

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #2 -

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, November 8, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Svend Hansen

Wendy Keiver
George Nicholson
Don Williams

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Betty Tams
Donna Barrett

Bob Holt
Ron MacNeil
Corinne McCabe

Tanni Parker

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Pam Crozier

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers: Mark Ramsankar, President
CUPE Local 3550: Trudy Grebenstein, President

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

Mrs. Sherwood reported that all trustees were present.

B. **O Canada**

Mr. Geoffrey Evans, a teacher from L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy, accompanied on the violin by Ewald Chung, lead in the singing of O Canada.

MINUTE BOOK

C. Remembrance Ceremony:

1. L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy Remembrance Ceremony

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report entitled ‘L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy Remembrance Ceremony’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. Communications from the Board Chair - None

E. Communications from the Acting Superintendent of Schools - None

F. Minutes:

2. Board Meeting #18 – October 11, 2005

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #18 held October 11, 2005 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

3. Organizational Board Meeting – October 25, 2005

MOVED BY Trustee Keiver:

“That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held October 25, 2005 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Focus on Student Achievement:

4. George P. Nicholson School – Focus on Inquiry

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“That the report entitled ‘George P. Nicholson School – Focus on Inquiry’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MINUTE BOOK

H. Reports:

5. Response to Delegation from the Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations (NAARR)

MOVED BY Trustee Williams :

- “1. That the district examine the issues raised by NAARR as part of its review of the Multicultural and National Identity policy.
2. That the district increase the accessibility of professional development in diversity for all staff.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)
6. Successful Completion of High School Courses and High School Completion Rates

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘Successful Completion of High School Courses and High School Completion Rates’ be received for information.”

Trustee Hansen asked that the following questions be responded to via TM:

- What are the major reasons that district numbers are below the provincial completion rates?
- Is there data available to compare the district to other metro districts?
- Are lower completion rates an anomaly that occurs in metro districts? (e.g. larger populations)

Trustee Gibson asked that the administration prepare a report explaining whether the strategies outlined in this report are sufficient to meet the goal statements in the district’s Three-Year Education Plan. He further requested that the report analyze course completion data to evaluate whether cooperative education opportunities, such as enrolment in the Registered Apprenticeship Program or work experience, contribute to higher levels of course completion; e.g., Does enrolment in RAP or work experience appear to contribute to higher percentages of course completion for Applied Math 20?

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MINUTE BOOK

7. Alberta Education Diploma Examination Results

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report entitled ‘Alberta Education Diploma Examination Results’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

8. Advanced Placement Examination Results: 2005

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the report entitled ‘Advanced Placement Examination Results: 2005’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

9. International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2005

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the report entitled ‘International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2005’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

10. Alberta Education Achievement Test Results: June 2005

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the report entitled ‘Alberta Education Achievement Test Results: June 2005’ be received for information.”

Trustee Gibson requested comparable data for the province for students in Grades 3, 6 and 9 as was provided in the Alberta Education Achievement Test Results Report for the district.

Trustee Hansen requested that district results be provided along with the cohort data for all district students who write the tests in the next round of reports.

Trustee Colburn suggested that the district/board identify the concerns regarding cohort data and communicate those concerns to the minister.

Trustee Keiver requested that administration provide the results of the Alberta Achievement Tests for French Immersion students by grade, school and subject.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MINUTE BOOK

There was a short break at this point.

11. Student Transportation Services

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the report entitled ‘Student Transportation Services’ be received for information.”

Trustee Gibson requested that in-depth information be provided regarding the impact on enrolment of no-charge transportation service for kindergarten students.

Trustee Keiver referred to the proposed adjustment of elementary school hours of operation to decrease ride times for students in areas without schools and requested that a cost comparison, taking into account that double runs would increase expenditures while allowing for the decreased expense for some buses, be provided. She also requested that specific examples of predicted reduced ride times be included.

Trustee Keiver requested a response to the following questions:

- If the district were to have a north side site for the Tevie Miller/Heritage and L. Y. Cairns programs; could these two programs co-exist in the same facility? If not, why?
- What would the initial cost to the district be to establish new sites for these programs at one site or two sites? Provide details on necessary physical plant modifications, renovations, funding for resource materials, books, teaching tools, etc.
- How would these costs compare to the estimated costs for providing city-wide transportation to the existing sites into the future anticipating increased ridership, expenses and ride times?

Trustee Keiver requested information on all other district programs such as L. Y. Cairns and Tevie Miller for which the district currently provides city-wide transportation either by provincial requirement or district policy (locations, number of students transported, etc.

Trustee Keiver referred to the Student Transportation Liaison Committee, and asked whether any consideration has been given to coordinating bus services and routes with Edmonton Catholic Schools and, if so, when and with what results.

Trustee Gibeault suggested some changes to the Conditional Ridership Form to better clarify for parents that conditional ridership is not guaranteed; when parents can expect to be notified if ridership is granted; some explanation for the time lag for notification; and some indication of what the fees might be.

MINUTE BOOK

Trustee Colburn asked that, when the report on transportation costs is brought to board, comparative information on Edmonton Catholic Schools transportation services be provided where possible.

Trustee Esslinger asked how many students without a designated school are attending alternative programs.

Trustee Fleming requested clarification about the number of students riding buses to alternative programs.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

12. External Retrospective Review of the 2005 School Closure Process

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘External Retrospective Review of the 2005 School Closure Process’ be received for information.”

Trustees Colburn and Gibson requested that Ms Bidulock’s verbal introduction summarizing the report conclusions be made a matter of public record.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

13. Community Use of School Facilities Consultation Group

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the report entitled ‘Community Use of School Facilities Consultation Group’ be received for information.”

Trustee Gibeault suggested that Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and the Edmonton Sports Council be invited to participate in the study.

Trustee Gibeault requested that the status of the AUMA resolution encouraging greater after hours community use of schools be provided.

Trustee Gibeault suggested that the Board Chair inform Councillor Leibovici of the consultation process.

MINUTE BOOK

Trustee Fleming suggested that a representative from provincial government be invited to participate in the study and that the appropriate ministry be advised of the difficulties schools are having in providing community access to schools.

Trustee Hansen suggested that the Mayor be asked to advise Council of the Joint Use Review Process.

Trustee Fleming requested that a letter be sent to the Minister advising that the board is undertaking the consultation process.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the meeting be extended beyond 9:00 p.m.”

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Hansen and Nicholson

The Motion was CARRIED.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

14. Perspectives and Initiatives Regarding Community Access to Schools

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the report entitled ‘Perspectives and Initiatives Regarding Community Access to Schools’ be received for information.”

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That an opportunity be provided for community members to speak to the topic of community access to schools.”

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Fleming, Hansen, Nicholson and Williams

The Motion was CARRIED.

MINUTE BOOK

Representatives of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and the Edmonton Sports Council provided their comments with regard to Community Access to Schools Task Force. They suggested that groups that are currently not able to access school space should be consulted. They noted that there are discrepancies in the statistical data provided by the district and the data provided by the city. They suggested that the sports groups identified for consultation may be major users but are not major sports groups. They suggested that when establishing the meeting dates, the volunteers be consulted to ensure that the right volunteers are able to participate in both meetings.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

15. Response to Trustee Request for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Keiver:

“That the report entitled ‘Response to Trustee Request for Information’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

16. Bereavement

The board vice-chair reported on the death of Mrs. Pearl Major, a member of the teaching staff.

MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Gibeault:

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

I. Committee and Board Representative Reports – None.

- **Community Relations Activities – None.**

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Kathryn Burke, Past Member of Strathearn School Council, encouraged the board to have Jenise Bidulock’s comments made public. She commended the board for their public consultation process with respect to community use of schools and for the growing recognition of the importance of schools to the community. She also encouraged the board to advise all elected officials about the issues of concern to the public.

MINUTE BOOK

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson requested that a report be provided regarding the existing initiatives for ongoing dialogue with Edmonton's Aboriginal community.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

That the board send a letter to the Minister of Education, including the report delivered to Public Board on September 27, 2005, regarding the decline in the number of teacher librarians and counsellors in schools today and urging that new levels of funding and support be provided.

M. Meeting Dates:

DATE	MEETING	COMMENCEMENT TIME
November 29, 2005	Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: (9:50 p.m.)

The chairman adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Secretary