

## Summary of Board Meeting #2 Tuesday, November 12, 2002

**A. O Canada**

Geoffery Evans, a teacher from L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy, sang O Canada.

**B. Roll Call: (6:00 p.m.) – All trustees were present.**

**C. Communications from the Board Chairman – None.**

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

**E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #17 – October 8, 2002
2. Organizational Board Meeting – October 22, 2002

Approved as printed.

**F. Remembrance Ceremony:**

3. L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy Remembrance Ceremony

Received for information.

**G. Focus on Student Achievement:**

4. Sifton School's Instructional Focus

Received for information.

## H. Reports:

### 5. Report #1 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held November 5, 2002)

The following verbal report from Trustee Bonko, Chairman of the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee (Trustees Gibeault and Nicholson were the other members of the committee) regarding the superintendent of schools' evaluation was received for information:

*The Board of Trustees recently completed its annual review of the Superintendent of Schools . . . and, what a year it has been for Mr. McBeath.*

*In September 2001, the Board of Trustees chose Angus McBeath as its chief executive officer after considering a long list of capable applicants. Soon after his appointment there was an election of a new board, comprised of five incumbents and four new trustees. Not too many months later he was faced with the challenge of leading the district through a major disruption when our teachers withdrew their services as a result of a labour dispute.*

*Prior to his appointment to the superintendency, when he was serving as Department Head, School and District Services, Mr. McBeath provided the leadership for a number of very successful initiatives in the district, including the planning and piloting of the Blueprints for Supporting Teaching and Learning. As such, his appointment as superintendent was warmly welcomed by our district staff. It was clear that such a tribute was much deserved as he orchestrated a very smooth transition between his superintendency and that of his predecessor, Dr. Emery Dosdall. There was no down time, no drop in expectations and no break in the district tradition of constant growth and improvement.*

*The board views Angus McBeath as a champion of public education who focuses district decision-making on supporting the achievement of students or, as he would say it, "achieving superb results from all kids." He views the education of all children as this district's foremost responsibility, and he encourages the growth of teachers and principals as instructional and learning leaders to achieve this end. In doing so, he has illustrated enthusiasm and an unrelenting focus which has served as a role model for all district staff.*

*Mr. McBeath has worked hard to establish a good working relationship with the entire board, and he clearly respects the role of trustees as the voice of the community. He has maintained an excellent relationship with the general community and, in particular, with Alberta Learning, other learning institutions and business leaders. He communicates a vision of what Edmonton Public Schools can and should be, and he communicates this in a manner that is clear and direct, regardless of the audience. He demonstrates excellent communication skills, especially when called upon to respond in an extemporaneous manner.*

*In its evaluation, the board noted that a particular strength of Mr. McBeath is his ability to establish positive relationships with staff, to empower them, and to elevate the role of each and every one so that they are able to feel that they have a strong voice in decision-making, be it at the local or district level.*

*Through its evaluation of Superintendent McBeath, this board has demonstrated a high level of confidence in him. The board views him as a man with excellent interpersonal skills who acts with integrity, a man who is credible and leads by example, and a man who holds himself accountable for achieving results.*

6. Submission to Alberta Commission on Learning by Edmonton Public Schools

- a) Approved the recommendation.
- b) Trustee Odynski noted that one of the suggestions from the meeting with business representatives was to have a statement or a vision that was very compelling to communicate what we're all about to the public and the Commission when we make this submission – she suggested putting a cover page on the board's submission with the phrase *Superb Results from All Kids*.
- c) Trustee Nicholson referred to item #8 of the agenda "Career-Focused Education: State of Development and Implementation" and whether this would be shared with the Commission – He felt that it was important to provide advice to the Commission in terms of what we want to see coming out of it. He felt that the graduate profile in item #8 reflects the kinds of things he would like to see incorporated.

7. Curriculum Addition – Islamic Studies 7-8-9

Approved the recommendation.

8. Career-Focused Education: State of Development and Implementation

- a) Approved recommendation.
- b) Trustee Dean requested that information be provided regarding the number of registered RAP students in the district.

9. Donald Ross Historic Designation

Approved recommendation.

10. City Centre Education Project

Received for information.

11. Trustee Subcommittee Review of 2001-2002 School and Central Department Results

Deferred to the November 26, 2002 board meeting.

12. Joint Use Access: Implementation of Standards of Play for Gymnasium Use

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustees Fleming and Hansen expressed concern that soccer was a Category D item.

13. Policy Positions for the 2002 ASBA Fall General Meeting

Received for information.

14. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Gibeault (further to TT #169) requested that an information report be provided regarding how many schools have exclusive supply agreements, what amount of money do the schools receive from these agreements.
- c) Trustee Gibeault asked the administration to consider for the next round of surveys for parents and the community an additional question “How satisfied are you with the level of funding provided by the provincial government for public education?”

- d) Trustee Woodrow (further to TT #185) requested that information be provided on the relationship between school provided transportation to the Awasis program and attendance and punctuality.

15. Bereavement

Received with regret.

**I. Committee and Board Representative Reports**

• **Community Relations Activities**

Trustee Woodrow advised that she had attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Aldergrove School and presented a plaque on behalf of the board.

**J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives- None.**

Mr. Bruce MacDonald, co-ordinator of Belgravia and McKernan soccer programs and a board member of the Southwest Minor Soccer Association, expressed concern with the availability of space for soccer practice. They have filed an appeal to the Joint Use Committee to have soccer practice changed from a Category D to Category B since soccer practices are for the purpose of training. They are currently in the process of circulating a petition. He requested that a trustee ask the administration to provide his association with a listing of schools that do not allow soccer practices for the purposes of allowing his group to discuss this with the principals of those schools.

**K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information**

1. Trustee Bonko requested that information be provided regarding the cost to our schools of supporting the Joint Use Agreement; e.g. staff costs, utilities and supplies and how much money is recovered through rentals.
2. Trustee Odynski requested that information be provided regarding:
  - How much money is coming into the district through non-government agencies; e.g. grants, donations, parent group fundraising, individual and corporate donations within a historical context since 1993-94?
  - Will that amount of money increase given the current request that has been made of our schools to review their planned expenditures?
3. Trustee Odynski asked what would the financial position of our schools and district be if we had actually received sufficient funds to cover the costs of the arbitration award.

4. Trustee Odynski requested that information be provided on how the district plans to monitor the affects of reduced expenditures on classroom conditions, particularly on class sizes.
5. Trustee Odynski requested that information be provided on class sizes – how many classes we have had of 30 or more students approved from K-12 since 1993-94.
6. Trustee Fleming requested that information be provided regarding the number of Educational Specialists employed by Edmonton Public Schools (e.g. speech pathologists, educational psychologists, librarians). How does this number compare to 10 years ago?
7. Trustee Fleming requested that information be provided regarding which schools in our district have specifically decided to not allow indoor soccer practices to occur within their gymnasiums.

**L. Notices of Motion** – None.

**M. Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, November 26, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

**N. Duration of Meeting:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:50 p.m.