



**Summary of Board Meeting #3
Tuesday, November 26, 2002**

- A. **O Canada** – District Video.
- B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.) – Trustee Bonko was absent.
- C. **Communications from the Board Chairman**

The chairman advised that every year since 1994, when a district custodial assistant was assaulted, CUPE Local 474 has conducted a White Ribbon Campaign, distributing White Ribbons to its members and district staff to wear. The intent is to make the public aware that violence against women happens at home, on the street, and in the workplace, and that it is unacceptable.

Local 474 distributed White Ribbons to schools last week as was noted in the *Superintendent's Memo*. The Local is asking its members and district staff to wear the white ribbons from November 25 to December 6. Local 474 will also be asking its members to observe a minute of silence at noon on December 6th.

The board supports the intent of this campaign and commends Local 474 for its part in bringing attention to this important social issue. The board encourages schools to participate in and recognize the White Ribbon Campaign during the weeks of November 25 to December 6.

- D. **Communications from the Superintendent of Schools** – None.
- E. **Minutes:**
 - 1. Board Meeting #2 – November 12, 2002
 - 2. Board Meeting – November 20 2002

Approved as printed. (AS)

F. Focus on Student Achievement

3. Minchau School's Instructional Focus: Written Communication Skills

Received for information.

G. Reports:

4. Report #1 of the Audit Committee (From the Meeting Held November 20, 2002)

Approved recommendation re submission of audited financial statements to Alberta Learning.

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

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Gibeault noted that during one of the results review meetings he attended, a reporter from the National Post was in attendance, and he urged trustees to read the subsequent article.
- c) Trustee Hansen requested that a copy of the district's standards, indicators and measures document be provided including the results for 2001-2002.
- d) Trustee Hansen suggested looking at how surpluses are being reported because some of the surpluses are actually committed dollars.
- e) Trustees commented on the concerns of schools with respect to whether AISI funding will be continued and the impact of budget cuts.
- f) Trustees Odynski and Woodrow noted that schools in their wards are concerned regarding the growing inequity between schools that have the ability to fundraise.

6. Presentation by the YMCA

- a) Received for information.
- b) The YMCA board members posed the following questions:
 - How can we, together plan for the new City Centre YMCA?
 - Who should be our contact?
 - Who else should we meet with and involve?
- c) Trustee Martin, as chairman of the Linkages committee, extended an invitation for YMCA board members to attend a future Linkages meeting.

7. Joint Project Between Canadian Islamic Centre (CIC), the Canadian Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) and Edmonton Public Schools

Received for information.

8. Plan for Offering Summer School

Received for information.

9. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Request #198 was referred to the next board meeting due to Trustee Bonko's absent.

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports

• **Community Relations Activities**

- 1. Trustee Martin reported that he had attended the 18th anniversary banquet for the Centre for Immigrant Women on behalf of the board. The keynote speaker was the Honourable Jean Augustine, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women). Also in attendance was MLA Laurie Blakeman, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky Minister of Community Development, and Councillor Michael Phair.

2. Trustee Odynski noted that on November 21, 2002 she and Trustee Woodrow held a meeting with school council representatives in Ward C and E. Approximately 35 people attended representing 26 school councils. The terms of reference were approved and will be reviewed in January 2004. Parents expressed concern regarding the impact of budget cuts to the learning opportunities, larger class sizes, combined classes, ability to buy supplies, equipment and resources and the possible loss of staff. Parents feel pressure to fundraise to make up the shortfall. Parents believe that public education should be universally available and adequately funded and not rest on the ability of parents to pay fees or to do fundraising for their schools. The parents urged Trustees Odynski and Woodrow to communicate their concerns to the board and for the board to communicate this to the provincial government. The steering committee will be meeting on December 12, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Glenora School library to consider next steps and the possible formation of a political action committee. The next Ward C and E meeting will take place in January 2003.
3. Trustee Hansen advised that he had attended the first day of the school at Jackson Heights Elementary School. The students were piped in by two students from Vimy Ridge.
4. Trustee Hansen noted the official opening of George P. Nicholson School on November 23, 2002 and complimented the organizers.

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

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Hansen requested that information be provided regarding the potential impact of the arbitration award on class sizes for 2003-2004 by division.

K. Notices of Motion – None.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

M. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.