



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Summary of Board Meeting #6 Held Tuesday, November 29, 2011

A. O Canada:  (2:00 p.m.) – *District O Canada Video*

B. Roll Call: All Trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

- a) The Board Chair advised that White Ribbon Campaign began November 26th and will run through December 6th. 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 and staff member with a white ribbon.
- b) Vice Chair Hoffman reported on the meeting she and the Superintendent attended on November 18, 2011 with Minister of Education Thomas Lukaszuk. Also in attendance were representatives from Alberta Education as well as the board chairs or vice chairs and superintendents from many other Alberta School Boards Association Zone 23 boards.

They took the opportunity to address:

- Some of the strengths and weaknesses in the proposed the *Education Act*
- What we are doing to support early education including programs that the District and the Foundation offer in terms of full-day kindergarten
- Sharing the benefits of the \$7 million funding returned to the district this fall
- Celebrating the increase in high school completion within the district

Some of the key messages the Minister communicated included:

- Unrolling a ten-point plan for education that he referred to as “our marching orders” in the upcoming few months
- Examining the role of Provincial Achievement Tests and reviewing the current process of administering them.
- Exploring how kindergarten is offered and supported with no changes to take place September 2012 but the possibility there could be changes in 2013.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

- a) The Superintendent reported on the formal openings of the following two educational resource centres in the past two weeks:
 - November 16, 2011 – the District opened the First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Learning Resource Centre which hosts print and multi-media materials, as well as Edu-Kits – hands on resources – in support of supporting FNMI perspectives and understandings into the curriculum. The resources are available for review and sharing.
 - November 28, 2011 – the District opened the French Language Resource Centre, making print and multi-media resources available to staff. Both resource centres are located at the Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education at Woodcroft School.
- b) The Superintendent reported that Alberta Education will inject \$1.3 million to help school boards across the province to increase SuperNet capacity. This will help our District realize the potential of increasing demands for digital, online information by increasing the bandwidth of current infrastructure. This is very good news for the District as we are quickly approaching the limits of current bandwidth.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #5 – November 8, 2011

Approved with amendment on page 10 – the second sentence of Trustee Ripley's report from the Foundation should read: *The full-day kindergarten at Lauderdale is possible because of a five-year commitment made by the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation. The full-day kindergarten programs at Tipaskan and Mee-Yah-Noh are made possible through the generosity of many organizations and individuals.*

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

- a) Mr. Butler, President Edmonton Public Schools, advised that the New Teacher Induction Ceremony was held on November 17, 2011 and he thanked the Trustees and the Superintendent who attended the event.
- b) Mr. Todd Herron spoke in favour the proposed new board policy IFA.BP – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

G. Tracking Progress and Excellence in 2011-2014 Priorities

2. Community Partnerships – Received for information.

H. Reports

3. Report #4 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held November 15, 2011)

Approved recommendation.

4. Certificate of Achievement – EPS Purchasing and Contract Services

Received for information.

5. Review of Board Policy IFA.BP - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

a) The Board heard from the following speakers:

- Mr. Jan Buterman
- Reverend Ray Baillie, Edmonton Family Worship Centre
- Ms Laura Gyoba
- Mr. James Ravenscroft

b) Approved the recommendation with the following three amendments:

- First sentence of the third paragraph: *The Board believes that all sexual and gender minority students, staff and families have the right to: ...*
- Third bullet of the fourth paragraph: *Improve understanding of the individual lives of sexual and gender minorities and their families, cultures, and communities.*
- First sentence of the last paragraph: *The Board also recognizes the need to develop and maintain mutually supportive relationships with a variety of sexual orientation and gender identity minority groups in order to ensure the ongoing improvement of the implementation of this policy.*

6. Edmonton Public Schools' Combined Three-Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report 2010-2014

Approved recommendation.

7. Proposed TELUS Cell Phone Tower in Vicinity of Greenfield School

The Board voted not to consider the item.

8. Review of 2010-2011 Results and 2011-2012 Plans and Revised Budgets

Received for information.

9. Feedback Received Regarding Modified District Calendar (Response to Trustee Request #86)
10. Annual Progress Reports to Board (Response to Trustee Request #102)
11. West 8 Project Exploring Half-Day Meetings to Provide Time for Professional Learning (Response to Trustee Request #110)
12. District Policy Review (Response to Trustee Request #115)
13. Criteria/Qualifications for Staff Providing Services for Mental Health and Addictions Counselling (Response to Trustee Request #119)
14. Class Size Breakdown of Ward I Schools (Response to Trustee Request #128)
15. District Survey Historical Information (Response to Trustee Request #130)

Received for information

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

This information will be included in the minutes of the November 29, 2011 board meeting.

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

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information (*see below*)

L. Notices of Motion

a) Trustee Shipka served notice of the following motion:

1. *That the 2012-2013 school year calendar commence one week prior to Labour Day and include a one-week break around the Remembrance Day holiday.*
2. *That the administration survey students, parents and staff after the 2012 break to determine satisfaction with the school calendar.*

b) Trustee MacKenzie served notice of the following motion:

That the Board write a letter to the Government of Alberta requesting that Section 11.1 Notice to Parent or Guardian of the Alberta Human Rights Act be repealed.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

N. Duration of Meeting: 2:00 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.

**TRUSTEE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM BOARD MEETING #6
HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2011**

Trustee	Request
Christopher Spencer	Report #9 - Feedback Received Regarding Modified District Calendar (Response to Trustee Request #86) – Provide a listing of the survey information by postal code.
Sarah Hoffman	What internal advisory committees are active and in place to advance the work of diverse learners within the district? Do any of these committees have external representatives?
Sarah Hoffman	Provide a brief report outlining some of the ways that EPSB shares qualitative data with Alberta Education and other stakeholders.
Cheryl Johner	Provide an overall update regarding the stage of the reorganization of Student Learning Services. Include what has taken place and completed. What is in progress and what has yet to be done?
Michael Janz	Provide a cost-benefit analysis to the Conference Committee with regard to both the District Museum and the Blackboard Deli going forward into the future.