granted by the Chair if the majority of Trustees concur. The mover of the motion will be given an opportunity to close debate.

Trustee Esslinger served notice of the following motion:

That the Board develop a policy articulating the values and principles for setting attendance areas including to be closest to where students live.

Trustee Ripley served notice of the following motion:

That the Board exercise its right to ask public school electors for a special tax levy on the October 2010 municipal ballot. Further, that the Board request \$20 million per year for the next three years for the purpose of supporting the renewal and upgrading of school buildings.

K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

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L. Adjournment: (9:05 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary