

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 28, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Sue Huff

Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles
Ron MacNeil
Tanni Parker

Dean Power
Betty Tams

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Staff Group Representatives:

CUPE Local 3550 – Rosemary Kostiuk, Vice-President
CUPE Local 474 – Sonny Kalynchuk, Vice-President

A. **O Canada** 

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

Mrs. Sherwood reported that Trustees Fleming, Huff and Rice were absent. All other Trustees were present.

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C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that, today, was the 25th Anniversary of the National Day of Mourning for Workers Injured or Killed at the Workplace. In 2007, over 800 workers died from workplace injury and disease in Canada -- 154 were Alberta workers. It is these types of statistics that prompted the Canadian Labour 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 the 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 this week was Education Week and this year's theme is *Learning Connections: Celebrating Student Engagement*. Education Week was established more than 75 years ago to call attention to the importance of education and to show the public some of the good things happening in Alberta schools.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent provided an update regarding the Swine Influenza outbreak and the suspension of all travel outside of Canada and all air travel within Canada instituted yesterday. The decisions that have been made are based on the District's ongoing communications with federal and provincial health authorities and the District's Emergency Plan with respect to pandemic planning.

The Superintendent noted that, one of his key responsibilities as Superintendent, is to ensure that the Board's values and commitments to staff and students are upheld. Board policy HICA.BP – Field Trips <http://www.epsb.ca/policy/hica.bp.shtml> states the Board's commitment to providing a safe learning environment for students extends to include school activities which occur outside the boundaries of the students' schools. The information regarding the actions taken by the District has been shared with Edmonton Catholic Schools and with other school jurisdictions in the province. Information has been provided to principals to share with parents and students. Information is also available on the District's website www.epsb.ca.

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Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. André Corriveau, announced the province's first two confirmed cases of Swine Influenza. The Alberta cases bring the Canadian total to thirteen. Canada's Chief Public Health Officer David Butler Jones has warned that Canada will likely see more cases and even deaths. The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that the global influenza program is now at Phase 4. This is the first time that WHO has declared a Phase 4 outbreak.

Trustee Huff arrived at this point in the meeting.

The Superintendent advised that Edmonton Public Schools' travel restrictions will remain in place for the foreseeable future but might be tightened even further should circumstances warrant. One of the concerns is that staff or students might be stranded in a foreign country should any bans on travel be instituted. It is recognized that there are cost implications to trip cancellations, but the District is committed to exercising due diligence in doing all it can to protect the safety of students and staff. District staff members continue to be in ongoing contact with provincial health officials and are preparing additional communications materials as information is received.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #14 – April 14, 2009

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #14 held April 14, 2009 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement

2. Improving Student Achievement Through Programs: Student, Staff, School and Community Foci

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement Through Programs: Student, Staff, School and Community Foci’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools

4. 2009-2010 Proposed Planning Base

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

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

The Board took a short break at this point.

4. District Three-Year Capital Plan 2010-2013

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the District Three-Year Capital Plan 2010-2013 be approved for submission to Alberta Education.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. District Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2009-2018

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the report entitled ‘District Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2009-2018’ be received for information.”

Trustee Huff requested that the letter to Alberta Education being sent with the District Ten-Year Facilities Plan reference the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Sustainability and School Closure Processes as well as information on the District’s sector review work.

The Board concurred with the request.

The Administration undertook to examine the feasibility of Trustee Huff’s request to post the research from Cambridge Strategies Inc and Johnston Research, the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review Sustainability and School Closure Processes as well as District’s sector review work on the main page of the District’s website so that the information is all in one place.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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6. 2009-2010 Major Maintenance Plan

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the report entitled ‘2009-2010 Major Maintenance Plan’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Responses to Board Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

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

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

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

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

8. Bereavement

The Board Vice-Chair reported on the passing of Mr. Andras Aschenbrenner a member of the District’s maintenance staff.

MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Ripley:

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

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

9. Report #11 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held April 21, 2009)

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“1. That Report #11 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held April 21, 2009 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

- “2. That the designation of the following individuals as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2011, be confirmed:**

**Rob McPhee
Bruce Miller
Brenda Giourmetakis
Elizabeth Shen”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

- “3. That the goal, outcome, principles, key messages and target audiences of the “Proud to be Your Public School Trustee” Communication Plan be approved to direct Board communications.”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

I. Other Trustee Reports

Trustee Huff reported that she had attended the annual Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education (CAPSLE) Conference held in Toronto April 26 to 28, 2009. She attended a number of sessions on such topics as student rights, freedom of expression, rights for special needs students, methods of discipline for special needs students and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. She indicated that she will be sharing information from the conference with Trustees. She noted that she has also posted this information for those who are interested on her blog.

Trustee Ripley reported that, on April 23, 2009, she had attended the Gala Français on behalf of the Board at Ross Sheppard School. She commended Heather Huculak, the coordinator of the event.

Trustee Colburn reported that, several weeks ago, he and Trustee Huff had attended the first Aboriginal feast that Eastglen School hosted.

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Trustee Esslinger reported that she had attended the following events representing the District:

- April 15, 2009 – Opening of Centre for Global Education at Queen Elizabeth School. The virtual classroom and four-nations classroom were demonstrated. This was made possible through partnerships with some external groups and Alberta Education.
- April 20, 2009 – Meeting with a delegation from Norway visiting the District to see how we handle Math and numeracy.
- April 20, 2009 – Community collaborations regarding AISI projects. Trustee Rice also attended. Representatives from schools and community members attended to talk about their joint work and how they were supporting students throughout the District.
- April 23, 2009 – Junior Achievement board meeting where she talked about the District and the value of Junior Achievement.
- April 23, 2009 – Kensington 50th Anniversary Celebration. MLAs and City Councillors were also in attendance.
- April 27, 2009 – Launch of the Vision Education website at Newton School. The Minister of Education and Trustee Colburn was also in attendance.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mr. Kevin Martin, a member CUPE Local 784, asked whether or not the Board will honour its collective agreements with all of its staff groups regarding the 5.9% wage increases.

The Superintendent advised that he will be meeting with staff group presidents tomorrow to discuss this.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided from General Counsel on whether the *School Act* restricts non-transportation dollars from funding the District's transportation budget.

The Board concurred with this request.

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L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Gibeault served notice of the following motion:

That the travel restrictions announced by the Administration, in response to international developments regarding the H1N1 flu virus be amended to apply only to Mexico, pursuant to the advisory issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada, and that any further travel restrictions, for health reasons, be implemented on the advice of the Public Health Agency of Canada or other recognized health authority.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That waiver of notice be approved.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault and Huff

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Gibson, Ripley and Shipka

The Motion was DEFEATED.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: (9:25 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary