

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #02 -

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 23, 2008 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
Tanni Parker

Betty Tams

Board Chair: Bev Esslinger

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers: Mark Ramsankar, President

A. **O Canada** 

B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood reported that all trustees were present.

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C. Communications from the Board Chair

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

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 6th to 10th is READ-IN. On behalf of the board of trustees, she invited all Edmontonians to participate in the many READ-IN activities and special events hosted around the city.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent reported on a meeting he had attended last week with principals and school staff regarding support for Métis and Inuit students. There were 44 schools represented as well as staff members from partner agencies such as: Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, Métis Child and Family, Aboriginal Youth and Family Wellbeing Education Society. Six promising practices taken from research were explained by members of the Aboriginal Education Unit, partner organizations and a principal with a high population of First Nations Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students. Principals then worked with partners and the Aboriginal Education Unit to devise a plan for their school based on these six areas. Followup will include meeting with each school or school clusters to provide support (based on the plans) in areas such as linking with the community, providing staff with professional development, developing mentorship programs, etc. The Aboriginal Education Unit also plans to meet regularly with agency staff so that the work remains collaborative and responsive.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #15 – June 10, 2008

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #15 held June 10, 2008 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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2. Organizational Board Meeting – September 9, 2008

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the minutes of the September 9, 2008 minutes be amended to include the amounts of the increases in the superintendent of schools’ salary as well as trustee remuneration and per diem rates.” (ACCEPTED BY GENERAL CONSENT)

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held September 9, 2008 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement:

3. Improving Student Achievement Through the New Teacher Induction Program

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement Through the New Teacher Induction Program’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

4. Proposed Plan for Comprehensive School Health Symposium

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“That the proposed plan for the Comprehensive School Health Symposium as brought forward by the administration be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Borrowing Resolution

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the borrowing resolution, with respect to operating funds, be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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6. Process and Timeline of the 2007-2008 Results Review

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

**“That the process and timeline for review of 2007-2008 results be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

7. Funds for 2009-2010 Professional Improvement Program

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the allocation of \$1,300,000 from the 2009-2010 operating budget for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support for the 2009-2010 school year be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The board took a short break at this point.

8. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the report entitled ‘Responses to Trustee Requests for Information’ be received for information.”

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding the number of schools that have used SchoolZone over the past 3 years. He also requested supplementary information regarding how SchoolZone works and highlights of the program for the benefit of new trustees.

Trustee Esslinger requested that additional information be provided regarding what other school districts are doing with respect to full-day kindergarten research.

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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9. Bereavements

The board vice-chair reported on the following deaths: Mr. Joseph Johnson, Mrs. Teri Taylor-Tunski, Mrs. Laura Isabel Valli and Mrs. Audrey Sielski.

MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Ripley:

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

H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

10. Motion re Change of Board Meeting Date

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That, in light of the federal election, the Board Meeting scheduled for October 14, 2008 be changed to the next day, Wednesday, October 15, 2008.”

The board chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault and Huff

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

The Motion was DEFEATED.

I. Other Trustee Reports

Trustee Rice reported on the September 4 to 7, 2008 PSBC meeting he had attended as the board’s representative held in Elkwater hosted by the Prairie Rose School Division. Trustee Rice forwarded a summary of the meeting to all trustees.

Trustee Ripley advised that she and the superintendent had attended the CASA Annual General Meeting last week. The CASA president gave high praise regarding the work of district teachers in supporting the organization.

Trustee Huff advised that, on September 10th, she attended a Safe and Caring Communities meeting held in the Westmount area. She provided information at that meeting regarding district initiatives to help at-risk youth.

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J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mark Ramsankar, President of Edmonton Public Teachers, brought greetings on behalf of the Local's Executive and expressed appreciation for the collaborative working relationship with the district.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Rice requested that information be provided regarding gender education; i.e., differentiated instruction for males and females.

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding special needs reviews that have been conducted over the past 10 years in terms of the following.

- What were the recommendations coming out the reviews?
- What were the outcomes of the recommendations coming out of the reviews?
- How is the impact of the recommendations monitored?

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided for last year and this month regarding the number of times requests for supply teachers or workers could not be fulfilled due to a shortage of staff.

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided prior to the trustee fall retreat regarding Canadian court cases and existing guidelines on the use of in-camera meetings by elected bodies.

Trustee Shipka requested information regarding the status of initiatives to improve school completion and the transition from school to work.

L. Notices of Motion: None.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2008 – 6:00 p.m.

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N. **Adjournment:** (8:10 p.m.)

The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary