

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #3 -

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, October 11, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Leslie Cleary
David Colburn
Sarah Hoffman

Cheryl Johner
Catherine Ripley

Ken Shipka
Christopher Spencer

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Bruce Coggles
David Fraser

Mark Liguori
Ron MacNeil
Jamie Pallett

Tanni Parker
Brian Smith
Tash Taylor

Board Chair: David Colburn

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Ed Butler, President
CUPE Local 474 – Sonny Kalynchuk, President
CUPE Local 3550 – Carol Chapman, President

B. **Roll Call:** (2:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood advised that Trustees Janz and MacKenzie were absent. All other Trustees were present.

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C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that the final public meeting of the School Closure Moratorium Committee will be taking place this evening at 7:00 p.m. He further advised that he and Trustee MacKenzie will not be able to attend and Trustees Shipka and Spencer have volunteered to fill in and assist Trustee Hoffman. He sought the concurrence of the Board for Trustees Shipka and Spencer to serve on the committee this evening.

The Board concurred.

The Board Chair advised that October is Learning Disabilities Awareness 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 everyone will be touched, directly or indirectly, by someone with a learning disability in your relationships with family, friends or co-workers.

The Board Chair advised that October 2nd was Custodial Workers Recognition Day. The District appreciates and values the members of CUPE Local 474, the custodial staff, who ensure that our 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.

He also advised that October 5th was 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. In recognition of these days the Board of Trustees and the Administration placed ads in local and provincial newspapers.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent reported on his participation in the 12th Annual Seminar for Administrators of Programs for International Educational Cooperation hosted by the Education Ministry of Spain in Madrid, Spain. The topics related to bilingual education in particular, with an emphasis on achievement outcomes for students, assessment frameworks, and latest innovations in programming support.

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He shared information with the conference participants with respect to the work we are doing currently, as well as new innovations emerging in the area of technology in support of bilingual and immersion education specifically and second language education generally. He is proud that the long standing commitment of the Board and of District leadership and staff expertise has helped Edmonton Public Schools to continue to be a world leader in second languages education.

The District has made a commitment to the Common European Framework of Reference for second language outcomes which allows students in immersion and bilingual programs to earn international language credentials – allowing students to attend foreign universities and colleges, as well as to participate in international business opportunities. Other participating delegates expressed interest in following up with the District to see how our work may help them achieve their goals. It was, indeed, a proud moment for Edmonton Public Schools.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #2 – September 27, 2011

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #2 held September 27, 2011 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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

G. Reports

2. Report #1 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting September 27, 2011)

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“1. That Report #1 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held September 27, 2011 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“2. That the nomination of Trustee Ripley for a position on the Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta (PSBAA) Standing Committee on Intra-governmental Political Relations at the PSBAA Annual General Meeting be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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3. Motion re Audit Committee

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

- “1. That the external Audit Committee members receive compensation equal to Trustee per diem to a maximum of six meetings per year.**
- 2. That the Audit Committee be comprised of three Trustee members; one of which is the Board Chair.**
- 3. That the term of the Audit Committee be three years for external members with the first term set to expire October 2013 and that Trustee terms be set for one year like all other Trustee standing committees.**
- 4. That the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee be reviewed and revised accordingly by the Administration with consideration given to ASBA recommendations in order to implement in the current year.”**

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation #1.

IN FAVOUR: Trustee Cleary

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Hoffman, Johner, Ripley, Shipka and Spencer

The Motion was DEFEATED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation #2.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Cleary, Ripley, Shipka and Spencer

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Hoffman and Johner

The Motion was CARRIED.

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At 2:35 p.m. the Board set this item aside temporarily to deal with the following time-specific item.

6. Presentation - EGALE

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the report entitled ‘Presentation – EGALE’ be received for information.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

3. Motion re Audit Committee (Continued)

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation #3 - *That the term of the Audit Committee be three years for external members with the first term set to expire October 2013 and that Trustee terms be set for one year like all other Trustee standing committees.*

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That Recommendation #3 be amended to read: *That the term of the Audit Committee be three years for external members with the first term set to expire October 2014 and that Trustee terms be set for one year like all other Trustee standing committees.*”

MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:

“That, alternatively, Recommendation #3 be amended to read: *That the term of the Audit Committee be three years for external members with the first term of the first external member set to expire October 2013 and that the first term for the second external member be set to expire October 2014 and that Trustee terms be set for one year like all other Trustee standing committees.*”

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Trustee Spencer withdrew his Amendment to the Amendment and then restated it is as follows:

MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:

“That Recommendation #3 be amended to read: *That the term of the Audit Committee be three years for external members with the first term of the first external member set to expire October 2014 and the first term for the second external member set to expire October 2015 and that Trustee terms be set for one year like all other Trustee standing committees.*”

The Board Chair called the question on the Substitute Amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustee Colburn, Hoffman, Johner, Ripley, Shipka and Spencer

OPPOSED: Trustee Cleary

The Substitute Amendment was CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation #3 as Amended.

IN FAVOUR: Trustee Colburn, Hoffman, Johner, Ripley, Shipka and Spencer

OPPOSED: Trustees Cleary

The Recommendation was CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation #4 - *That the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee be reviewed and revised accordingly by the Administration with consideration given to ASBA recommendations in order to implement in the current year.*

Trustee Hoffman suggested the following friendly amendment:

“That the recommendation be amended to read: *That the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee be reviewed and revised by the Administration with consideration given to ASBA recommendations in order to implement in the current year.*”

The Amendment was accepted by General Consent.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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5. Review of Board Policy IEC.BP – Student Admission to the District

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

- “1. That new Board Policy IEC.BP - Student Admission to the District and the rescission of Board Regulation IEC.BR – Student Admission to the District be considered for the first time.”**

Trustee Hoffman requested that supplementary information be provided in the report being prepared for the October 25, 2011 board meeting regarding the rationale for the changes for the policy.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

- “2. That new Board Policy IEC.BP - Student Admission to the District and the rescission of Board Regulation IEC.BR – Student Admission to the District be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The Board took a short break at this point.

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4. 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“1. That provisional Board support for the:

- a) **Approval of the Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting**
- b) **Adoption of the Agenda**
- c) **Appointment of an external Reviewer for the fiscal year 2011**
- d) **Approval of the 2012 Fee Schedule**
- e) **Approval of the 2012 Budget**

be approved.”

The Superintendent advised that Trustees will be provided with clarifying questions for the discussion scheduled at the PSBAA AGM the establishment of a Universal Standards Trust Fund.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That support for the PSBAA Financial Review Committee exploring further, the establishment of a Universal Trust Fund be left to the discretion of the Trustees attending the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta.”

The Board Chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Hoffman, Johner, Shipka and Spencer

OPPOSED: Trustee Ripley

The Motion was CARRIED.

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MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“2. That authorization for the Board’s designate to the PSBAA, Trustee Heather MacKenzie, to vote on behalf of the Board on any motions and amendments considered at the PSBAA Annual General Meeting based on the Board’s provisional support for the above, and views expressed by the Trustees present at the general meeting, be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Student Advisory Committee

8. New Schools Required to Meet Anticipated Student Enrolment in New Neighbourhoods

MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:

“That the reports entitled ‘Student Advisory Committee’ and ‘New Schools Required to Meet Anticipated Student Enrolment in New Neighbourhoods’ be received for information.”

Trustee Colburn requested that information be provided regarding the kinds of student engagement practices taking place with the administrations and trustees of the Metro Boards.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

H. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

10. Community Meeting on the Education Act

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the report entitled ‘Community Meeting on the *Education Act*’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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Trustee Ripley, the Board's representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, advised that as she had reported at the September 27, 2011 board meeting, the Edmonton Police Foundation and the EPS Foundation have partnered to bring inspirational speaker Liz Murray to Jasper Place High School on October 12, 2011. Ten school buses will bring 500 high school students from across the district together to hear Ms. Murray.

Trustee Colburn, the Board's representative on the Alberta School Boards Association Board of Directors, advised that next ASBA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to take place this Thursday in a conference call format. He will report further at the next board meeting.

Trustee Johner, the Board's representative on ASBA Zone 23, did not have a report at this time.

Trustee Shipka, the Board's alternative representative on the Public School Board Council (PSBC), did not have a report at this time.

Trustee Spencer, the Board's representative on the Capital Region Services to Children Linkages Committee, reported that the meeting dates for the Linkages Committee have been established for the coming year. The meetings will take place in the Centre for Education.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Ripley requested the following: If all things were to remain equal for the 2012-2013 school year (e.g. student population numbers, number of school sites), provide information on what the budgetary impacts will be of opening Bessie Nichols and Michael Strembitsky schools in September 2012.

Trustee Cleary requested the following: Provide information regarding a class size breakdown of Ward I schools with consideration of the ACOL Guidelines.

Trustee Spencer requested the following: Summarize arguments for and against maintaining Provincial Achievement Tests, particularly at the elementary level. What alternatives for assessment and accountability are being considered by Alberta Education?

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K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Spencer served notice of the following motion:

That the Board support Premier Redford's pledge to replace Grade 3 Provincial Achievement Tests with more appropriate assessment mechanisms that respect the principles of inclusion, equity and transformation. The Board Chair will communicate this decision to the Office of the Premier. The Board's representatives to the Alberta School Boards' Association and the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta will work to persuade these groups to adopt similar positions.

The Board took a break at this point.

9. Joint (Virtual) Meeting with Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

The Board participated in a joint (virtual) meeting with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. A second virtual meeting will take place in the spring.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: (6:05 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary