

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #15 -

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, September 11, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Svend Hansen

George Nicholson
Wendy Keiver
Don Williams

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Donna Barrett
Ron MacNeil

Jenise Bidulock
Bruce Coggles
Ron MacNeil

Tanni Parker
Betty Tams

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. **O Canada** –  District's O Canada Video

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

Mrs. Sherwood reported that all trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The board chair advised that the entire board and superintendent met with the Premier and Minister of Education for an hour today. Trustees had the chance to identify the unique aspects of the district that set us apart from other school jurisdictions and that have made our district internationally known. Trustees also were able to identify the challenges the district faces in terms of inflation, a competitive job market and operational funding and have asked the government to address this in the next budget. Trustees also identified the need for predictable and sustainable capital funding to meet the needs of our facilities in new and older neighbourhoods.

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D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent thanked the board for their support of him and his administrative team through their setting of directions and priorities for student achievement and success. He noted that seven days ago kindergarten students started school. Most of these students will graduate in 2020 – our goal is that all will graduate. He noted that he has challenged the district’s staff to identify what the world will look like in 2020 and what can be done to help these students be successful in school, the community, at work and with their further studies. We must help the marginalized students by engaging them more productively by encouraging new and more effective ways to deliver educational services. He also identified the need to maintain a healthy workplace in order to accomplish these goals.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #14 – June 12, 2007

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #14 held June 12, 2007 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Focus on Student Achievement:

2. Update on English Language Learner Hubs

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report entitled ‘Update on English Language Learner Hubs’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Reports:

3. Delegation – Edmonton Youth Council: Presentation on Homelessness

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“That the report entitled ‘Delegation – Edmonton Youth Council: Presentation on Homelessness’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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4. Delegation of Authority – Superintendent of Schools – 2007 Summer Recess

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

**“That the report entitled ‘Delegation of Authority – Superintendent of Schools – 2007 Summer Recess’ be received for information.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The board took a short break at this point.

5. Report #17 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held June 12, 2007 and September 4, 2007)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

**“1. That report #17 of the Conference Committee from the meetings held June 12, 2007 and September 4, 2007 be received and considered.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “2. That the designation of Randy Billey as principal to the district, effective September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2009 be confirmed.**
- 3. That the designation of Kent Pharis as principal to the district, effective September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2009 be confirmed.**
- 4. That the designation of Monica Ellis as principal to the district, effective September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2009 be confirmed.**
- 5. That the designation of Kathy Toogood as principal to the district, effective September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2009 be confirmed.**
- 6. That the designation of Orest Soltykevych as principal to the district, effective September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2009 be confirmed.**
- 7. That the designation of Glenn Iriye as principal to the district, effective September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2009 be confirmed.**
- 8. That the designation of Shaunda Yeoman as principal to the district, effective September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2009 be confirmed.**
- 9. That the designation of Gary Jackson as principal to the district, effective September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2009 be confirmed.”**

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The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “10. That Hector Pothier’s principal designation to the district, effective September 1, 2007, be confirmed.”

The board chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Hansen, Keiver, Nicholson and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustee Gibeault

The Motion was CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “11. That the following designations for the period September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2010 be confirmed:

Jenise Bidulock – Executive Director
Bruce Coggles – Executive Director”

Trustee Gibeault noted that the title for these positions is now Assistant Superintendent.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “12. That, effective immediately, the addition of Bruce Coggles, John Edey, Tanni Parker, Stuart Wachowicz and Bonnie Zack, as members of the roster of persons available to preside at student expulsion and reinstatement hearings on behalf of the superintendent of schools, be approved.

