

**MINUTE BOOK**

**- Board Meeting #4 -**

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 25, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees**

Leslie Cleary  
David Colburn  
Sarah Hoffman

Michael Janz  
Cheryl Johner  
Catherine Ripley

Ken Shipka  
Christopher Spencer

**Officials**

Edgar Schmidt  
Bruce Coggles  
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:** (2:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood advised that Trustee MacKenzie was absent and that Trustee Cleary would be arriving shortly. All other Trustees were present.

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

The Board Chair advised that, at the October 11, 2011 board meeting, Board Policy IEC.BP – Student Admission to the District was considered for the first and second time. Normally, the policy would have been brought to next board meeting for third consideration and final approval; however, it will be brought to the November 8, 2011 board meeting to allow time for the information requested at the last meeting to be provided.

The Board Chair advised that, on Friday, October 21, 2011, he attended the performance of the Shandong Performing Arts Troupe at Dovercourt School. He commended the Confucius Institute.

The Board Chair advised that, on October 26, 2011, the Edmonton Public Schools District's Foundation will be launching the Full-Day Kindergarten Program at Lauderdale School.

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

The Superintendent advised the District is being featured in an upcoming Chinese language documentary by Omni Canada, highlighting the District's long standing commitment to Mandarin bilingual and second language education. The documentary will also feature the supportive work of parents through the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association, an important partner that supports the program in numerous ways. The Board will be advised when the documentary will be aired.

The Superintendent reported that he, along with Assistant Superintendent Coggles, hosted Mr. Steve Munby, Chief Executive of the National College of School Leadership from the UK last Friday afternoon. Mr. Munby was here speaking at a conference and had asked to meet with Edmonton Public School representatives to learn about the District and our leadership development approaches. They visited two schools with him and had an opportunity for deeper dialogue regarding their mutual challenges and opportunities for addressing ever changing educational contexts. Mr. Munby stated how impressed he was with the District principals, and with all leadership staff attending the conference – specifically referring to their commitment to professionalism and passion for educating all students.

The Superintendent advised that, this afternoon, *Art in the Centre* will be taking place. Families have been invited to the Centre to view their children's art being featured throughout the building.

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**E. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #3 – October 11, 2011

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #3 held October 11, 2011 be approved as printed.”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**Trustee Cleary was not present for this item.**

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

Mr. Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers, expressed support for the motion regarding Provincial Achievement Tests.

**G. Tracking Progress and Excellence in the 2011-2014 Priorities**

2. The Milk Revolution at Westglen School

**MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:**

**“That the report entitled ‘The Milk Revolution at Westglen School’ be received for information.”**

Trustee Cleary arrived at this point in the meeting.

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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### **H. Reports**

3. Report #2 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings September 20, 2011 and October 18, 2011)

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

- “1. That Report #2 of the Conference Committee from the meetings held September 20, 2011 and October 18, 2011 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Shipka, Chair Board and Superintendent of Schools' Evaluations Committee, read the following verbal report with respect to the interim evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools:

*The Board of Trustees recently completed an interim review of the Superintendent of Schools. This evaluation was for the period of November 2010 to April 2011, and reflects on the work of Superintendent Edgar Schmidt. The Board and Superintendent of Schools Evaluations Committee will determine the timeline and process for the final evaluation.*

*The review and evaluation of the Superintendent by the Board is a very important process as the Superintendent is responsible for ensuring the priorities, mission, and vision set by the Board on behalf of the community are advanced. The Superintendent is evaluated in six categories including vision and leadership, Board and Superintendent relations, communications, management, personal attributes and accomplishments. Trustees rate the Superintendent against established criteria for each category. The evaluation process also includes a review of the specific goals and outcomes the Superintendent has identified. During the evaluation, Trustees were asked to consider the Superintendent's work in relation to the Board's mission, district priorities, achievement results, satisfaction survey results, as well as his work with the Board in general.*

*In its interim review, the Board noted Mr. Schmidt's effective work with staff at various levels, and that he has effectively surrounded himself with a strong team. The satisfaction results from staff identified strong support for his leadership and direction. The Board also remarked on an appreciable improvement in the Superintendent's communication to the Board, anticipation of issues, prompt notice of potential media issues, and the timeliness of responses to constituent concerns. Communications to Trustees and staff are always professional and promote confidence in a well-run/fair district employer.*

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*The Board views that central reorganization of Assistant Superintendents has been positive with much more focused attention to support school leaders and staff, including faster and better responsiveness to issues and development of leaders. The Board appreciates that Mr. Schmidt has high expectations, which is a critical factor in good management of the District's resources.*

*Support to the Board in developing a new vision, mission and priorities with a new group of Trustees has been noticed and appreciated, as it is important work in the District. This work lays the foundation for a district wide plan for public Education in Edmonton with "on the ground" accountability.*

*The interim review identified areas for improvement for the Superintendent in working with the new Board. These include the method and comprehensiveness of information received in Board reports. Reports could be strengthened by including risks, implications, advantages, and disadvantages to objectively demonstrate all sides of a situation. Timeliness of responses to Requests for Information could be also be improved. The Board will continue to work with the Superintendent to strengthen Board and Superintendent relations to ensure a climate of support and mutual respect.*

*Finally, the Board commends the Superintendent for his continued dedication to student achievement and success of all children. With this, the Board is pleased to seek Ministerial approval to reappoint Mr. Schmidt as Superintendent of Schools for a three year term from May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2015. The Board looks forward to continued success and further achievements to be accomplished together.*

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**"2. That the verbal report regarding the interim Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools be approved."**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

- “3. That, in accordance with the *School Act* and Alberta Education’s Superintendent of Schools Regulation, authorization for the Board Chair to seek the approval of the Minister of Education to reappoint the Superintendent of Schools for a new three-year term effective May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2015 be approved.**
  
- 4. That, subject to the approval of the Minister of Education, authorization for the Board Chair to sign on behalf of the Board a new three-year contract of employment with the Superintendent of Schools effective May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2015 be approved.”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

4. Board Authorization of Trustee Absence

**MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:**

**“That Board authorization for Trustee MacKenzie to be absent from board meetings from September 27, 2011 to December 13, 2011 inclusive be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Motion re Provincial Achievement Tests

**MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:**

**“That the motion regarding provincial achievement tests be deferred to the November 8, 2011 board meeting.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

6. Request from Renew 1.1.2

The Board heard from Mr. Ben Hartt.

The Administration will bring forward a recommendation with respect to the request of Renew 1.1.2 to the next board meeting.

The Board took a break at this point.

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7. 2010-11 Edmonton Public Schools' Student, Parent, Staff and Community Satisfaction Surveys

**MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:**

**“That the report entitled ‘2010-11 Edmonton Public Schools’ Student, Parent, Staff and Community Satisfaction Surveys’ be received for information.”**

Trustee Hoffman requested that historical information be provided regarding what factors may have caused the changes in the level of confidence of principals and central services staff in the Board of Trustees in the past.

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

8. African Centre Parent Information Sessions  
9. Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (EPS Foundation) Progress Report

**MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:**

**“That the reports entitled ‘Africa Centre Parent Information Sessions’ and ‘Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (EPS Foundation) Progress Report’ be received for information.”**

**The Board Chair called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

10. Bereavement

Vice-Chair Hoffman reported on the passing of Mrs. Wendy Konoza, a member of the District’s teaching staff.

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

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

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### **I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**

Trustee Ripley, the Board's representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, did not have a report at this time.

Trustee Colburn, the Board's representative on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors, reported that the Board of Directors had their first-ever video conference meeting from Banff on October 13, 2011. Several video conference meetings will be held in place of in-person meetings as a cost-savings measure. He reported on the following from the meeting:

- There was discussion of the request the ASBA in response to the Minister of Education for boards to determine whether they wish to delegate the ASBA to represent their interest in the tripartite discussions. The Edmonton Public School Board will be considering its position is on this matter in the near future.
- A report was received from the ASBA's Political Advocacy Task Force which recommended that the ASBA would be more effective if it had the ability to respond to "hot topics" in public education – even if these issues aren't dealt with in current Association policy. Presently, ASBA's advocacy is only linked to existing policy so this would give the ASBA the opportunity to lead discussions on emerging issues. This proposal will be presented to Zones and Metro boards over the next few weeks. He noted that of the four issues identified by the Advocacy Committee which would benefit from school boards' input – two are of considerable interest to Edmonton Public Schools – child obesity and supports for sexual minority students.

Trustee Johner, the Board's representative on ASBA Zone 23, did not have a report at this time. She noted that the next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on October 28, 2011.

Trustee Shipka, the Board's alternate representative on the Public School Boards Council (PSBC), did not have a report at this time.

Trustee Spencer, the Board's representative on the Capital Region Services to Children Linkages Committee, reported that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2011.



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Trustee Spencer, Chair of the Advocacy Committee, invited Trustees to provide their comments and thoughts on the letter that was distributed at the beginning of the meeting by the Superintendent and prepared by the Administration with respect to the Board's input regarding the *Education Act* (Bill 18).

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**“That the Board move in-camera to discuss the Board's submission with respect to the *Education Act* (Bill 18).**

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

**OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Ripley and Spencer**

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

As the *Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives* agenda item is time definite for 5:00 p.m., the Board Chair delayed moving in-camera until after 5:00 p.m. and moved to the next agenda item.

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

Trustee Cleary made the following request:

- a. Investigate and provide a comprehensive report on the Mental Health Strategy Framework to report on:
  - How is it aligned with the District?
  - Ways it could be strengthened to realign with the District?
  - Identify barriers in the Framework for the District.
  
- b. Investigate and provide a comprehensive report back on the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction – a new Alberta initiative launched earlier this month to report on:
  - Opportunities for the District and provide comments on the awards program and how the District may be able to be part of this initiative.

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Trustee Hoffman made the following request, in followup to a professional development session for Trustees recently on school fees:

- Provide a brief report identifying how much the District collected in instructional fees from parents/guardians last year. Present this data both as a total summation as well as an average per student.
- Provide information on how this amount compares to other metro boards and instructional fees in Alberta – if this data has already been compiled.

Trustee Hoffman requested that a status update regarding the recommendations brought forward by the Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee last year be provided. This update should include what has been done to date as well as the next steps to prevent bullying the district with their anticipated time lines.

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

The Board moved in-camera at 5:05 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 5:30 p.m.

**MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:**

**“That the letter with respect to the Board’s input regarding the *Education Act* (Bill 18) be approved as amended and that the Board Chair be granted the authority to finalize and sign the letter.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Cleary provided the following report with respect to her activities for October.

- She attended a significant professional development opportunity in Calgary called the Communities Collaborating Institute with the Tamarack Institute. There were 250 members from across Canada in attendance. Participants engaged in smaller learning pods, as well as one-to-one sessions with plenary speakers. Providing ideas for multi-sector engagement and collective impact were just a few of the many workshops that were held. As a result of this week-long learning session, she will be putting to use many of the ideas to practice in her ward engaging the community in the work of the district.
- She participated in Read-In Week activities at Daly Grove, Satoo, Kameyosek, and Bisset schools and brought her companion animal, Koda, along to read with the students at Ekota School which is part of a larger monthly commitment she has to literacy.

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- She participated in the J. Percy Page School Volunteer Fair, last week.
- She attended the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Fall MLA reception, the PSBAA Trustee University education sessions, and the PSBAA Annual General Meeting.
- She is looking forward to hosting her third *Conversation Café* for parents this week on the topic of funding and fundraising and to participating in the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues' Living Local conference at the end of the week.

Trustee Cleary concluded by thanking all the principals, administrators, parents, and community members who make up Ward I –Mill Woods including Ellerslie and Summerside which makes Ward I, in her view, the best ward to serve as Trustee.

**L. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Shipka served notice of the following motion:

*That the Board develop a policy related to student placement and retention that is in accordance with the legislation under the School Act and recognizes parental involvement in the placement of their child.*

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

*That, in order to accommodate Board meetings ending before 5:00 p.m., people wishing to speak under the 5:00 p.m. 'Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives' agenda item be required to pre-register.*

**M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2011**

**N. Adjournment (5:40 p.m.)**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary