

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #12 -

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 29, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson

George Rice
Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles
Ron MacNeil
Tanni Parker
Betty Tams

Phillip Grehan
Elizabeth Norris-Kartz
Lori Price-Wagner
Judy Toews

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Employee Representatives:

CUPE Local 3550: Trudy Grebenstein, President

A. O Canada –  *District DVD*

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

Mrs. Sherwood reported that Trustee Huff was absent. All other trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The board chair noted that April 28th was 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.

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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 the community as possible throughout the year.

The board chair noted that April 27 to May 3rd is National Volunteer Week and expressed appreciation, on behalf of the board, for the district's many volunteers.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent advised that the district will be hosting the opening of the Confucius Institute this weekend. The events will be attended by Dr. Xu Jia Lu, Vice Chair of the Tenth National People's Congress, and by Madam Xu Lin, Director General of Hanban. They will also be attended by the Lieutenant Governor and the Minister of Education.

The opening ceremonies will commence at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, 2008 at the Alberta School for the Deaf. A celebratory gala concert will take place at the Eva O. Howard Theatre later that evening. A special banquet will be held on Monday, May 5th which will feature a banquet by Dr. Xu Jia Lu. Tickets are available from Metro Continuing Education.

The superintendent advised that he had attended the official opening of the Alberta Project Promoting Healthy Living and Healthy Eating (Apple). Edmonton Public Schools is one of five school districts that are part of a pilot-project supported and funded through the Public Health Faculty of the University of Alberta. Of the ten participating schools, four are district schools. Each school receives a full-time staff member who works with students, staff and parents to encourage healthy life styles through activity and fitness and quality nutrition. The program officially began in January and will continue for two and a half years. Research will be done to determine the best practices for enhancing student health that emerge from this project.

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E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #11 – April 15, 2008

Trustee Gibson noted that the April 15, 2008 board meeting was held at Jasper Place School as part of the board's commitment to transparency in the work it does. He noted that the board chair had asked at the beginning of the meeting for those in the audience to indicate if they were attending the board meeting as a result of having the meeting at a district school and he asked that this be indicated in the minutes.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #11 held April 15, 2008 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Update on the AISI Community Collaboration Project

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the report entitled ‘Update on the AISI Community Collaboration Project’ be received for information.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. American Sign Language and Deaf Culture: Locally Developed Nine-Year Course

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the locally developed course American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf Culture Nine-Year Program (grades 4 to 12) Program of Studies for use in Edmonton Public Schools be approved.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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4. Curriculum Additions and Deletions, Locally Developed Courses

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “1. That the following locally developed courses, currently in use in the district, be renewed for a three year term:**

Course Name	Course Code
Punjabi Language and Culture K-3	KGN 0099 ELM0199 ELM0299 ELM0399 ELM0499 ELM0599 ELM0699
Explorations in Film 9	JHS9055
Learning to Lead 9	JHS9058
American Sign Language and Deaf Culture 15-3Y American Sign Language and Deaf Culture 25-3Y American Sign Language and Deaf Culture 35-3Y	LCD1289 LDC2289 LDC3289
American Sign Language Arts 15 American Sign Language Arts 25 American Sign Language Arts 35	LDC1378 LDC2378 LDC3378
Arabic Language and Culture 15-3Y Arabic Language and Culture 25-3Y Arabic Language and Culture 35-3Y	LDC1330 LDC2330 LDC3330
Aviation 25 Aviation 35	LDC2007 LDC3007
Beginner Music – Choral 15	LDC1206
Beginner Music – Instrumental 15	LDC1207
Coaching 25, Competition Introduction	LDC2392
Drawing (Advanced Techniques) 15 Drawing (Advanced Techniques) 25 Drawing (Advanced Techniques) 35	LDC1057 LDC2057 LDC3057
Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15 Painting (Advanced Techniques) 25 Painting (Advanced Techniques) 35	LDC1050 LDC2050 LDC3050

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Forensic Science 25		LDC2754
Forensic Science 35		LDC3754
Reading 15		LDC1148
Speech and Debate 15		LDC1209
Sports Performance 15		LDC1446
Sports Performance 25		LDC2446
Sports Performance 35		LDC3446
World Literature 35		LDC0039
Theory of Knowledge 35 (IB)	acquired from St. Albert Protestant School District	LDC3152
Advanced Acting 15	acquired from Calgary Catholic School District	LDC1959
Advanced Acting 35		LDC2959
Advanced Acting 25		LDC3959
Music 15	acquired from Lethbridge School District	LDC1427
Music 25		LDC2427
Music 35		LDC3427
Learning Strategies 15	acquired from Calgary Catholic School District	LDC1146
Learning Strategies 25		LDC2146
Learning Strategies 35		LDC3146
Technical Math and Science 35	Acquired from Calgary Board of Education	LDC3210

2. That the following locally developed courses, currently in use in the district, be renewed for a one year term:

Course Name	Course Code
Fluid Power 25	LDC2073
Fluid Power 35	LDC3073
Marine Biology 25	LDC2753
Military History 25	LDC1167
Military History 35	LDC2167
Ceramics (Advanced Techniques) 15	LDC1059
Ceramics (Advanced Techniques) 25	LDC2059
Ceramics (Advanced Techniques) 35	LDC3059
Religious Studies 15	LDC1460
Religious Studies 25	LDC2460
Religious Studies 35	LDC3460
Sports Medicine 2005	LDC2813

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3. That the following locally developed courses, currently in use in the district, be renewed for a two year term:

Course Name	Course Code
Sports Medicine 2005	LDC3813

4. That the following new locally developed courses, acquired from other school jurisdictions during the 2007-2008 school year, be approved for a three year term.

Course Name	Acquired from
Creative Writing	Calgary Board of Education
AP Biology 35	St. Albert Protestant
AP Chemistry 35	St. Albert Protestant
AP Math 35	St. Albert Protestant or Red Deer Catholic

5. That the following new locally developed courses developed during the 2007-2008 school year, be approved for a three year term:

Course Name
Learning to Lead 8
Practical Arts 7, 8, 9
Oceanography 25, 35
Globalization – Four Nations 25
Punjabi 15-3Y, 25-3Y, 35-3Y

6. That the following locally developed courses, currently in use in the district, be deleted:

Course Name (Year):	Course Code
Sculpture (Advanced Techniques) 15	LDC1067
Sculpture (Advanced Techniques) 25	LDC2067
Sculpture (Advanced Techniques) 35	LDC3067
Introduction to Engineering 25	LDC2234
Sports Medicine 15	LDC1813”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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5. Continuing Care Facility at North Edmonton School

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

- “1. That the terms of a lease-to-purchase North Edmonton School by Excel Society, as represented in a Memorandum and Term Sheet, be approved.**
- 2. That the declaration of the playing fields portion of the site as surplus to district need, be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The board took a short break at this point.

6. Revised 2008-2009 Planning Base

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the report entitled ‘Revised 2008-2009 Planning Base’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Introduction of the 2008-2009 Proposed Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘Introduction of the 2008-2009 Proposed Budget’ be received for information.”

Trustee Gibson requested that trustees be provided with suggested questions that can be posed at the school budget reviews regarding how schools are addressing the board and Minister’s priorities.

Trustee Esslinger suggested that the questions should be similar to those that the superintendent will be asking in his budget reviews so that we are collecting district-wide data.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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8. Mid-Term Report: September 1, 2007 to February 29, 2008

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“That the report entitled ‘Mid-Term Report: September 1, 2007 to February 29, 2008’ be received for information.”

Trustee Fleming asked for clarification of the note on page 5 of the Mid-Term Report **The 5 staff who were seconded to Edmonton Public Schools in February 2007 were exempt therapists. They are not here in 2008.* He asked if the loss of these therapists impacted the district given the district’s shortage of therapists.

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding a comparison of the district’s student enrolment over time versus that of Edmonton Catholic Schools

Trustee Gibson suggested that the information be broken out by student age and include information that may have impacted enrolment such as the opening of a new school.

Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided regarding the number of expelled students who actually attend the school they have been directed to.

Trustee Esslinger requested information as to where the costs of two recent fires are reported if they are not included under vandalism costs.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

9. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

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

The responses to Trustee Huff’s requests for information were deferred to the May 13, 2008 board meeting.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

10. Bereavement

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The board vice-chair reported on the death of Mrs. Susan Marks-McPhee, a member of the district's teaching staff.

MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Gibeault:

“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

11. Report #9 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held April 15, 2008)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“1. That Report #9 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held April 15, 2008 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“2. That the designation of Gordon King as principal to the District effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.

3. That the designation of Kerry-Ann Kope as principal to the District effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

12. Motion re Comprehensive School Health Symposium

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“That Edmonton Public Schools develop a plan for a one-day comprehensive school health symposium and implementation timeline that would include staff and administration representatives from all district schools.”

Trustee Fleming suggested adding the word “administration” following Edmonton Public Schools to the motion.

The amendment was accepted as friendly by general consent.

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MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

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

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Gibson, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Fleming and Gibeault

The Motion was CARRIED.

Trustee Ripley suggested that the motion be amended so that the administration can develop a plan in context with the district’s overall health initiative.

The amendment was accepted as friendly by general consent.

The board chair called the question on the recommendation: *That Edmonton Public Schools’ administration develop a plan for a one-day comprehensive school health symposium, in the context of the district’s overall health initiative, and implementation timeline that would include staff and administration representatives from all district schools.*

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Gibson and Gibeault

The Motion was CARRIED.

13. Motion re Uncommitted Operating Surplus or Capital Reserves

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

**“That the motion be deferred to the June 10, 2008 board meeting.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

14. ASBA Issues, Budget and Bylaws Bulletin – Spring 2008

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“1. That board support for the proposed ASBA Budget 2008-2009 as outlined in Motion 1B/SGM08 be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “2. That board support for the proposed amendment to Bylaw 9 – Representation and Voting at General Meetings as outlined in Motion 2A/SGM08 be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

15. Proposed Issues for the 2008 ASBA Fall General Meeting

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the following items for submission to ASBA Zone 23 for policy development and consideration at the 2008 Fall General Meeting, be approved:

- 1. Policy Deletion: That policy 4.P.02 Alberta SuperNet (Funding) be deleted.**
- 2. Directive for Action: That the Alberta School Boards Association urge the Minister of Education to initiate a joint project with those Ministries linked under the Alberta Children and Youth Initiative to fund the use of the Early Development Instrument and of community mapping province-wide for the effective and efficient collection of information that will enable timely and equitable decisions to improve early childhood outcomes and student success in school.”**

Trustee Ripley suggested that we include in the background information that this initiative is in keeping with the Minister’s priorities and Zone 23’s advocacy for early intervention.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

I. Other Trustee Reports

Trustee Shipka noted that he had visited five schools in his ward in the last two days. A comment that he heard from three or four of the principals was the great success of the Reading Recovery Program and the gratitude they had for the administration and superintendent for establishing the program.

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Trustee Gibson thanked Roland Labbe and Jyde Heaven from the Planning Department for accompanying him to a public meeting with the Grange area parents April 24, 2008. The three concerns of the parents were the potential difficulty for communities to partner with P3 schools particularly in their neighbourhood. They were able to convey the board's position and the March 25th communication to Minister Hancock. The second concern was the location of the school. Mr. Labbe and Mr. Heaven did an excellent job explaining the rationale for the location which he believed help address some of the concerns of the community. The third concern was the working title of the school and they were able to advise that this is the community name and that the school name has not yet been approved by the board.

Trustee Esslinger noted that she accompanied the superintendent on April 28th to the Apple School kick-off. She noted that it was a well done event and there was great media coverage about the positive things happening in schools.

Trustee Esslinger noted that, last Friday, she attended the Learning Communities Strategies meeting which was a gathering of community leaders. She and the superintendent attended the meeting which was hosted by Councillor Don Iveson. They are looking at Edmonton becoming a learning city. The Minister of Education, Mayor and a number of other significant community members were also in attendance.

Trustee Esslinger advised that she and Trustee Ripley attended the Gala Français on April 24, 2008 at Ross Sheppard School. It was a wonderful event and a celebration of the second language work being done in the district.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mr. Dale Hudjick suggested that a more in-depth analysis of the reasons for student absences was required since absences impact student retention and achievement.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson requested that information be provided regarding the recent press release from the province regarding CTS funding and how this funding will be used in the district.

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L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Esslinger served notice of the following motion:

That the board establish a multi-cultural task force to examine and make recommendations on how to enhance the education of the growing segment of our growing student population from other cultures. The terms of reference would be developed by the task force and approved by the board.

Trustee Esslinger requested that the administration provide information on the potential costs and budget ramifications of a multi-cultural task force.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.
McCauley Chambers, Centre for Education

N. Adjournment: (9:20 p.m.)

The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary