

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #13 -

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, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Sue Huff

Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles
Ron MacNeil
Tanni Parker
Betty Tams

Pat Davidson
Rod Kostek
Jennifer Lawley
Dean Michailides

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers: Mark Ramsankar, President
CUPE Local 3550: Trudy Grebenstein, President

A. **O Canada** –  *District DVD*

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

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

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C. Communications from the Board Chair

The board chair advised that she and the superintendent had the honour of attending a special dinner and award ceremony hosted by Alberta Education in Calgary on May 10th. Twenty-three outstanding teachers and principals nominated by the public and their peers were selected to receive 2008 Excellence in Teaching Awards. The awards recognize outstanding teaching ability and classroom leadership in schools across Alberta. She reported that six of the recipients were teachers from Edmonton Public Schools. They are:

- Simmee Chung - George P. Nicholson School
- Azmina Dewji - Stratford Elementary Junior High School
- Annabel Duncan-Webb - Westmount School
- Mark Haak - W.P. Wagner School of Science and Technology
- Brenda Mulder - Londonderry School
- Julian Pacholik - M.E. LaZerte High School

She extended congratulations to the district's Excellence in Teaching Award recipients on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

The board chair reported on some of the activities of the City of Edmonton Youth Council. She distributed a brochure regarding the *Heart 2 Art* contest to raise awareness about homelessness which Edmonton Public and Catholic School Boards are working together in conjunction with the City of Edmonton Youth Council. The contest is open to children and youth 5 to 19 years of age. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded to the winners at the *Heart 2 Art* Gala on November 14, 2008 at the Shaw Conference Centre. She noted that the Edmonton Youth Council made a presentation to board last spring with respect to this event. She also noted that trustees will be receiving an invitation to participate in a special TLC renovation volunteer event. Volunteers will have the opportunity to paint one or two rooms of the Boyle Street Community Centre.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent advised that parents and members of the Inclusion Committee had previously been advised that an information report was going to be shared with the Board this evening. The report was postponed to the June 10, 2008 board meeting and, although the Inclusion Committee had been advised this information may not have reached all interested parents and, for that, he apologized. The Inclusion Committee, made up of representatives from various supporting groups such as Alberta Association for Community Living and the Edmonton Regional Coalition for Inclusive Education,

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have met with the administration and with their input an update report will be brought to the Board on June 10th.

The superintendent advised that, this month, the province has updated the district's Accountability Pillar document and provided the following information:

- Both the three-year and the five-year high school completion rates have improved significantly relative to the previous three-year rolling averages. This reflects a continuous trend of improved high school completion rates for the district. The most recent data shows a 1.1% increase in the three-year completion rate and a 1.6% increase in the five-year completion rate relative to the previous year. For 2006-07, the three-year completion rate was 64.6% and the five-year completion rate was 74.3%.
- The six-year transition rate to post-secondary has also increased by a half of a per cent. Six years after starting grade 10 over 60 % of district students are enrolled in post secondary.
- District students are qualifying for more Rutherford Scholarships. The eligibility rates for these scholarships are up almost 2% - to 36.4%.

The superintendent noted that these improvements are considered to be statistically significant. This is very good news and a tribute to every staff member who did his or her part to help a student achieve more.

Some of the practices during this period of time that may have contributed to the positive results include:

- Analysis of successful completion data with a focus on improving grade 10 course completion
- Focused attention on identified 'at risk' students
- Increased collaborative dialogue between teachers in school cohorts
- Increased time spent in classrooms by leadership staff in order to support teaching and learning

All of these practices have been incorporated into the current cycle of AISI and should continue to support student achievement in district schools.

The superintendent concluded by saying that the drop out rate stayed the same at 6.3% and work will continue in this area to improve the rate.

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E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #12 – April 29, 2008

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #12 held April 29, 2008 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement at Montrose Elementary School

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement at Montrose Elementary School’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. Student Transportation Fees for 2008-2009

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the following schedule of bus pass fees for the 2008-2009 school year be approved, to be effective August 2008.

	Current 2007-08	Proposed 2008-09	
	Monthly	Monthly	Annual
Kindergarten, Early Education, Awasis, City Centre	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
Edmonton Transit Passes			
Elementary (To the designated school from neighbourhoods where schools have been closed or have not been built)	\$22	\$24	\$200
Elementary Special Needs	\$22	\$24	\$200
Elementary – Bilingual or Immersion	\$22	\$24	\$200

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Elementary – other Programs of Choice	\$38	\$43	\$390
Elementary (other than to designated school)	\$38	\$43	\$390
Junior High	\$38	\$43	\$390
Senior High	\$38	\$43	\$390
Replacement ETS Pass (any category)	\$42	\$49.75	N/A
Charter Yellow Bus			
Regular:			
Elementary (To the designated school from neighbourhoods where schools have been closed or have not been built)	\$22	\$24	\$200
Elementary Special Needs	\$22	\$24	\$200
Rural Elementary	\$22	\$24	\$200
Family maximum of three or more elementary children (kindergarten not included)	\$60	\$65	\$580
Replacement of Elementary Yellow Bus Pass	\$6	\$6	N/A
Junior High (student attends same school as was attended in elementary)	\$22	\$24	\$200
Junior High	\$38	\$43	\$390
Senior High	\$38	\$43	\$390
Replacement of Jr. or Sr. High Yellow Bus Pass	\$6	\$6	N/A
Alternative Programs:			
Elementary – Bilingual or Immersion	\$22	\$24	\$200
Family maximum of three or more elementary children (kindergarten not included)	\$60	\$65	\$580
Elementary – other Programs of Choice	\$42	\$43	\$390

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Family maximum of three or more elementary children (kindergarten not included)	\$120	\$120	\$1,140
Replacement Elementary Alternative Program Yellow Bus Pass	\$6	\$6	N/A
Special Needs Curb Service:			
Elementary	\$22	\$24	\$200
Replacement of Elementary Yellow Bus Pass	\$6	\$6	N/A
Junior High	\$38	\$43	\$390
Senior High	\$38	\$43	\$390
Replacement of Jr. or Sr. High Yellow Bus Pass	\$6	\$6	N/A
Conditional Ridership:			
Kindergarten to Grade 12	\$42	\$43	N/A
Replacement of Elementary Conditional Rider Yellow Bus Pass	\$6	\$6	N/A
Replacement of Jr. or Sr. Conditional Rider Yellow Bus Pass	\$6	\$6	N/A”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

4. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

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

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H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

5. Report #10 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held April 29 and May 6, 2008)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “1. That Report #10 of the Conference Committee from the meetings held April 29 and May 6, 2008 be received and considered.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “2. That the designation of Darrell Sushynski as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.
3. That the designation of Sanaa El-Hassany as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.
4. That the designation of David Jackson as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.
5. That the designation of Sharon Clark as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.
6. That the designation of Tanja Caley as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.
7. That the designation of Cameron Mah as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.
8. That the designation of Chad Sheppard as principal to the District, effective September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “9. That the following designation for the period September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2011 be confirmed:**

John Edey – Managing Director”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “10. That the following designations for the period September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009 be confirmed:**

**Kevin Stevenson – Director EPS Metro Continuing Education
Stuart Wachowicz – Director Curriculum
Corrie Ziegler – Director Student Achievement Services”**

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “ 11. That the following designation for the period September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2011 be confirmed:**

Tanni Parker – Assistant Superintendent”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “12. That the administration be authorized to execute the Tri-Party Agreement between the Board, the ASAP contractor and the Province.**

- 13. That the administration be authorized to execute the Accountability Agreement between the Board and the Province.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “14. That a Government Relations Committee to the board be approved and that a Committee comprised of Trustees Esslinger, Gibson and Rice prepare a terms of reference for consideration prior to the board’s Organizational Board Meeting in September 2008.”**

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The board took a short break at this point.

6. Motion re Student Advisory Committee

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That a Student Advisory Committee be established, which would meet directly with the Board of Trustees on a periodic basis with the intent of:

- a. enhancing the Board’s understanding of the student perspective of education; and
- b. encouraging civic engagement and leadership in our youth”

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the motion be deferred until after the administration brings forward its recommendations for the Framework for Stakeholder Engagement for the board’s consideration.”

The board chair called the question on the Deferral Motion.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault, Huff and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson and Shipka

The Deferral Motion was DEFEATED.

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The board chair called the question on the recommendation.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Huff and Shipka

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

The Motion was DEFEATED.

7. Motion re Multi-Cultural Task Force

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“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 student population from other cultures. The terms of reference would be developed by the task force and approved by the board.”

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the cost of the multi-cultural task force not exceed \$12,000.”

The board chair called the question on the Amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Fleming, Gibeault, Huff and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Gibson and Ripley

The Amendment was DEFEATED.

The board chair called the question on the recommendation.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Gibeault, Gibson, Huff, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustee Fleming

The Motion was CARRIED.

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I. Other Trustee Reports

Trustee Huff reported that she had attended Westglen School's Earth3 designation. Westglen is the first school in Alberta and the third in Canada to reach this status by completing 3,000 environmental projects. She commended Teacher Linda Hut who runs the Green Patrol and Earth Patrol teams for her efforts. Ms Hut has been spearheading this project for nine years. The school is undertaking to try to become Canada's first Earth4 school. She commended the students, staff, parents and the community for their work.

Trustee Colburn reported that last Wednesday he joined the Superintendent and district principals at the senior leadership meeting where the district's new Aboriginal website was discussed. He was very impressed with the quality of the website and the resources on it.

Trustee Esslinger thanked the many staff involved in organizing the variety of events for the opening of the Confucius Institute.

Trustee Esslinger noted that she and Trustees Ripley and Fleming attended today's State of the City address by Mayor Mandel. The Mayor acknowledged public education in Edmonton.

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

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided to board regarding district policy and practice with respect to cell phone usage by students.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

That students currently attending and residing in the attendance area for Woodcroft/Ritchie Schools be provided with free transportation for the duration of their respective elementary or junior high schooling.

**M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.
McCauley Chambers, Centre for Education**

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N. **Adjournment:** (8:20 p.m.)

The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary