

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, September 22, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Sue Huff

George Rice
Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles
Ron MacNeil

Dean Power
Betty Tams

Board Chair: Don Fleming

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Staff Group Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers – Ed Butler, President

A. **O Canada** 

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, last evening, he and the Superintendent attended the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) Teacher Awards Program Excellence in Education Ceremony for Edmonton and area. The Minister of Education was also in attendance.

The Teacher Awards Program recognizes excellence in teaching math and science and annually celebrates innovative and creative teaching through the selection of 16 teacher award recipients across Alberta. Award recipients receive an award and have discretion in spending the \$2,000 awarded to their school to further science or math education. In 2009, the APEGGA Teacher Awards Programs received 157 nominations for Alberta science and math teachers – 43 of which were from Edmonton Public Schools.

Six district teachers were awarded 2009 APEGGA Teacher Awards:

1. Janelle Benedet - Oliver School
2. Kim Burnham - W.P. Wagner School
3. Gregory Henkelman – Strathcona School
4. Justin McMain – Highlands School
5. Amy Peter – Elmwood School
6. David Sobolewski – George P. Nicholson School

The Board Chair advised that, yesterday, he and the Superintendent visited the Queen Alexandra History Centre. The Minister of Education was also in attendance. The Centre, which opened in 2007, brings together skilled personnel from Edmonton Public Schools and other organizations including: the University of Alberta; the Old Strathcona Foundation; Fort Edmonton Park; the Royal Alberta Museum; the Ukrainian Village; and the City of Edmonton Archives.

The Board Chair advised that October 2nd is Custodial Workers Recognition Day. The District appreciates and values the members of CUPE Local 474, our custodial staff, who ensure that our buildings are comfortable, clean and safe for our students and staff and recognizes the contributions custodial staff make in supporting teaching and learning in the classroom.

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The Board Chair advised that October 5th is World Teachers' Day, a day set aside by the world community to celebrate teachers. The District appreciates and values the Edmonton Public Teachers and recognizes the central role they play in nurturing and guiding infants, children, youth and adults through the life-long learning process.

The Board Chair advised that October 5th to 9th is READ-IN. The theme READ-IN 2009 is *Books are windows on the world / Les livres ... une fenêtre sur le monde*. He invited all Edmontonians, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to participate in the many READ-IN activities and special events hosted around the city.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that yesterday, he and the Board Chair had attended the 2009 Laurel Awards. The Laurel Awards were developed and sponsored by the law firm Duncan and Craig LLP for the past 15 years. These awards acknowledge creativity and innovation of charitable organizations who work effectively with volunteers to improve the quality of life of residents in Edmonton and in the region. The role of volunteers plays a key role in the success for many district students. He also noted that he is a member of the selection committee.

- The Bronze Award was presented to Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society. The program provides specially trained dogs to children with autism and their families as a support, protector and positive social link at home and in the community.
- The Silver Award was presented to Big Brothers Big Sisters' program called 5th Dimension After-School Homework Club. This is a university – school – community partnership providing technology-based activities for youth and their families. The program provides rich intellectual and social experiences that promote character and leadership development, academic skills and the ability to work and play effectively with others.
- The Gold Award was presented to the Terra Association for their Youth Leadership Program. The leadership program provides opportunities for teen parents to realize their potential and empower them to make a difference in their community. This is accomplished through developing public speaking and advocacy skills, increasing self confidence and social awareness of issues impacting teen parents and the broader community.

Each of these organizations have had and will continue to have a very positive impact on the community and on the district.

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E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #18 – June 9, 2009

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #18 held June 9, 2009 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

2. Organizational Board Meeting – September 8, 2009

Trustee Shipka referred to page 11 regarding negotiations ad hoc committees and noted that the last sentence should read: *Similarly, no representatives were required for negotiations with custodial, maintenance and support staff for the coming year as these agreements expire August 31, 2011.*

Trustee Ripley noted, with respect to her comments on page 15, that she wanted to commend the people who organized the professional development activity and for the tremendous conversations that took place that day.

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held September 8, 2009 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement

3. Health and Wellness: REAL Kids and APPLE Schools Update

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the report entitled ‘Health and Wellness: REAL Kids and APPLE Schools Update’ be received for information.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mr. Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers, advised that the Local looks forward to continuing collaboration with the Board this year to face the challenges ahead.

H. Reports

4. Report #1 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held September 15, 2009)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “1. That Report #1 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held September 15, 2009 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “2. That, effective immediately, the addition of Mark Liguori, Bob Morter, Carol Symons and Corrie Ziegler as members of the roster of persons available to preside at student expulsion and reinstatement hearings on behalf of the Superintendent of Schools, be approved.
3. That, effective immediately, the deletion of Dennis Huculak, Stuart Wachowicz, and Bonnie Zack as members of the roster of persons available to preside at student expulsion and student reinstatement hearings on behalf of the Superintendent of Schools, be approved.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “4. That the Board of Trustees accept the resignation by mutual consent of the following teacher certificated staff in accordance with Clause 18.1.4.c of the Teachers’ Collective Agreement:

Case Number:

Resignation Date:

2008-2009-1

August 31, 2009”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “5. That the following three actions related to the Board's Communication Plan be pursued during the 2009 – 2010 School Year:**
- a) Revitalizing and energizing the Board's electronic presence**
 - b) Strengthening our network of influence: (including understanding the Board's current network of influence, determining the gaps, identifying opportunities for networking, creating a plan to expand our influence in the community, putting the plan into action)**
 - c) developing information materials around current fiscal challenges to support Trustees' communication efforts in their wards (written, verbal) and/or if they are asked to represent the Board.”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “6. That the Board host a School Council Representative Town Hall Meeting to engage those representatives in a discussion related to fiscal challenges and educational outcomes.**
- 7. That said Town Hall meeting take place in fall 2009 and use technological innovation to foster a climate of creativity and critical thinking and adaptability in which the conversations can take place.**
- 8. That after the meeting and upon evaluation of the results, the Board consider hosting similar meetings with students, staff, and the broader community (or specific sectors within the broader community, e.g., seniors, business, etc.) in the winter or spring of 2010.”**

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MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That Recommendation 7 be amended to read: *That said Town Hall meeting take place in fall 2009 and use technological innovation.*”

The Board Chair called the question on the AMENDMENT.

The Amendment was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That Recommendation 6 be amended to read: *That the Board host a School Council Representative Town Hall Meeting to engage those representatives in a discussion related to fiscal challenges and educational outcomes in a climate of creativity, critical thinking and adaptability.*”

Trustee Gibson offered the following friendly amendment:

“That Recommendation 6 be amended to read: *That the Board host a School Council Representative Town Hall Meeting to engage those representatives in a discussion related to fiscal challenges and educational outcomes (including creativity, critical thinking and adaptability).*”

Trustee Colburn agreed to accept the friendly amendment.

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

The Amendment was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 6 as Amended, Recommendation 7 as Amended and Recommendation 8.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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5. Funds for 2010-2011 Professional Improvement Program

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That the allocation of \$1,200,000 from the 2010-2011 operating budget for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support for the 2010-2011 school year be approved.”

The Board Chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Huff, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustee Gibson

The Motion was CARRIED.

6. Motion re Breakdown of Board’s Budget

Trustee Huff withdrew the motion.

Trustee Huff requested that the minutes reflect that the motion was withdrawn because the information has been provided.

The Board concurred with the request.

7. Motion re Leadership Recognition Program

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“That the Board of Trustees/District establish a leadership recognition program that would recognize district leaders in all designated leadership positions throughout the district. This program would include all staff groups. There would be three levels of recognition -- – gold, silver and bronze. Nomination criteria would be kept as streamlined as possible but include a statement of support from the immediate supervisor. Evidence of results achieved in the areas of responsibility and would include evidence of positive supportive attitude survey results where applicable. Timeline -- develop detailed plan for presentation to the Board by mid-October 2009. Implementation in the 2009-2010 school year with the first round of recognition ceremonies to take place in October/November 2010.”

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

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“That the recommendation be amended to read: *That the Board of Trustees/District establish a leadership recognition program that would recognize district leaders in all designated leadership positions throughout the district. This program would include all staff groups.*”

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Huff, Gibeault, Gibson, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming and Rice

The Amendment was CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That the recommendation be amended to read: *That the Board of Trustees/District establish a leadership recognition program that would recognize district leaders in all designated leadership positions throughout the district. This program would include all staff groups. A detailed plan would be developed for presentation to the Board by mid-October 2009. Implementation in the 2009-2010 school year with the first round of recognition ceremonies to take place in October/November 2010.*”

Trustee Ripley offered the following friendly amendment:

“*That the Board of Trustees/District establish a leadership recognition program within the 2009-2010 school year that would recognize district leaders in all designated leadership positions throughout the district. This program would include all staff groups.*”

Trustee Esslinger accepted the friendly amendment.

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Gibeault and Huff

The Amendment was CARRIED.

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The Board Chair called the question on the following recommendation: *That the Board of Trustees/District establish a leadership recognition program within the 2009-2010 school year that would recognize district leaders in all designated leadership positions throughout the district. This program would include all staff groups.*

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Huff, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustee Gibeault

The Motion was CARRIED.

The Board took a short break at this point.

8. Board Evaluation 2008-2009 Summary Report

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the report entitled ‘Board Evaluation 2008-2009 Summary Report’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

9. Bereavement

The Board Vice-Chair reported on the death of Susan Helgason, a teacher.

MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Huff:

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

10. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Esslinger reported that she represented the Board at the Junior Achievement Adopt-A-School Program launch. This program endeavours to reach 16,000 students with their business education, financial literacy and stay-in-schools programs. It was an opportunity to thank the business community for their donation of over one million dollars to support students.

Trustee Esslinger reported that she and Trustee Huff attended the release of the Task Force information on Safer Communities and received the report with the 10-year plan for the City of Edmonton.

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Trustee Esslinger reported that, today, she attended the Celebration of Edmonton Stories as they launched the awards for those who participated in a program about what's good about Edmonton.

Trustee Huff reminded Trustees that there is a Governors Forum on November 12, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at Barnett House for the Capital Region Services Linkages Committee. Each member of the Linkages committee has been invited to bring three members of their board to the forum. She asked Trustees interested in attending to RSVP directly to her as soon as possible.

Trustee Gibson noted from the minutes of the June 9, 2009 board meeting that he had requested that an item be placed on public board meeting agenda in the fall to discuss timing of budget and results review. He understood that the Administration will be providing information to the Board regarding some new ideas regarding these reviews and asked that, in advance of the work, to consider refocusing the budget review documents around the realignment of resources rather than details of the SES and that, during the fall results review, a detailed dialogue on the budget would be possible once enrolment numbers have been confirmed.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Huff requested that, prior to the Town Hall Meeting, examples be provided of what is currently happening in schools with respect to teaching creativity, critical thinking and adaptability skills.

The Board concurred with the request.

J. Notices of Motion – None.

K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

L. Adjournment: (8:25 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary