



**Summary of Board Meeting #3  
Held Tuesday, November 27, 2007**

**A. O Canada:  (6:00 p.m.)**

**B. Roll Call:** All trustees were present.

**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

1. The board chair advised that, at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta, Trustee Don Fleming was again elected to the position of President of the PSBAA. Trustee Fleming brings a wealth of experience to the position – not only as a trustee but also as a past president of the Association. She congratulated him on behalf of the board.
2. The board chair advised that the White Ribbon Campaign began yesterday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and will run through December 6<sup>th</sup>. The White Ribbon Campaign is intended to make the public aware that violence against women is unacceptable. The board endorsed this campaign in 1996 and urges schools and staff to recognize this initiative. CUPE Local 474 has provided each trustee with a white ribbon.
3. The board chair advised that Mr. Will Simpson and Dr. Maureen Stratton Lemieux were present this evening in the audience along with a number of students from an after-degree education course at Concordia University College of Alberta. The course taught by both he and Dr. Maureen Stratton Lemieux focuses on issues in the organizational framework of teaching. One of the requirements of this course is that the students have a first-hand experience to see how public school governance works.

**D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The superintendent noted the presence of some of the members of superintendent's council. Principals from superintendent's council will be attending board meetings on a rotational basis and represent different divisions of schools from across the city.

#### **E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #2 – November 13, 2007 – Approved as printed.

#### **F. Improving Student Achievement:**

2. Improving Student Achievement at McLeod School  
Received for information.

#### **G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:**

3. Locally Developed Courses  
Approved recommendation.
4. International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2007  
Received for information.
5. Advanced Placement Examination Results: 2007  
Received for information.
6. Response to Trustee Request for Information  
Received for information.

#### **H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**

##### **• Other Trustee Reports**

7. Report #2 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held November 13, 2007)  
Approved recommendation re Joint Use Agreement.
8. Report #1 of the Audit Committee (From the Meeting Held November 21, 2007)
  - a) Approved recommendations re:
    - Audited financial statements
    - Establishment of operating reserve
    - RFP for external auditor

- b) Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding how much parents are paying in fees (e.g. Schedule A – transportation fees and Schedule E - student fees of the audited financial statements) with a comparison to previous years.
  - c) Trustee Esslinger requested that information be provided to trustees regarding how additional monies from the operating reserve might be spent to meet student needs.
9. Motion re Revision to Board Policy JAB.BP – Formal Delegations, Presentations, and Comments to the Board

Approved recommendation.

10. Motion re Elimination of the Sale of Junk Food

- a) The board heard from the following speakers:
  - Wendy Keiver
  - Amanda Beisiegel
  - Randy Lee
  - Lynn Odynski
  - Karen Bridges
  - Terry McKinnon
  - John Spence
  - Nancy Rempel

b) Approved recommendation.

11. Trustee Subcommittee Review of 2006-2007 School and Central Department Results

a) Received for information.

- b) Trustee Gibson made the following suggestions:
  - Have a roll up of the information for students who did not write achievement tests because they are in non-graded programs.
  - Have a common definition of at-risk students so that growth could be shown at the district-wide level
  - Determine transition rates for students in specialized programs moving back into mainstream programs
  - Develop some comparable HLAT test for measuring math level growth
  - Obtain a district wide picture at each of the divisions what percentage of our teaching staff are trained in best practices; e.g., balanced literacy, Power of 10, etc.

c) Trustees identified the following:

- Shortage of support staff, custodial staff and supply staff and the need to identify strategies for recruitment and retention
- Difficulty finding qualified teaching staff for second language programs
- The need to revisit the timing of teacher recruitment to make earlier offers
- Mentorship of first and second year teachers
- Providing assistance to low-enrolment, single-administrator schools; e.g., implementation of PO&M and Occupational Health and Safety requirements
- The need to identify a strategy to ensure equity of bus service for all schools with alternative schools (e.g., dedicated routes and ride times)
- Cost of technology
- Low-enrolment schools not able to operate without the support of parent councils. Concern with equity between schools without access to school council fundraising
- The need for a well-thought-out policy to deal with staff and students with health risks due to allergies to minimize risk to those individuals and the district liability.
- Some new immigrant parents resistant to having their children tested which makes it difficult to provide appropriate programming
- PUFF grants ending and then needing to transition those students to regular funding
- Students are leaving our system to attend IB elementary and junior programs in the separate system
- Cost of text books as we change courses
- Staffing component moving up to 90% and 10% SES
- After-hour community access to school facilities
- Review the time allotted for results review presentations
- Staff health and wellness
- Consider addressing overcrowding at Woodside by providing access to closed schools and their gyms
- Programs in competition with each other – high school in-house outreach and outside outreach
- Consider centralizing maintenance work to maximize dollars

12. Edmonton Public Schools' Annual Education Results Report: 2006-07

Approved recommendation.

**H. • Other Trustee Reports**

1. Trustee Fleming reported that he both he and Trustee Esslinger had attended the ASBA Zone 23 General Meeting. The Minister of Education presented awards under the new Accountability Pillars entitled the Minister's Education Leadership Recognition Award. The district received the most awards.

A Certificate of Recognition for significant improvement was awarded for:

- Safe and Caring
- Education Quality
- Diploma Examination Participation Rate
- Transition Rate
- Citizenship
- School Improvement
- Fine Arts
- Program of Studies
- High School Completion Rate
- Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate
- Work Preparation
- Parental Involvement
- Practical Arts
- Healthful Living
- Other Non-Diploma

The district also received a Certificate of Recognition for very high achievement in Diploma Exam: Excellence

2. Trustee Rice, on behalf of the District Priorities Committee advised that the committee will be inviting the district's various stakeholder groups to be involved in a public consultation process regarding the development of Edmonton Public Schools' 2008-2011 District Priorities.

The process will be held during December 2007 and January 2008, and includes seven face-to-face meetings with the District's various stakeholder groups. These group meetings will be held at the Centre for Education and will include principals, teachers, the District's staff groups representatives, junior and senior high school students, and representatives from businesses, community organizations and post-secondary education institutions.

There will also be two face-to-face meetings that include parents, guardians and the general community. One meeting will be held at a school on the north side and the other will be hosted at a south side school.

Each group will be asked to reflect on the district's existing priorities and advised that the 2008-2011 District Priorities must be aligned with the Accountability Pillars mandated by Alberta Education.

In addition, those stakeholders not formally invited to or unable to participate in the public consultation process can offer their feedback through an online survey.

At the February 5, 2008 Conference Committee meeting, the District Priorities Committee will provide the Board with a report that includes a summary of stakeholder feedback and the proposed priorities.

At the February 12, 2008 public board meeting, the District Priorities Committee will be recommending the 2008-2011 District Priorities.

The District Priorities Committee will share consultation dates and additional details with the Board through Transmittal Memorandum.

3. Trustee Huff advised of the following:
  - November 14, 2007 - She visited Jasper Place School to learn about the STAR Program
  - November 14, 2007 - She attended the SAGE Awards which honours senior citizens who have made outstanding contributions to public service
  - November 16, 2007 - She, Trustee Gibson and Westmount Principal Robert Smilanich visited the Aboriginal Youth Family Wellbeing and Education Society to learn about their work to help Aboriginal students.
4. Trustee Gibson advised that on November 20, 2007 he attended the Ward 1 session regarding a vision for the City 2040. 40 residents were in attendance and they were split into four working groups – the four groups separately identified the desire Edmonton to be known as centre of learning, excellence and achievement and developing knowledge-based society.
5. Trustee Ripley advised that she attended the ASBALE (Alberta School Boards Association for Languages Education) professional development session at the recent ASBA Fall General Meeting. The topic of languages education was discussed and she suggested that this might also be a topic for a future Parents as Partners meeting.

6. Trustee Esslinger advised that on November 8, 2007 she attended the Robert Bateman science curriculum launch at Parkdale School. Trustee Huff attended the same presentation at Elmwood later that day.
7. Trustee Esslinger advised that yesterday she had attended the Lance Roberts presentation who discussed facilities and learning environments and the link to achievement. She indicated she would provide copies of the handouts to trustees.
8. Trustee Esslinger noted she had attended the Police Commission's invitation to Youth in Transition Evening on November 20, 2007. The superintendent presented the district's perspective at this function.

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

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

Trustee Gibson requested a report on the processes and the supporting documentation since June 2004 that illuminate the values, the discussion with the community and the outcomes of all of the work around the use of district space. Also include a discussion around the underlying values and beliefs of the district regarding student accommodation in district schools. Also provide information on the cost of operating schools at different enrolment levels; e.g., information from the ASBA regarding the cost differential of operating schools with less than 100 students.

**K. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

*That an Ad Hoc committee of the Board be established to review the school closure process and impose a one year moratorium on the closure of any district school until this review is complete and recommendations stemming from the review have been duly considered by the Board.*

*The scope of the committee's review shall include, but not be limited to:*

- *broad consultations with the public to determine their support for school closures*
- *evaluating the full impact of school closures on community*
- *evaluating EPSB policies to ensure equity in the promotion of all district schools*
- *evaluating EPSB policies regarding capping school sizes to facilitate a more even distribution of students*
- *transparently identifying the actual savings of closing a school*

- *assessing current research on the value of a small school versus a big school education*
  - *reconsidering the timelines in the current Sustainability Review Process to allow schools sufficient time to implement ideas before initiating the school closure process*
  - *exploring expanded interagency and intergovernmental partnerships to support schools with declining enrolment*
- and most importantly:*
- *fully explore options other than school closure to respond to declining enrolment*

Trustee Esslinger requested that the motion be deferred to the January 15, 2008 board meeting as both she and the superintendent will be away for the December 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

**L. Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

**M. Duration of Meeting:** 6:00 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.