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13. That, effective immediately, the deletion of Corinne McCabe as a member of the roster of persons available to preside at student expulsion and student reinstatement hearings on behalf of the superintendent of schools, be approved.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “14. That the revised Board Role and Responsibilities Statement be approved.
15. That the Principles of Board Operation be affirmed.
16. That the revised board statement regarding the Organizational Meeting be approved.
17. a) That the revised board statement regarding Meetings of the Board be approved.

b) That, in accordance with the changes approved for meetings of the board, the requirements for three considerations of a board policy be waived in this instance and that board policy JAB.BP – Formal Delegations, Presentations, and Comments to the Board be approved.
18. That the revised board statement regarding In-Camera Sessions, Committee of the Whole – Conference be approved.
19. That the revised board statement regarding In-Camera Sessions, Committee of the Whole – Audit be approved.
20. That the revised board statement regarding Other Standing Committees re-titled Board Committees be approved.
21. That the board statements on Ad Hoc Committees and Board Representative Assignments be affirmed.

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22. That the board statement on Board-Hosted Functions be approved.
23. That the Process for a Trustee to Initiate Action on Selected Concerns – Notice of Motion be affirmed.
24. That the revised process for Direct Requests of the Administration be approved.
25. That the revised Section II: Trustee Compensation and Amenities be approved.”

The board chair called the question on Recommendations 14 to 25 with the exception of Recommendations 17, 19 and 24.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The board chair called the question on Recommendation 17 a) and b).

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the following sentence under the Meetings of the Board – Delegations and Presentations to the Board section of the Trustees’ Manual (first bullet, page 16) be deleted: *Trustees may not comment on the presentation but may ask clarifying questions of the speaker through the Chair.*”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault, Keiver and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Hansen and Nicholson

The Amendment was DEFEATED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the following sentence under the Meetings of the Board – Comments on a Specific Board Agenda Item section of the Trustees’ Manual (last bullet, page 17) be deleted: *With the exception of the Chair, who may provide or request clarification as required, Trustees will not make comments or ask questions of the speaker.*”

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MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That Recommendation 17a) and 17b) be deferred for consideration by the next board of trustees.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Hansen, Keiver, Nicholson and Williams

The Deferral Motion was DEFEATED.

The board chair called the question on the Amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault, Gibson, Keiver and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Hansen, and Nicholson

The Amendment was CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the following sentence under the Meetings of the Board – General Comments on an Education Issue section of the Trustees’ Manual (last bullet, page 17) be deleted: *With the exception of the Chair, who may provide or request clarification as required, Trustees will not make comments or ask questions of the speaker.*”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault, Keiver and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Hansen, and Nicholson

The Amendment was DEFEATED.

The board chair called the question on Recommendation 17 a) and b) as amended.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The board chair called the question on Recommendation 19.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The board chair called the question on Recommendation 24.

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IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Hansen, Keiver, Nicholson and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustee Colburn

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“26. That the vacant elementary school sites in Bearspaw, Dechene, Dunluce and Skyrattler neighbourhoods, and the vacant junior high school sites in Caernarvon and Greenview neighbourhoods, be declared surplus to district need and offer to the City of Edmonton for use in the First Time Home Buyers Program, be confirmed.

27. That the agreement with the City of Edmonton for cost and revenue sharing related to the sale of surplus school sites for the City of Edmonton First Time Home Buyers Program, be confirmed.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

6. Motion re Advocacy for Early Education Program Students

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the administration develop a plan to advocate for students aged 2-5 currently enrolled in our early education programs such that they will continue to receive the same level of support from all government ministries once they reach 6 years of age in order to continue their education.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

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7. Board Evaluation

Trustee Gibeault, Chair Board Evaluation Committee, provided the following verbal report with respect to the results of the board's self-evaluation:

Madam Chair, I am pleased to provide a verbal report on the results of this year's board self-evaluation. The board conducts an annual self-evaluation 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*
- *to assist the board in clarifying its direction to plan effectively and provide for the learning opportunities of children in the district*

As this is the last scheduled public board meeting of the current board, it is an opportune time to reflect on the board's achievements.

In October 2004, this board came together as a new working team. We developed a legacy statement to guide us in our work. The statement contained five areas of emphasis:

- *to promote excellence in teaching and learning to develop every student's full potential*
- *to achieve adequate and sustainable financial resources*
- *to demonstrate respect and recognition for the contribution district staff makes to society*
- *to foster character and citizenship values in students, and*
- *to engage our communities as active partners in support of public education*

Our "legacy statement" guided the board in the establishment and implementation of district priorities and in monitoring progress through the three years.

In reviewing the board's evaluation results for each of the three years, there has been consistent and steady growth in all areas. During a dynamic period in the district's evolution that was marked by changes in key personnel, the board provided consistent leadership and continued to be an advocate for public education on all fronts.

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In evaluating our success as a board, some of the following achievements have been identified:

In terms of our first objective of raising academic achievement levels, high school completion rates and well-being:

- *the board established district priorities that determined student achievement as its primary focus*
- *support for the establishment and input of an Aboriginal Task Force*
- *work with English Language Learners (ELL), recognizing that support has to be provided in the classroom and beyond*
- *implementing revised and enhanced programming for special needs students, specifically for gifted and talented education*
- *increased recognition and emphasis has been placed on the importance of high school completion and how success at every grade contributes*
- *an emphasis on good nutrition and physical and mental well-being initiatives in schools*
- *a focus on student and staff safety through OHS training, the establishment of the Respectful Learning and Working Environments policy and the Health and Wellness of Staff and Students policy*

In terms of actively engaging community partners in support of students:

- *the establishment of the Aboriginal Task Force was a major step*
- *extension of the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) and support for Career and Technologies Programs and apprenticeship affiliations*
- *receiving national and international recognition and accreditation for second language programs*
- *enhancing the positive working relations with other metro boards*
- *created productive community and public engagement processes such as the joint use agreement review and sustainability reviews*

In terms of securing broad community support for sustained investment in public education and providing sound stewardship of district resources:

- *support for regional partnerships; pooling resources to serve the needs of students (such as Linkages, Joint Action Children's Committee [JACC], community mapping)*
- *initiation of a planning process for determining a long term, sustainable student space inventory*
- *successful advocacy for additional funding for EPS and metro concerns such as transportation, capital projects, modernization and maintenance*

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- *progress in reducing class sizes within the context of a balanced budget*
- *advocating for flexibility in how funding may be used*

In terms of instilling in every student a strong belief in societal involvement, values and responsibilities:

- *the value of these involvements has been reinforced through trustees at school and central planning reviews and results review processes*
- *character education programs in schools are encouraged and supported*
- *student involvement in board activities is encouraged, such as moderators at trustee forums and presentations at board meetings*
- *emphasis on good nutrition, healthy lifestyle, fitness and well-being encourage concerns for each other*

In terms of celebrating excellence in teaching and the work of all district staff:

- *there is an emphasis on the value and contributions of all staff groups in achieving district goals*
- *support for district staff and student recognition programs*
- *support for district professional development activities and professional improvement leaves*
- *staff contributions are recognized at planning and results review processes*

Overall, in reviewing the board's self-evaluation, the board can take pride in staying on course and making considerable progress in achieving the goals it laid out for itself. Although, we are pleased with both our effort and with the results of our advocacy work, we acknowledge that sustainability and sufficiency of funding and engaging our communities in support of public education will continue to be a challenge for the next board of trustees.

We encourage the 2007 – 2010 board to continue to focus their efforts on student learning and the expectation of excellent results from all students whatever their ability and to continue to promote a broad view of student success.

We encourage the next board to maintain advocacy for public education and work with government to ensure that adequate resources are available.

We encourage the next board to develop strategies for reaching out and engaging the non-parent community and post secondary institutions in the cause of a strong public education system and to encourage life-long learning through a variety of delivery methods.

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The realization of the board's legacy statement and the transforming of the board's priorities and objectives into reality has been facilitated by of the dedication and skill of our Superintendent of Schools – Edgar Schmidt and the cumulative efforts and commitment of all our staff groups.

In the board's estimation, there is no finer district and we, the 2004 - 2007 board of trustees, are proud to have served in this capacity.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the report entitled ‘Board Evaluation’ be received for information.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

8. ASBA Special General Meeting September 14, 2007 – Bylaw Amendments

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That board support for the proposed amendments to ASBA Bylaws be approved.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

9. Review – Revised Board Policy JJA.BP – Electioneering

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“1. That, for consideration of proposed revisions to Board Policy JJA.BP – Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications, the board's requirements for three readings of policy revisions be waived.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“2. That revised Board Policy JJA.BP – Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications be approved.”

The board chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Hansen, Keiver, Nicholson and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustee Colburn

The Motion was CARRIED.

10. Process and Timeline of the 2006-2007 Results Review

MOVED BY Trustee Williams:

“That the process and timeline for review of 2006-2007 results be approved.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

11. Funds for 2008-2009 Professional Improvement Program

MOVED BY Trustee Keiver:

“That the allocation of \$1,300,000 from the 2008-2009 operating budget for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support for the 2008-2009 school year be granted.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

12. Approval of Capital Support for Modernization Projects

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the provincial funding allocation of \$35 million to support infrastructure modernization projects be used to address the district’s first four priorities for modernization projects as outlined in the *Three-Year Capital Plan, 2008-2011.*”

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MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the motion be amended to read: That the provincial funding allocation of \$35 million to support infrastructure modernization projects be used to address the district’s first *five* priorities...”

The board chair called the question on the Amendment.

The Amendment was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

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

The board took a short break at this point.

13. Joint Use Agreements: Facilities

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the Joint Use Agreement: Facilities, in partnership with the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Catholic Schools and Conseil scolaire Centré Nord be approved.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

14. Proposed Annual Implementation Plan 2007-08

The following individuals provided comments with respect to Ritchie School: Mr. Rob MacDonald; Dr. Marlene Spencer and Ms Karen Weis Bridges.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the proposed Annual Implementation Plan 2007-08 be approved by Board.”

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MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the report be deferred for consideration by the new board of trustees.”

The board chair called the question on the Deferral Motion.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn and Gibeault

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Hansen, Keiver, Nicholson and Williams

The Deferral Motion was DEFEATED.

The board chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Hansen, Keiver, Nicholson and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn and Gibeault

The Motion was CARRIED.

15. Bereavements

Board Vice-Chair Nicholson reported on the passings of Mrs. Mary Kilosky and Mrs. Linda Jackson.

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“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.

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

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Keiver requested that information be provided regarding the processes, practices and policies that are in place with respect to students who have severe (life-threatening) allergies and how they compare with comparable school boards in Alberta and Canada.

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Trustee Keiver requested that information be provided regarding the educational and operational aspects of the schools most recently having undergone closure and the resulting redesignation of students, including what plans are in place for debriefing staff, parents and possibly students to learn what processes may need improvement and how we plan to use that information.

Trustee Gibson requested that a report be prepared regarding how the 2020 vision the superintendent outlined can be incorporated into the district's communication plan.

K. Notices of Motion – None.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Organizational Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

The board chair noted that that this is Trustees Hansen and Nicholson's last public board meeting. She added that Trustee Nicholson was elected to the board in 1992. During his terms of service, he served as board chair five times. Trustee Hansen was elected to the board in 1998 and served as board chair twice during that time.

Trustee Nicholson thanked the residents of Ward H, the entire school staff across the district, central staff, the efforts of the board chair and his colleagues.

Trustee Hansen thanked everyone, in particular, his constituents, colleagues, superintendent, senior administration and all district staff.

The board chair thanked Trustees Hansen and Nicholson for their years of service.

M. Adjournment: (10:15 p.m.)

The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary