

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #14 -

Minutes of a 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, September 11, 2001 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees:

Carol Anne Dean
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Svend Hansen
Janice Melnychuk

George Nicholson
Terry Sulyma
Don Williams

Officials:

Angus McBeath
Ken Dropko
Donna Barrett
Gary Reynolds
Marion de Man

Bruce Coggles
Pam Hall
Susan Laudenklos
Ron MacNeil

Dennis Melnyk
Maureen Stratton Lemieux
Carol Wolanski

Board Chairman: D. Fleming

Board Secretary: A. Sherwood

Recording Secretary: M. Fraser

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers: K. Beaton

A. O Canada - District Video

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that Trustee Bonko was absent. All other trustees were present.

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C. Communications from the Board Chairman

The chairman welcomed everyone back from the summer recess.

The chairman expressed the board's condolences for those affected by the tragedy that occurred in the United States today.

A minute of silence was then observed.

D. Communications from the Acting Superintendent of Schools

Mr. McBeath provided the following information with respect to student enrolment:

- The projected enrolment for 2001/2002 is 81,400.
- The telephone enrolment count was 79,695 on September 4th and 81,373 on September 11, 2001.
- Based on previous trends the enrolment should rise further to 81,600 by September 30, 2001, up 200 students from projected and up 787 students from the 2000-01 September 30, 2000 count.
- Compared with projected enrolments, the following trends are observed:
 - kindergarten enrolment is down 4.3%(264 students)
 - elementary is down 0.1% (47 students)
 - junior high is up 1.0% (180 students)
 - senior high is up 0.5% (547) from projected.
- Total enrolment counts at City Centre elementary/junior high schools is 1,576. This is down 161 from the projected 1,737 students in these schools (including Alex Taylor and Queen Mary Park). Last year's September 30th enrolment at these schools was 1,776.
- 41 students are enrolled in the Spanish Academy at Mill Creek School

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #13 – June 19, 2001

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #13 held June 19, 2001 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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2. Board Meeting – June 28, 2001

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the minutes of the board meeting held June 28, 2001 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Focus on Student Achievement:

3. Blueprints for Supporting Teaching and Learning

MOVED BY Trustee Melnychuk:

“That the report entitled ‘Blueprints for Supporting Teaching and Learning’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Reports:

4. Report #18 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held June August 28, 2001

MOVED BY Trustee Sulyma:

“1. That report #18 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held August 28, 2001 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Sulyma:

“2. That the Board of Trustees accept the following resignations of teacher certificated staff: Case Numbers 2000-2001-1 to 2000-2001-321 inclusive.”

The chairman called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Dean, Fleming, Gibeault, Hansen, Melnychuk, Sulyma and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustee Nicholson

The Motion was CARRIED.

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MOVED BY Trustee Sulmya:

- “3. That the Board of Trustees accept the resignations by mutual consent of the following teacher certificated staff in accordance with clause 18.1.4.c of the Teachers’ Collective Agreement:**

Case Number	Resignation Date
2000-2001-322	August 29, 2001
2000-2001-323	August 29, 2001
2000-2001-324	August 29, 2001”

The chairman called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Dean, Fleming, Gibeault, Hansen, Melnychuk, Sulyma and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustee Nicholson

The Motion was CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Sulyma:

- “4. That the allocation of \$1,079,200 from the 2002-2003 operating budget for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves for the 2002-2003 school year be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The chairman called upon Trustee Sulyma to provide a verbal report with respect to the results of the board’s self-evaluation.

Trustee Sulyma following verbal report was provided with respect to the board’s self-evaluation:

The board has conducted an annual board self-evaluation for the past three years of this board’s term of office and does so for a number of reasons:

- To facilitate communication and teamwork among board members.
- To enable the board to model its policy of system-wide evaluation (i.e., to hold itself to a standard as it holds others to a standard).
- To assist the board in clarifying its direction to more effectively plan, and provide for, the learning opportunities for children in the system.

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In 1998, the board came together as a new working team to develop a goal and plan for its three-year term of office. Trustees developed what they have called a “legacy statement”, that they would work towards and that they wanted this board to achieve in its term of office. It was developed as this board’s touchstone – it kept trustees grounded and focused on their responsibilities.

Trustees entitled it PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION. The statement reads:

We provided our community with effective leadership, developed strong community support for public education, secured sufficient resources, enabled staff and students to achieve high standards of performance required in a global society and fostered a spirit of cooperation and common purpose in the district.

The board self-evaluation process was modified to assist the board in monitoring its progress in achieving this legacy statement. In reviewing the board’s evaluation results for each of the three years, there has been consistent and steady growth in all areas:

- Effective leadership – the board established clear direction for the district’s focus on student achievement and instruction – the board’s number one priority has been student achievement and it charged the superintendent and administration with finding ways of raising the bar – and the administration has been persistent in seeking out ways in which to make that difference -- we had early reading recovery, small class size project, a focus on numeracy...AISi projects and this work has manifested itself in the Blue Prints initiative.
- Development of strong community support for public education among the public --- the board took a risk in empowering a focus on advocacy among staff and parents through the open and honest sharing of information on the district’s resources and needs through our open budget process at the local school level – the board made its own consistent and persistent messages to the Minister, MLA’s, Facilities Task Force, Standing Policy Committee, Alberta School Boards Association – basically anyone who would listen.
- Securing additional resources – not necessarily sufficient resources --- but additional funding for instruction and infrastructure and building needs – approval for construction of 2 new schools, an additional \$113 million in capital funding, funding for Amiskwaciy Academy, funding for the small class size project, and provincial funding for full half-day kindergarten and ESHIP.
- Enabling staff to achieve high standards of performance through staff development programs, open communication and the creation of a climate of mutual respect and

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professional confidence ...our training programs for principal preparation and for leadership lead the province and are nationally recognized – the board urged the broadening of professional development to all levels of staff – the board supported the development and implementation of the Blueprints for Supporting Teaching and Learning initiative.

- Enabling students to achieve high levels of performance by providing the educational programming to meet the needs of all students – broadening the view of student success, focusing on a safe and caring environment in our schools and maintaining a zero tolerance for violence.
- Fostering a spirit of cooperation and common purpose in the district – among staff, parents, between the superintendent and the board, and between the board members themselves -- Visitors to the district frequently remark on the consistency of the messages about what it is we are about no matter who they talk to – there has been an alignment of our vision for the district which has permeated the corporate culture and enabled us to focus on our common objectives. 97% of District Staff and 100% of principals regard academic achievement as their top priority

However, the district, the board and the 93 boards preceding it, have never rested on their laurels, ...there is always more that can be done ... new students from year to year to help achieve their goals and dreams. The board encourages the next board of 2001-2004 to:

- Continue to encourage and empower the district to further its instructional focus for student achievement for all its students, The district is poised to make great strides in this area, board members hope the next board will keep up the momentum
- To maintain advocacy for public education and
- To work towards engaging the 70% of the public that do not have children in schools in the cause of a strong public education system.

The realization of the board's legacy statement in any measure must be attributed to the dedication and commitment that senior administration, the rank and file staff and our district's very active parent community have made to these objectives.. The administrators, central service providers, teachers, parents and students are the ones who have found ways of transforming the board's priorities and objectives into reality. In the board's estimation... there is no finer district and the 1998-2001 board of trustees are proud to have been a part of it.

MOVED BY Trustee Sulyma:

“That the verbal report with respect to the results of the board’s self-evaluation be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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5. Delegation of Authority – Acting Superintendent of Schools – 2001 Summer Recess

MOVED BY Trustee Sulyma:

**“That the report entitled ‘Delegation of Authority – Acting Superintendent of Schools – 2001 Summer Recess’ be received for information.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

6. Motion Regarding Graduate Student Profile

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“That the administration develop a graduate student profile specific for Edmonton Public Schools.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Review of Board Policies Re: Appeals and Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives at Board Meetings

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“1. (a) That the revised board policy AB.BP Appeals be approved.

(b) That the current board policy AB.BP Appeals be rescinded.

- 2. (a) That the revised board policy JAB.BP Formal Delegations, Presentations, and Comments to the Board be approved.**

(b) That the current board policy JAB.BP Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives at Board Meetings be rescinded.”

The chairman called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Fleming, Hansen, Melnychuk, Nicholson, Sulyma and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustees Dean and Gibeault

The Motion was CARRIED.

8. Board Policy AB.BP Appeals

MOVED BY Trustee Dean:

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“That, subject to the approval of revisions to board policy AB.BP Appeals, Marion de Man and Ken Dropko be approved as members of the roster of persons available to preside at appeal hearings on behalf of the superintendent relating to the provision of funding and, or programming for students with severe language and speech delays.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

9. Policy and Regulation Update: FL.BP School Closure

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the revised board policy FL.BP School Closure be approved.”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

10. Policy and Regulation Update: FB.BR School Reopening

MOVED BY Trustee Melnychuk:

“1. That proposed board policy FB.BP School Reopening be approved

2. That board regulation FB.BR School Reopening be rescinded.”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

11. Policy Regarding Discrimination and Harassment

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That Policy ACA.BP Discrimination and Sexual Harassment be rescinded and replaced by a new policy ACA.BP Discrimination and Harassment.”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

12. Process for Results Review and Three-Year Planning

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

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“That the process and timeline for review of 2000-2001 results, review of 2002-2005 plans, and review of the 2002-2003 operating budget be approved.”

Trustee Hansen requested that the plan be revised so that trustees review no more than four schools per meeting.

Trustee Sulyma requested that where possible new trustees be paired with an experienced trustee.

Trustee Melnychuk requested clarification that if approved the plan would be revised where possible to reflect the suggested changes.

The chairman confirmed this and called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

13. School in Twin Brooks Neighbourhood

Mr. Fedor provided a verbal report regarding the status with respect to the progress of construction plans and meetings of the community of the school in the Twin Brooks neighbourhood.

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“That the verbal report with respect to the status of the school in the Twin Brooks neighbourhood be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

14. 2000-2001 Student-Parent-Staff District Satisfaction Survey Results

MOVED BY Trustee Melnychuk:

“That the report entitled ‘2000-2001 Student-Parent-Staff District Satisfaction Survey Results’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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15. Community Survey Results 2000-2001

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the report entitled ‘Community Survey Results 2000-2001’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

16. Results from the Audit of the HLAT Writing Task: 2001

17. Highest Level of Achievement Test Results: June 2001

MOVED BY Trustee Williams:

“That the reports entitled ‘Results from the Audit of the HLAT Writing Task: 2001’ and ‘Highest Level of Achievement Test Results: June 2001’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

18. Advanced Placement Examination Results: 2001

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report entitled ‘Advanced Placement Examination Results: 2001’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

19. International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2001

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report entitled ‘International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2001’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

20. Bereavement

The Vice Chairman reported on the passing of Ms Beverley West, a member of the support staff.

MOVED BY Trustee Williams:

“That the report be received with regret and the actions of the administration in this regard be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports – None.

- Community Relations Activities – None.

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I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Beaton, president Edmonton Public Teachers, thanked the board for three-years of transforming student lives. She commended board members for their advocacy of public education. She wished board members well in the coming election. She noted that Edmonton Public Teachers would not be holding its own trustee candidate forum, rather teachers will be attending the public ward meetings.

Mr. Steve Brodie thanked the board for the letter of appreciation he had received for his efforts in organizing the tribute to Dr. Dossall at the June 19, 2001 board meeting.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

The chairman noted the passing of Trustee Bonko's father.

Trustee Dean asked for an update on the westend study on junior high spaces.

K. Notices of Motion – None.

L. Meeting Dates:

DATE	MEETING	COMMENCEMENT TIME
Tuesday, October 23, 2001	Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.

M. Adjournment: (7:50 p.m.)

The chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Chairman

Board Secretary