



**Summary of Board Meeting #14
Held Tuesday, May 27, 2008**

A. O Canada:  (6:10 p.m.) – *District O Canada Video*

B. Roll Call: All trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair – None.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

1. The superintendent advised that a delegation, including two economists, from Peru was visiting to see how education is delivered across Alberta, particularly in Edmonton Public Schools.
2. The superintendent advised he spent time today with a delegation from the United Kingdom that was also visiting with Alberta Education learning about the provincial education system. The delegation is also interested in the district's model of distributed leadership and alternative programs we offer.
3. The superintendent advised that he attended a Canadian Education Association CEO's forum. A small group of superintendents from Vancouver to Halifax participated in the forum to discuss in depth the challenge of providing programming for adolescent students at the junior and senior high level. He indicated he would share information from the forum to district staff in the coming weeks and moving into next year.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #13 – May 13, 2008

Approved as printed.

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement at Hardisty School

Received for information.

G. Recognition:

3. Margaret T. Stevenson Talented Young Writer Award Recipient: Noel Toma from Westmount School

Received for information.

H. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

4. Longitudinal Effects of Full-Day Kindergarten Through to Grade Six

a) Received for information.

b) Trustee Gibeault requested that information be provided regarding the research that has been done in Alberta regarding full-day kindergarten.

5. 2008-2009 Non-Resident Fees

Approved recommendation.

6. Board Review of 2008-2009 Plans and Expenditures Budget

a) Trustees commented on the trends and concerns identified at the school and central service budget review meetings.

b) The report was received for information.

7. Approval of the Proposed 2008-2009 Expenditures Budget

Approved recommendation.

8. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

Received for information.

9. Bereavement

Received with regret.

I. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports:

10. Report #11 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held May 13, 2008)

- a) Approved recommendations re:
- Designation of Principals
 - Letter to Minister of Education re High School Diploma Exams

Report #12 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held May 27, 2008)

Approved the following recommendations:

1. Develop an Edmonton Public School “Ready for the Future” certificate/portfolio to complement the Alberta High School Diploma (aka Expanding our Measures of Achievement and Our Ways of Recognizing Success).
2. The following recommendation was also approved: *That the Board approve presenting the following emergent motion to the ASBA for consideration at the 2008 Spring AGM: “Be it resolved, that the Alberta School Boards Association urge the Government of Alberta to establish a high profile task force on health and learning in schools, with broad participation from groups involved in health and learning and with a mandate to develop a model policy for a comprehensive approach to health and learning in schools and school systems.”*

11. Motion re Free Transportation for Woodcroft/Ritchie Schools Students

Approved the following amended recommendation:

1. *That students currently attending and residing in the attendance area for Woodcroft School be provided with free transportation to their designated school for the duration of their elementary schooling.*
2. *That students currently attending and residing in the attendance area for Ritchie School be provided with free transportation to their designated school for the duration of their junior high schooling.*

J. Other Trustee Reports:

1. Trustee Gibeault reported that he had represented the board yesterday at the 14th Canadian Skills Canada Competition in Calgary in which a number of district schools participated. He provided a copy of the program to trustees.

2. Trustee Huff reported that this week she brought greetings on behalf of the board at the Ross Sheppard Graduation Ceremony. She also noted that she provided condolences on behalf of the board to the family, students and staff affected by the loss of one of the graduates.
3. Trustee Huff reported that, today, she presented a Prime Minister's Award Certificate of Achievement to Dovercourt Grade 6 Teacher Leane Topma.
4. Trustee Colburn advised that Parkdale and Prince Charles schools are among 20 schools across Canada receiving an Indigo Love of Reading Foundation Grant. Principal Hanson of Parkdale advised that the some of the money will be used to take the students on a field trip to the Indigo Store at West Edmonton Mall to allow students the opportunity to purchase two books each to restock the school's library.
5. Trustee Colburn advised that McKernan, Earl Buxon and Balwin schools are the first district winners of the Health and Wellness grants to support healthy school communities.
6. Trustee Ripley advised that today she had attend the Roots of Empathy Program celebration. The mission of the program is to build caring and peaceful and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults. This involves a class adopting a baby for a year. The baby comes to the class once per month and the students see how the baby changes and grows. There are more than 20 schools involved in this program. She noted that she purchased a book by Mary Gordon, the founder of the program, and it is available for trustees or members of the administration should they wish to read it.
7. Trustee Ripley advised that she had attended the ASBA Zone 23 general meeting on Friday, May 23, 2008. Zone 23 voted on the six directives for action that the Zone will take forward to the ASBA Spring Meeting in early June. One of the directives being taken forward is from our district with respect to the province wide use of the early development instrument (EDI) and community mapping. Other directives for action include:
 - That the ASBA urge the Minister to provide adequate, sustainable, equitable and predictable resources that are not reliant upon the writing of proposals to acquire funds.
 - That the ASBA urge the provincial government to make the training of speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, mental health therapists and physiotherapists a priority.
 - That the ASBA advocate to the provincial government that a universal assessment of children by the age of 30 months be done to identify children at risk and, furthermore, to fund up to full-time pre-kindergarten for this children.
 - That the ASBA advocate to the provincial government for funding to be given to school boards that choose to offer full-time kindergarten to all students.

Trustee Ripley also noted that a vote was passed to begin the implementation of several strategies to advocate as a Zone with respect to early intervention.

Trustee Ripley noted there was a presentation by University of Alberta researchers and the Black Gold School Division regarding a research project now in its fifth year called Healthy Hearts. The project involves 8,500 students. This was originally an AISI project. It is the largest research project in the world focussed on students in terms of looking at risk factors for health.

Trustee Ripley noted that an update was given on the school library motion that was passed at last Fall's ASBA General Meeting. Alberta Education is hiring someone to look at school libraries and work in that area.

K. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – None.

L. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Huff requested an overview of the current environmental practices across the district in terms of what are we doing now and what we might like to try in the future.
2. Trustee Ripley requested that information be provided on the status of the district's libraries in terms of the five key elements identified by the Canadian Library Association as being integral to the success of school library programs.

M. Notices of Motion – None.

N. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

O. Duration of Meeting: 6:10 p.m. to 9:10 p.m.