

A. O Canada:  (6:00 p.m.)**B. Roll Call:** All trustees were present.**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

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. 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.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.**E. Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting #2 – September 23, 2008

Approved as printed.

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement at Parkview Elementary/Junior High School

Received for information.

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

Received for information.

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports:

4. Report #1 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held September 30, 2008)

Approved recommendation.

Report #2 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held October 14, 2008)

Approved recommendation.
5. Proposed Board Policy GBCB.BP – District Staff Code of Conduct
 - a) Approved amended recommendation (that the last sentence in the opening paragraph of the proposed policy read: ...if staff are in doubt about a situation, they should seek clarification *from their supervisor or the Director of Personnel Staff Relations & Support Services.*)
 - b) Third consideration and final approval of the proposed board policy is scheduled for October 28, 2008.
6. Policy Reviews: DG.BP – Appointment of Principal Banker; DIE.BP – Auditor; DJ.BP – Purchasing
 - a) Approved recommendation.
 - b) Trustees requested that the following information be provided regarding Board Policy DJ.BP – Purchasing prior to third reading:
 - Were ethical and environmental aspects considered in this policy?
 - What be the ramifications of including ethical and environmental considerations?
 - Does the policy adhere to TILMA and NAFTA regulations?
 - What was the initial purpose of the policy with respect to the second statement regarding all things being equal and how often is it relied on?
 - Is the policy still necessary?
 - c) Third consideration and final approval of the board policies are scheduled for October 28, 2008.
7. Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Fall General Meeting
 - a) Approved recommendation.
 - b) Trustee Gibson suggested, in future reports, a sentence or two be included affirming that the board sees value in continued membership with the PSBAA and the reasons why.

I. Other Trustee Reports:

1. Trustee Gibson reported on the Capital Region Services to Children Linkages Committee meeting he had attended as the board's representative on October 9, 2008. He noted that a number of the initiatives (such as creation of child care spaces, early development and learning) currently underway directly support the district priorities and are consistent with the board's strategic plan. He advised that he would provide information to trustees regarding the meeting.
2. Trustee Ripley noted that she had attended an ASBA Policy Review Committee meeting as the board's representative on October 9, 2008. The committee is composed of representatives from each of the ASBA Zones as well as a representative from each of the major urban school boards. The purpose of the committee is to review ASBA policies and directives for action as well as the process for policy development. The committee will meet again on December 5th.
3. Trustee Huff reported on the following:
 - September 24th – she attended the opening of the Prince Charles playground
 - September 26th – she and Trustee Fleming attended the ASBA Zone 23 meeting and she has provided information to trustees regarding that meeting.
 - September 27th – she attended the 50th Anniversary of Ross Sheppard
 - October 9th – she and Trustee Colburn attended a governance session at the University by the Institute of Corporate Directors.
 - October 10th – she and Trustee Gibson met with MLA Raj Sherman to discuss mental health initiatives
4. Trustee Fleming, as President of the Public School Board's Association, advised that there will be an item on the agenda of the upcoming ASBA Annual General Meeting with respect to a resolution favouring amendments to the *School Act* so the appointment of a Superintendent of Schools no longer requires the involvement or the approval of the Minister of Education. He noted that, at the Public School Boards' Council meeting of June 4, 2006, members unanimously adopted the following resolution *That these members favour amendments to the School Act so that the appointment of superintendents does not entail the involvement or approval of the Minister so that the superintendents are responsible solely to their employing board.*

The PSBAA wishes to say (on the floor of the upcoming ASBA annual general meeting) that the Association's 34 member boards unanimously support these amendments to the *School Act*. Trustee Fleming asked trustees if there were any objections to supporting the amendments.

There were no objections raised by the trustees.

5. Trustee Esslinger advised that she had attended the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) Conference held September 25 to 28th. The theme of the conference was preparing to lead 21st Century learners.
6. Trustee Esslinger reported on the ASBA Board of Directors meeting held last week. She noted that two reports regarding choice and the future direction of negotiations will be presented to member boards at the November ASBA annual general meeting.
7. Trustee Esslinger advised that she and Trustees Shipka and Rice attended the opening ceremonies for the Read-In Week. Premier Stelmach was also in attendance.

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

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Colburn requested the following information regarding special needs transportation
 - How many special needs students using district transportation exceed the district's targeted one-hour ride time?
 - How many regular program students using district transportation exceed the district's targeted one-hour ride time?
 - What is the longest ride time on a more or less regular basis for any special needs student (the time between home and school)?
 - How many needs special needs students on a more or less regular basis arrive after the scheduled start time of their school? If so, how late would they be?
2. Trustee Huff requested that the administration investigate the opportunities and costs for trustee professional development regarding governance by the Institute of Corporate Directors. Would the Institute offer a special series of workshops regarding governance for locally elected bodies?
3. Trustee Huff requested information regarding work updating policies and regulations regarding life-threatening allergies.
4. Trustee Huff requested information on the status of the Annual Implementation Plan.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

That all Edmonton Public Schools be required to implement SchoolZone by no later than September 2010.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

N. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.