



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Summary of Board Meeting #17 Held Tuesday, May 25, 2010

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

B. Roll Call: All Trustees were present.

C. Multicultural Day Celebration

A verbal presentation focused on celebrating cultural diversity within schools and the community, as well as how a welcoming environment in schools is a major aspect of celebrating diversity.

The Board heard from the following speakers:

- Mr. Dawit Isaac, Board member, Africa Centre
- Ms. Mulki Ali, Home Language Speaker for the Early Learning Program at Balwin School
- Aneela Iqbal, a Grade 8 student from Balwin School
- Ateeqa Iqbal, a Grade 7 student from Balwin School

D. Communications from the Board Chair

1. The Board Chair advised that five district teachers will receive *2010 Excellence in Teaching Awards*. The recipients will be recognized at a gala hosted by Alberta Education in Calgary on May 29.

The recipients are:

- Amber Krause, M.E. LaZerte School
- Kerry Faber, Ekota School
- Joe Garreck, M.E. LaZerte School
- Stacey Mabey, W.P. Wagner School
- Lisa Beebe, Queen Elizabeth School, 2010 SMARTer Kids Innovative Use of Technology Award

A total of 23 teachers from across Alberta will receive an *Excellence in Teaching Award*. The recipients were chosen from 338 eligible nominees.

2. The Board Chair reported on the tri-level meeting that occurred on May 21, 2010 involving the Board, City Councillors and members of the Legislative Assembly with respect to school space. He noted that Mayor, Minister of Education, Minister of Service Alberta and the Minister of Health were also in attendance. He believed the meeting was very productive.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

1. The Superintendent welcomed Ms Cheryl Oxford, Managing Director Communications, who began her duties today.
2. The Superintendent advised that, as part of the Bids for Kids event, a teacher at Delton School won the bid for his teaching services. As a result, he will be teaching for the day at Delton School on May 31, 2010.

F. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #16 – May 11, 2010
 - a) Trustee Huff referred to page 3 of the minutes and noted that the item should read:

Ms Kris Cannon-Reay 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 for the middle years program at Westmount School.
 - b) Approved as amended.

G. Recognition

2. Margaret T. Stevenson Talented Young Writer Award Recipient: Shannon Fitz

Received for information.

H. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

1. Ms Diana Clifford, Lago Lindo Parent Council, presented a petition regarding an expansion of the attendance boundaries, specifically for the junior high, for Florence Hallock School.

Ms Clifford provided a copy of the petition to the Board Secretary.
2. Mr. Rory Koopmans advised that he is first person in Alberta to obtain 200 high school credits to be granted two high school diplomas.

I. Reports

3. Report #13 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held May 11 and 18, 2010)
 - a) Approved recommendation.
 - b) Trustee Gibson apologized to Trustee Colburn for his comments at the May 11, 2010 board meeting which were in violation of the Trustee Protocols that: *Public statements will avoid criticism of the intentions or actions of other Board members, current or former.* He also apologized to his colleagues, staff and members of the public who attended that meeting.
4. Motion re School Size and Student Achievement

The recommendation was defeated.
5. Policy Review – FO.BP – Environment

Approved recommendation
6. Policy Review: Board Policy HGE.BP - Continuing Education and Board Regulation HGE.BR – Continuing Education
 - a) Approved recommendation
 - b) Trustees requested clarification of the following statement in the policy: *Continuing education programming should complement **but not duplicate** school-based programs for school-aged learners and provide learners of all ages an opportunity to continue their education and pursue their interests.*
 - c) The policy was referred to the Planning and Policy Committee for rewording prior to being brought back to the next board meeting for second consideration.
7. Locally Developed Courses – Addition

Approved recommendation

8. Response to Delegation - Alberta Somali Community Center (ASCC)

The following amended recommendations were approved:

1. *That a formal letter of endorsement be provided to the ASCC for their initiative to raise the mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18 or graduation.*
2. *That the Board submit a resolution to the Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta in support of extending the mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18 or graduation*

9. General Banking and Borrowing Resolutions

Approved recommendation

10. Framework for Involvement in Site-Based Decision Making

Received for information.

11. Plan for Special Education 2010-2011

- a) The Board heard from Ms Kathryn Burke and Ms Bev Oscar.
- b) Received for information.

12. Introduction of the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget

Received for information.

13. Responses to Board Requests for Information

Received for information.

14. Bereavement

Received with regret.

15. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

1. Trustee Esslinger reported that, on May 20, 2010 she and Trustees Fleming, Huff, Rice and Ripley attended the inaugural Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Fundraising Breakfast *Ready for Life*. At that event, over \$100,000 was received towards early learning and early intervention with many more donations prepared to come. She commended Sandra Woitas, Director Edmonton Public Schools Foundation, for organizing of the event.
2. Trustee Esslinger reported that, today, she participated, as the Board's ASBA Board of Directors Representative, in an ASBA video conference *Communications Protocol/Guiding Principles For School Boards Operating Schools Within Another Board's Boundaries*. The draft information will be updated and presented at the ASBA Spring General Meeting business session.
3. Trustee Colburn reported that, on May 19, 2010, he attended the first ever Traditional Aboriginal Games Day hosted by the Rites of Passage Program at Prince Rupert School. The day consisted of three games: Traditional Village Lacrosse, Run and Scream and Southwest Kickball Racing. Students from Lauderdale and Beacon Heights schools attended and were linked with Rites of Passage students who explained the games. The students also participated in making the objects they were going to use in the games.
4. Trustee Ripley reported that, last week, she attended an event at S. Bruce Smith School on behalf of the Board where The Honourable Rona Ambrose announced before a group of Grade 8 students that Parks Canada, Nature Canada and the Historica-Dominion Institute have generously funded a free Parks Pass to all national parks in Canada as well as to Museums and other national historic sites for all grade 8 students across Canada. The Strive Team at S. Bruce Smith School greeted Minister Ambrose with courtesy and enthusiasm.
5. Trustee Huff reported that, on May 12, 2010, she and a number of Trustees attended the 15-Years of Service Recognition and Reception for District Staff at the Muttart Conservatory. She commended the organizers of the event.
6. Trustee Huff reported that, on May 20, 2010, she and Assistant Superintendent Donna Barrett attended the memorial ceremony at Winterburn School for the Baxter family. She commended the Principal for organizing the ceremony.
7. Trustee Huff reported that, on May 20, 2010, she and Trustees Esslinger, Fleming and Gibeault as well as Superintendent Schmidt and Assistant Superintendent Barrett attended the 2010 Junior Achievement Gala. She thanked Mr. Ball for hosting their group and for providing the tickets to attend the event.

8. Trustee Rice reported that, on May 14, 2010, he and Assistant Superintendent Jenise Bidulock attended the first official formal graduation exercise from Argyll School. Twenty-seven students were present; however over 100 students completed their diploma through the Argyll Centre. He noted that some of the students completed their high school diplomas using the Argyll Centre in combination with attending regular school programs, or on-line, or were home schooled. He also noted that a number of people who graduated from Argyll Centre do not come from Edmonton but live in other areas of the province.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

That Edmonton Public Schools ensure that schools offering regular programming (also known as local or community schools) receive the same level of district promotion and support as schools that offer alternative programs or programs of choice.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

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