

**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 16, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees**

Leslie Cleary  
David Colburn  
Sarah Hoffman

Michael Janz  
Cheryl Johner  
Heather MacKenzie

Catherine Ripley  
Ken Shipka  
Christopher Spencer

**Officials**

Edgar Schmidt  
David Fraser

Mark Liguori  
Ron MacNeil  
Jamie Pallett

Tanni Parker  
Brian Smith  
Tash Taylor

**Board Chair:** David Colburn

**Secretary:** Anne Sherwood

**Recording Secretary:** Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

**Staff Group Representatives**

Edmonton Public Teachers – Ed Butler, President

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all Trustees were present.

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### **C. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair advised that Trustee Ripley will be seeking the position of Vice-President of the Alberta School Boards Association at the elections in the Fall Annual General meeting this weekend. The Board is pleased to endorse her candidacy for this important position. He encouraged Trustees to promote Trustee Ripley's candidacy with colleagues and friends on other school boards.

The Board Chair welcomed Mr. Will Simpson and Dr. Maureen Stratton who were present in the audience along with 70 students from the Education 551 course at Concordia University College Faculty of Education. The Education 551 students are required to observe a public school board meeting to assist them in understanding the governance structures in public education. The course examines the complex systems within Alberta's public education system - the organizational, legal and social structures that are evident in a dynamic public educational environment.

The Board Chair advised that the annual joint meeting of Trustees and authority representatives from all School Boards in the Region as well as Superintendents and Chief Executive Officers to network with partners such as Alberta Health Services, Child and Family Services, City of Edmonton, Solicitor General and Public Security was hosted by our District last night at Amiskwaciy Academy.

The Board Chair advised that the Metro Board Chairs and their Superintendents have been invited to attend a meeting with the Minister of Education on Monday, November 29, 2010.

The Board Chair noted that the agenda would be re-ordered as follows: Report 18 Sector Reviews: Update will be dealt with at 8:00 p.m. and report 8 will be dealt with before report 7.

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

The Superintendent advised that on September 29, 2010 Ms Laura Delahaye of Weinlos School received a 2010 Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) Teacher Award. The Teacher Awards Program recognizes excellence in teaching math and science and annually celebrates innovative and creative teaching. This year 27 district teachers were recognized by APEGGA.

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The Superintendent advised that, on November 5, 2010, he represented the District at the Racism Free Edmonton initiative launched at City Hall. Racism Free Edmonton is a collaborative group of Edmonton organizations that have come together to build a racism free, inclusive community that respects diversity. Edmonton Public Schools is one of the 14 partners involved in the initiative.

The Superintendent advised that, On Tuesday, November 9, 2010, the City of Edmonton recognized Edmonton Public Schools as one of its program partners in the 2010 Capital City Clean Up campaign. Mayor Mandel presented the District with a glass trophy to thank all of the schools that took part in the program. Each school contributed by having students and staff picking up litter in the school yards and neighboring communities. These efforts helped to make Edmonton one of the cleanest cities in Canada.

### **E. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #19 – September 14, 2010

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #19 held September 14, 2010 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

2. Board Meeting – September 17, 2010

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That the minutes of the Board Meeting held September 17, 2010 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

3. Board Meeting – October 22, 2010

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Johner:**

**“That the minutes of the Board Meeting held October 22, 2010 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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### 4. Organizational Board Meeting – November 2, 2010

Trustee Johner noted a correction on page 15 of the minutes – the Africa Centre is at Wellington School.

**MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:**

**“That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held November 2, 2010 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### **F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

Ms Gina Shimoda, whose children attend George P. Nicholson School, referred to the information contained in report 20 *Responses to Board Requests for Information and* expressed concerns with respect to the safety of WiFi in schools. She provided information on this issue to the Board Secretary for Trustee information.

### **G. Reports**

#### 5. Report #1 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held November 9, 2010)

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“1. That Report #1 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held November 9, 2010 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“2. That, subject to the approval of the Minister of Infrastructure, a land sale to the City of Edmonton of 0.001 hectares of the Victoria School site in the amount of \$1.00 be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

#### 6. Actions Taken by the Superintendent of Schools Under Delegation of Authority

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Actions Taken by the Superintendent of Schools Under Delegation of Authority’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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8. Motion re Establishment of a Special Needs Task Force

The Board heard from the following speakers who spoke with respect to the establishment of a Special Needs Task Force.

Ms Lori Fankhanel  
Ms Kathryn Burke  
Ms Wendy McDonald  
Ms Tammy Sasyniuk-Miniaci  
Ms Laura Zacharuk  
Ms Kim Guay  
Mr. Dave Kinders  
Ms Madeline Rainey  
Mr. Connor Rainey

**MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:**

**“That the Board establish a task force to review and make recommendations on special needs education in order to enhance the education and outcomes for all special needs students. The terms of reference would be developed by the task force and approved by the Board.”**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Hoffman, Janz, Johner, MacKenzie, and Spencer**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Ripley and Shipka**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

7. Motion re Commitment to Discussions with Provincial and Municipal Governments re School Space

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“That the Board reaffirm its commitment to discussions with the provincial and municipal governments regarding all possibilities related to space including school closures, school viability and community buildings.”**

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**Trustee Janz proposed the following friendly amendment:**

**“That the motion be amended to add Edmonton Catholic Schools as one of the participants in the discussions.”**

**The Amendment was accepted by General Consent.**

**The Board Chair called the question on the Recommendation as Amended.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

9. Policies Bulletin for the 2010 ASBA Fall General Meeting

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**“That the Board’s position with respect to each of the ASBA policy positions proposed for the 2010 ASBA Fall General Meeting be approved.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The Board took a short break at this point.

18. Sector Reviews: Update

Ms Roy McCallum, Dialogue Partners, joined the meeting via video conferencing.

**MOVED BY Trustee Johner:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Sector Reviews: Update’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:**

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

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10. Alberta School Boards Association's (ASBA) Request for Input from EPSB

**MOVED BY Trustee Johner:**

**“That the responses to the ASBA’s questions about ‘Sustainable Predictable Funding’ be approved for submission to the Zone 2/3 ASBA Advocacy Committee.”**

Trustee Janz requested that a reference be added for the desire for local control (i.e., taxation authority).

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

11. Policy Review – IF.BP - Safe, Caring and Respectful Learning Environments

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That new Board Policy IF.BP - Safe, Caring and Respectful Learning Environments be considered for the third time and approved.”**

**Trustee Shipka proposed the following friendly amendment:**

**“That the last sentence of the policy be amended to read: *The Board expects that school and District staff will be respectful of the concerns of students and their families and will work with them to provide appropriate supports and resolve their issues in a timely manner.*”**

**The Amendment was accepted by General Consent.**

**The Board Chair called the question on the Recommendation as Amended.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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12. Review of Board Policy AGA.BP – Recognition of Students, Staff, Parents and Community

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That revised Board Policy AGA.BP – Recognition of Students, Staff, Parents and Community be considered for third time and approved.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Board members suggested that information regarding nomination forms and nomination procedures be featured more prominently on the District website.

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

13. Review of Board Policy JBD.BP – Protocol for Trustee Recognition at School or Public Events

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That revised Board Policy JBD.BP – Protocol for Trustee Recognition at School or Public Events be considered for third time and approved.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

14. Review of Board Policy JJ.BP – Assisting Community Organizations

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That revised Board Policy JJ.BP – Assisting Community Organizations be considered for the third time and approved.”**

**Trustee MacKenzie proposed the following friendly amendment:**

***“That the second last sentence of the policy be amended to read: School sanctioned participation in the collection of goods and funds is permitted; the canvassing for funds from individual students and staff on school premises is prohibited.”***

**The Amendment was accepted by General Consent.**



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**MOVED BY Trustee MacKenize:**

**“That the policy be referred to the Policy Review Committee for clarification.”**

**The Board Chair called the question on the Referral Motion.**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Hoffman, Janz, Johner, MacKenzie, Shipka and Spencer**

**OPPOSED: Trustee Ripley**

**The Referral Motion was CARRIED.**

15. Policy Review – EBC.BP – Emergency Plans

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That revised Board Policy EBC.BP – Emergency Plans be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

16. Policy Review – ECA.BP – Security and Vandalism

**MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:**

**“That revised Board Policy ECA.BP – Security and Vandalism be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

17. Accountability Pillar and Student Achievement Results

**MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Accountability Pillar and Student Achievement Results’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

19. Webcasting of Public Board Meetings

**MOVED BY Trustee Johner:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Webcasting of Public Board Meetings’ be received for information.”**

Trustee MacKenzie requested that, for the report being prepared for board, consideration be given to excluding the cost of Communications staff time.

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Trustee Hoffman requested that the report also include information on the number of people who watch archived copies of the webcasts.

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

### 20. Responses to Board Requests for Information

**MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Responses to Board Requests for Information’ be received for information.”**

Trustee Cleary advised that she will provide her questions regarding WiFi in writing to the Administration.

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Hoffman, Janz, Johner, MacKenzie, Ripley and Spencer**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Cleary and Shipka**

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

### 21. Bereavement

The Board Vice-Chair reported on the death of Mrs. Elzbieta Krupkiewicz, a member of the custodial staff.

**MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Hoffman:**

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

## **H. Trustee and Board Requests for Information**

Trustee Ripley requested that an analysis be done of how the proposed framework for the new *Education Act* aligns with the Board’s stated priorities for the new *Education Act* and with respect to the Minister’s transformation of the education system.

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Trustee Spencer requested that information be provided regarding what initiatives are currently underway in District schools to support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans-Identified and Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ) youth. What are some of the best practices adopted by other jurisdictions to create engagement with sexual minority communities, particularly in response to recent high-profile suicides in North America linked to homophobic bullying?

Trustee Hoffman requested that information be provided regarding the 2009-2010 school class size information (maximum, minimum and mean) for each of the grade levels at each of the schools that were closed during the 2010 summer break.

Trustee Hoffman requested that information be provided regarding the 2010-2011 school class size information (maximum, minimum and mean) for 2011 school year for the designated receiving schools of those students who relocated following the school closures of the 2010 summer break.

Trustee Johner requested that information be provided explaining the costs associated with 2009-2010 school closures. This report should include the total cost breakdown including transportation of technology (computers and SmartBoards), transportation of equipment (such as desks, library materials and office equipment) and repurposing of school space (such as lowering water fountains, lease hold improvements, locker installation, additional supplies as well as staff costs) that were required to ensure appropriate accommodations for the relocation of students.

Trustee Janz requested that information be provided regarding student population projections for Edmonton compiled by the City and Province for the year 2020 and beyond if such information is available.

Trustee Janz requested that a summary identifying previous attempts and outcomes by the Edmonton Public School Board to change Provincial funding formulas regarding utilization rates since 2000 be provided.

Trustee Cleary requested that an updated version of the leasing summary board report dated June 15, 2010 be provided. This update should also include information regarding who determines the rates and categories for these spaces. The update should include information pertaining to Strathearn, Ritchie, McCauley, Fulton and Capilano Schools.

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Trustee Cleary requested that a comparative analysis of utilization rates (Alberta Commission on Learning, area capacity utilization and optimal enrolment limit) for each school currently on the sector review list be made as well as the utilization rates for those schools over the last 10 years.

Trustee Shipka requested that information be provided on the savings expected over the short and long term from closing the five schools and one program (infrastructure and personnel, etc.).

Trustee Ripley, as the Board's representative on the Edmonton Public Schools District Foundation's Board of Directors, reported that she and Trustees Cleary, Johner and Colburn as well as the Superintendent attended the Mad Hatter's Tea Party on November 3, 2010. She gave each Trustee a hat, each of which were created by district students. She commended the organizers for a successful event.

Trustee Cleary reported that she had attended the following:

- The Mad Hatter's Tea Party on November 3, 2010. She commended the staff at Tipaskan School where the event was held, particularly the custodial staff, for their efforts. She noted comments were made that Tipaskan School is a shining example of excellence inside and out from the floors to the ceiling.
- PSBAA University Year I from November 3 to 6, 2010
- MLA Carl Benito's 2010 Eagle Awards of Excellence Night November 6, 2010. Catholic School Trustee Laura Thibert was also in attendance
- The Racism Free Edmonton Kick-Off event November 5, 2010. She is proud of the District's participation in this initiative and is pleased to continue working in this area with Councillor Amarjeet Sohi in Ward 12
- The District Art Event partnership with the Edmonton International Airport on November 3, 2010. She brought greetings on behalf of the Board.

Trustee Cleary noted that, on November 8, 2010, she convocated from Grant MacEwan University School of Business Executive Leadership in Non-Profit Sector Program and received her post-diploma certificate.

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**I. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Hoffman served notice of the following motion:

*That the Board impose a renewable two year moratorium on school closures, and that during this time the board seek to further understand the issues and impacts surrounding school closures. During the moratorium, the board will also identify a number of ways to support schools instead of close them.*

**J. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.**

**K. Adjournment: 10:20 p.m.**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary