

A. O Canada:  (6:00 p.m.) – *District O Canada Video*

B. Roll Call: All Trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

1. The Board Chair advised that October is Learning Disabilities (LD) Month across Canada and is intended to improve and deepen the awareness of Learning Disabilities.

Most people are not aware that a learning disability is a life-long condition that affects a minimum of 1 in 10 Canadians of all people with average or above average intelligence. Learning disabilities cross all ages, genders, socio-economic, cultural and linguistic groups. It is likely that during your life you will be touched, directly or indirectly, by someone with a learning disability in your relationships with family, friends or co-workers.

2. The Board Chair advised that, earlier this month, he and the Superintendent attended the University of Alberta's Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony. Sandra Woitas received an Alumni Honour Award which recognizes significant contributions to local communities and beyond. Sandra was recognized as a visionary educator who continues to push boundaries to champion top-notch programming for marginalized youth.

The U of A noted the City Centre Education Project bringing together seven inner-city schools to improve learning environments and opportunities for 1,700 disadvantaged children and their families. Her work with Alberta Education, where in partnership with Alberta Health Services she built 32 school-based integrated mental health service sites across the province, was also noted.

Lewis E. Kay, a graduate of Edmonton Public Schools, was also recognized at the event. He is internationally recognized as being in the forefront of the development and application of NMR spectroscopic methods for the study of protein structure and dynamics. He spoke eloquently at the award ceremony on the excellent education he received in Edmonton Public Schools.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

1. The Superintendent advised that three district students were the recipients of 2009 Great Kids Awards from Premier Ed Stelmach and Children's Services Minister Janis Tarchuk. Sixteen students from across the province were selected from nominations in four age categories. The three district students are:
 - Shayne Baumgartner, W.P. Wagner School
 - Taylor Boyko, Grovenor School
 - Dominique Baptiste, Amiskwaciy Academy graduate

2. The Superintendent advised that the five following Edmonton Public School Board teachers have earned a Certificate Achievement for the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence 2009:
 - Kym Francis, Scott Markine, Kristi Specht, the Technology team for grades 7 to 9 at Hardisty School. This teaching team encourages students to use technology to enhance their learning and demonstrate their understanding of concepts and subject matter
 - James Kelso, Marilyn McKnight, grade 7 teachers from the Calgary Argyll Centre. This teaching duo works with students and families to chart a course for learning, helping them choose the optimal location, direction and environment for their education

Award recipients are selected by education stakeholders from across Canada who participate in national and regional selection committees. These stakeholders select recipients based on their innovative use of ICTs in the classroom, the excellence and innovation of their teaching practices, and their ability to achieve outstanding results with students. The recipients have used these qualities to inspire students to learn and continue learning, and to equip them with the knowledge, attitudes and skills needed to succeed.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #2 – September 22, 2009

Approved with the following amendment: The vote indicated at the top of page 10 should read *The Motion was CARRIED*.

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement: An Update on AISI Cycle 4

Received for information.

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Andrea McDonnold-Olson, Westglen Advocacy Group, accompanied by Principal Jody Lundell spoke regarding Westglen School. She noted that there has been a 35.5% increase in the student population this year. There are currently 210 students, of those 85 (40%) are in K and grade 1. She noted that the Administration had projected that the enrolment numbers would remain flat or decline. The enrolment was increased by promoting their neighbourhood school.

H. Reports

3. Report #2 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held September 29 and October 6, 2009)

Approved recommendation.

4. Motion re Ward Boundaries

Approved recommendation.

5. Locally Developed Courses – Additions

Approved recommendation.

6. Surplus School Sites

Approved recommendation.

7. Motion re Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

The motion was defeated.

8. Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Fall General Meeting

Approved recommendation.

9. Student Transportation Service Review Findings

- a) Heard comments from Ms Madeline Rainey regarding special needs transportation.
- b) Received for information.

10. 2008-09 Student, Parent, Staff Satisfaction Survey Results and 2008-09 Community Satisfaction Survey Results

Deferred to October 27, 2009 board meeting.

11. Status Report: Edmonton Public Schools Foundation

Received for information.

12. Responses to Board Requests for Information

a) Received for information.

b) Trustee Colburn, further to response to Board Request #206, requested that examples be provided regarding the practices of other districts regarding volunteerism (either mandatory or otherwise)

The Board concurred with the request.

13. Bereavements

Received with regret.

14. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

1. Trustee Huff reported that, on September 23, 2009, she attended the Raise-A-Reader event downtown along with the Board Chair, the Superintendent and Sandra Woitas.

2. Trustee Huff reported that, on October 1, 2009, she attended a restorative justice conference put on by David Moore. The conference was well attended by staff from Edmonton Public Schools and other school districts.

4. Trustee Huff reported that, on October 4, 2009, Westminster School participated as many schools did in the Run for the Cure event. Westminster School won the School Spirit Challenge as the top fundraiser. The school raised \$38,600. They had 250 members on their team. This is the seventh year in a row that Westminster School has won this award.

3. Trustee Huff reported that, on October 5, 2009, she accompanied Glendale School staff and students to Indigo Books at North Town Mall. The school was the recipient of \$45,000 from the Indigo Books Love of Reading Foundation.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Colburn requested a status report regarding special education transportation:
 - progress on reducing ride times
 - progress on driver training to meet student needs
 - addressing lost instructional time due to excessive ride times

The Board concurred with the request.

2. Trustee Rice requested that information be provided to Trustees prior to results review regarding the attitude survey results for students, staff and parents by ward.

The Board concurred with the request.

3. Trustee Rice requested that information be provided to Trustees prior to results review regarding the five-year rollup of achievement for high schools.

The Board concurred with the request.

4. Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding how widespread the use of restorative justice is in the district; e.g., the number of principals who use it or who have taken the courses.

The Board concurred with the request.

J. Notices of Motion

Trustee Gibson served notice of the following motion:

Notice of motion was waived.

That the Board Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education commending his efforts with the Federal Government in addressing the funding discrepancy between the Government of Alberta and the Federal Government for Aboriginal students.

K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

L. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 9:40 p.m.