

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #16 -

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, October 10, 2006 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

Lyall Thomson
Donna Barrett
Ron MacNeil

Corinne McCabe
Tanni Parker
Edgar Schmidt
Betty Tams

Bruce Coggles
Bev Crossman
Bryan Evans
Henry Madsen
Sherri O'Keefe

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Edmonton Public Teachers: Mark Ramsankar, President

A. **O Canada** – *District 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 announced that the Provincial Executive Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association has proclaimed October 10 to 14, 2006, as Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week throughout Alberta. Schools are encouraged, during this week especially and throughout the year, to recognize the contributions substitute teachers make in providing continuity to the learning experiences of district students. The district values its substitute teachers and applauds the excellent work they do.

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The board chair advised that Mr. Will Simpson was in attendance at the meeting with a number of students from a Concordia College after-degree education class that both he and Dr. Maureen Stratton-Lemieux teach. The course focuses on issues in the organizational framework of teaching and one of the requirements of the course is that students attend a school board meeting.

The board chair noted that trustees and members of administration participated in Read-In Week activities during the past week. Read-In Week not only provides an opportunity to visit schools and meet many staff and students, it is also an opportunity to bring attention to the importance of literacy in our daily lives.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #15 – September 26, 2006

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #15 held September 26, 2006 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Focus on Student Achievement:

2. Technology – AISI Project Update

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the report entitled ‘Technology – AISI Project Update’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Reports:

3. Report #14 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held October 3, 2006)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“1. That report #14 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held October 3, 2006 be received and considered.

2. **That, effective immediately, the deletion of Kevin Stevenson from the roster of persons available to preside at student expulsion and student reinstatement hearings on behalf of the superintendent, be approved.”**

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The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

4. Board Evaluation

Trustee Hansen, Chair Board Evaluation Committee, provided a verbal report with respect to the results of the board's self-evaluation.

MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

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

Trustee Nicholson noted that trustees had agreed that the verbal report would be available on the district website.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

5. Proposed 2006 - 2007 Annual Implementation Plan - Ten-Year Facilities Plan

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault :

“That the proposed 2006-2007 Annual Implementation Plan be approved.”

Ms Sue Huff, Chair Westglen Advocacy Group, advised that in the four months since learning that Westglen School had been placed on the Sustainability Review List the Advocacy Group has met with trustees, MLAs and city Councillors. Parents are spearheading an initiative to bring back the community school designation and MLA Bruce Miller will be introducing a private members bill to bring this initiative back. The work of the group has revitalized the school and the community; the school climate has changed and community schools need to learn how to promote themselves as much as alternative program schools. She concluded by saying that solutions can be found to save community schools if they are given the time necessary to respond.

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The board chair called the question.

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn and Nicholson

The Motion was CARRIED.

The board took a short break at this point.

6. School Closure Policy Review

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

**“1. That revised Board Policy FL.BP – School Closure be introduced.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“2. That revised Board Policy FL.BP – School Closure be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“3. That revised Board Policy FL.BP – School Closure be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Update on Major Maintenance Plan

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“That the report entitled ‘Update on Major Maintenance Plan’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

8. Balwin and Holyrood Schools Modernization Projects

MOVED BY Trustee Keiver :

“That the report entitled ‘Balwin and Holyrood Schools Modernization Projects’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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9. Fourth Quarterly Report: June 1, 2006 to August 31, 2006

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the report entitled ‘Fourth Quarterly Report: June 1, 2006 to August 31, 2006’ be received for information.”

Trustee Gibson suggested that the staff numbers provided on page five of the report be accompanied by decision unit information in future reports so that trustees can see the movement within various departments relative to their budget documents.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

10. Response to Trustee Request for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

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

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports

• Community Relations Activities

Trustee Keiver reported that the Linkages Committee met last week and received a presentation by Fraser Mustard regarding the importance of health and education services being provided to children in a consistent manner. A subcommittee was established to set direction and identify common areas of strength and concern for the agencies serving children in Region 6.

Trustee Keiver reported that last year PSBAA offered a one-year free trial membership for non-member boards. Nine boards took advantage of the offer and to date four new boards have taken out full membership in PSBAA.

Trustee Esslinger advised that she and representatives from Calgary Public, Calgary Separate and Edmonton Separate had attended the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) Conference in Phoenix on behalf of the ASBA. She noted that boards throughout North America face the same challenges with growing numbers of ELL and high school completion challenges. The ASBA will be hosting a similar conference for Canadian urban boards at the CSBA Congress in July of 2007.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

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Mr. Mark Ramsankar, President Edmonton Public Teachers, advised that October 5, 2006, was World Teachers' Day and noted that the local appreciates the Board's recognition and support of this event and Substitute Teachers' Day. He noted that highlighting the work of teachers to the community is a positive reflection of the board. He also extended an invitation to Trustees to attend the New Teachers' Induction Ceremony on November 13, 2006, at Barnett House.

Ms Madeline Rainey advised that her recent correspondence addressed to the board chair has gone unanswered -- she has received a response from the superintendent. She also expressed her concerns regarding the cost to parents of field trips which are part of the curriculum. She questioned whether schools are required to distinguish between field trips which are extra-curricular and those that are curricular. She also expressed concern regarding the consent form that requires a parent to accept unlimited liability in regard to their child attending a field trip. She provided a copy of her comments to the board chair and superintendent.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Colburn requested information regarding the guidelines and practices that guide the district with respect to school fees.

Trustee Gibson requested an update on where the district is in the process of reopening the junior kindergartens.

Trustee Esslinger requested an update on student transportation with respect to the shortage of drivers and the initiatives undertaken to address this.

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motions:

1. *That the sale of junk food be eliminated from all district schools.*
2. *That subject to support of the above motion, that the administration be directed to deliver a report to Public Board no later than February 27, 2007, on the process and timeframe necessary to achieve this end.*

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2006
Organizational Board at 7:30 p.m.

M. Adjournment: (8:30 p.m.)

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The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary