

**MINUTE BOOK**

**- Board Meeting #4 -**

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, October 27, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees**

David Colburn  
Bev Esslinger  
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault  
Ken Gibson  
Sue Huff

George Rice  
Catherine Ripley  
Ken Shipka

**Officials**

Edgar Schmidt  
Donna Barrett  
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles  
Ron MacNeil

Tanni Parker  
Betty Tams

**Board Chair:** Don Fleming

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

**Staff Group Representatives**

CUPE Local 3550 – Trudy Grebenstein, President  
CUPE Local 474 – Sonny Kalynchuk, Vice-President

A. **O Canada** 

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all Trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair advised that Mr. Will Simpson was present in the audience along with 67 students from the Education 551 (Ed Admin) course at Concordia University College Faculty of Education. The Education 551 students are required to observe a public school board meeting to assist them in understanding the governance structures in public education. The course examines the complex systems within Alberta's public education - the organizational, legal and social structures that are evident in a dynamic public educational environment.

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The Board Chair reported that, during a conference call this afternoon with the Minister of Education, Board Chairs and superintendents, the Minister advised that all of the District's six new ASAP schools (Esther Starkman, Johnny Bright, A. Blair McPherson, Elizabeth Finch, Florence Hallock and Donald Massey schools) are now 70% complete and are expected to be ready by January or February and turned over to school districts in April 2010 which means that the schools will be open for students September 1, 2010.

The Board Chair also reported that the Minister has advised that the building of the ASAP II schools will be going ahead. This means that new schools will be built in areas of Griesbach, Ellerslie and the Grange.

The Board Chair advised that at the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, Trustee Rice was elected as First Vice President on the Executive Committee. Trustee Ripley was also elected to the Intragovernmental Political Relations Committee. Trustee Ripley will also serve as the Board's Public School Board's Council (PSBC) representative.

The Board Chair acknowledged a letter that was received from Colonel Charles Holsworth – Director of the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers Language Academy – also known as CIOR. Colonel Holsworth wrote to the Board of Trustees to express appreciation for the outstanding service provided by Dr. (Captain) Lorne Parker.

The Academy provides training in English or French as a second language to reserve military officers of NATO, NATO Partners, Partnership for Peace and Mediterranean Dialogue nations. This year the primary course was held in Bulgaria during the summer. Dr. Parker has served as an instructor of English in past years and is widely recognized for his effectiveness in that position.

The Colonel wrote that: *Dr. Parker is truly a knowledgeable and gifted educator. He is an excellent representative, not only of the Canadian Forces Air Reserves, but also of Edmonton Public Schools. As testament to his abilities, he has been promoted to the position of Academic Director for CLA 10.*

The Board Chair, on behalf of the Board, congratulated Dr. Parker not only for this recognition of his service, but also on his appointment as Academic Director.

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**D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools** – None.

**E. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #3 – October 13, 2009

Trustee Huff noted a spelling correction on page 4 with respect to the name of the speaker – should be Andrea McDannold-Olson.

Trustee Huff referred to page 7 of the minutes and requested that some detail be provided regarding the nature of Ms Rainey’s comments regarding the report on the student transportation service review findings.

*Ms Rainey, at the October 13, 2009 board meeting, urged the Board not support Stantec recommendation 10.2.1. to reaffirm the policy which would enable the Transportation Department to end the transportation of special needs students to schools other than one to which they are directed. She believed this is discriminatory.*

**MOVED BY Trustee Huff:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #3 held October 13, 2009 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**F. Improving Student Achievement**

2. Improving Student Achievement Through the Math for All (M4A) Initiative

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement Through the Math for All (M4A) Initiative’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives** – None.

**H. Reports**

3. District Response to School Act Review

**MOVED BY Trustee Rice:**

**“That the Board of Trustees approve the Submission to the School Act Review.”**

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Superintendent Schmidt undertook to incorporate suggestions made by the Trustees into the submission.

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

5. Sector Planning: Public Engagement Update

**MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Sector Planning: Public Engagement Update’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Policy Review: JBG.BP – Retention of Records and Objects Moved to CN.BP – Managing District Information

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

- “1. That revised Board Policy CN.BP – Managing District Information which incorporates Board Policy JBG.BP – Retention of Records and Objects retain its original review date of June 2011; and that the subsequent rescission of Board Policy JBG.BP – Retention of Records and Objects following final approval of revised Board Policy CN.BP – Managing District Information, be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

- “2. That revised Board Policy CN.BP – Managing District Information which incorporates Board Policy JBG.BP – Retention of Records and Objects retain its original review date of June 2011; and that the subsequent rescission of Board Policy JBG.BP – Retention of Records and Objects following final approval of revised Board Policy CN.BP – Managing District Information, be considered for the second time.” ((UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Board took a short break at this point.

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6. 2008-09 Student, Parent, Staff Satisfaction Survey Results and 2008-09 Community Satisfaction Survey Results

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That the report entitled ‘2008-09 Student, Parent, Staff Satisfaction Survey Results and 2008-09 Community Satisfaction Survey Results’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

7. Accountability Pillar and Student Achievement Results

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Accountability Pillar and Student Achievement Results’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

8. Introduction of the 2009-2010 District Expenditure Budget

**MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Introduction of the 2009-2010 District Expenditure Budget’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

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

9. Response to Conference Committee Request for Information

**MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Response to Conference Committee Request for Information’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

10. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Colburn noted he and Trustee Shipka attended their third School Healthy Symposium on Monday, October 26, 2009. He brought greetings on behalf of the Board. He noted that the Catholic Board was invited to participate.

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Trustee Huff noted that this past weekend she and Trustee Colburn attended the Alberta Congress Board's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Workplace Conference. The theme of the conference was *Education and Training – What's Relevant for Alberta's Future?* She noted that the following three resolutions were passed related to:

- i) Mentoring and knowledge transfer
- ii) ensuring high speed internet is accessible to all Albertans
- iii) promoting the inclusion of soft skills in all apprenticeship programs.

Trustee Huff provided each Trustee with a copy of a report she had prepared regarding the conference and provided a copy of the report and the conference program to the Board Secretary.

Trustee Huff reported that, on October 21, 2009, she attended the public forum on poverty reduction put on by Public Interest Alberta. They are trying to initiate a poverty reduction strategy for the province which is based on their report *We Can Do Better*. She provided a copy of *We Can Do Better* report to Board Secretary. It is estimated that one child in six in Edmonton lives in poverty which is a higher rate than any other city in Alberta.

Trustee Huff reported that she along with Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Ripley and Shipka attended the Inspiring Education Forum held October 18-20, 2009.

Trustee Huff reported that, on October 17, 2009, she attended Change Camp which was an opportunity to learn about how to increase participation in democracy through the use of on-line means.

Trustee Huff reported that, on October 15, 2009, she and a number of other Trustees attended the District Students Awards Ceremony which recognized student excellence.

Trustee Huff reported that, on October 15, 2009, she and Trustee Fleming attended the Stephen Lewis dinner to honour E4C, Edmonton Social Planning Council and the Edmonton Community Foundation. All three organizations were celebrating their joint anniversary. E4C is one of the District's critical partners helping to feed many hungry children in our schools through their hot lunch program.

Trustee Ripley reported that she had attended the United Way's Annual Breakfast of Champions on October 22, 2009 on behalf of the Board. She commended all those in the district who are striving to reach the \$120,000 goal for the United Way.

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Trustee Ripley reported that, on October 22, 2009, she and a number of Trustees, Assistant Superintendents and the Superintendent attended the official opening of Lillian Osborne School. She commended the organizers of the event.

Trustee Fleming reported that, on October 26, 2009 he met the new U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Jacobson and Consul General Laura Lochman at Prince Charles School. The Ambassador expressed a desire to visit a district school after having heard about the District's reputation.

### **I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information**

Trustee Esslinger requested that information be provided regarding partnerships and opportunities with post-secondary institutions from other jurisdictions that enable high school students to take credit at post-secondary and/or earn certificates enabling them to work.

The Board concurred with the request.

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding what evidence we have that programs of choice or alternative programs increase student achievement for all students.

The Board concurred with the request.

### **J. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Esslinger served notice of the following motion:

*That the Board develop a Board policy on public engagement specifically, but not limited to, describing when and under what circumstances public engagement should occur and the type of public engagement; e.g. in accordance with IAP2 principles.*

**K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**

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**L. Adjournment: (9:10 p.m.)**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary