

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 13, 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
Tanni Parker

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 Trustee Esslinger would be arriving later in the meeting. All other Trustees were present.

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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. 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 a person's life they will be touched, directly or indirectly, by someone with a learning disability in their relationships with family, friends or co-workers.

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 University of Alberta 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. Ms Woitas' 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

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

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The Superintendent advised that the five following Edmonton Public School Board teachers have earned a Certificate of 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

Trustee Gibeault noted that the vote at the top of page 10 of the minutes should read: *The Motion was CARRIED.*

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #2 held September 22, 2009 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement

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

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement: An Update on AISI Cycle 4’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Andrea McDannold-Olson, Westglen Advocacy Group, noted that there has been a 35.5% increase in the school's student population this year. There are currently 210 students and, 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.

Ms McDannold-Olson was accompanied by Westglen Principal Jody Lundell.

H. Reports

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

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “1. That Report #2 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held September 29, 2009 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “2. That the process and timeline for reviewing the 2008-2009 Results, and approving the 2009-2010 Expenditure Budget be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “3. That the Board provide a letter endorsing the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “4. That the following designation for the period November 2, 2009 to August 31, 2012 be confirmed: Bruce Cline – Director” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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4. Motion re Ward Boundaries

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the Board consider the modification of ward boundaries as per the potential realignment presented by the Administration in the June 9, 2009 Responses to Board Requests for Information report.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Locally Developed Courses – Additions

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the following locally developed courses, currently in use in the District, be renewed for the school years from 2009-2012:

**French as a Second Language K-3
Hebrew Language Arts K-9
Punjabi Language and Culture K-9
Extended Essay 35^a
Theory of Knowledge 25^a
^a Acquired from St. Albert Protestant”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

6. Surplus School Sites

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the declaration of 18 vacant school sites as surplus to the district need be approved.”

Trustee Esslinger joined the meeting at this point.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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7. Motion re Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA)

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That the Board terminate its membership with the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) at the end of its term.”

The Board Chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Gibeault, Gibson and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Fleming, Huff, Rice and Shipka

The Motion was DEFEATED.

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

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“1. That:

- a) provisional support for the proposed PSBAA 2010 fee schedule and Budget and the proposed bylaw amendments; and**
- b) authorization for the Board's designate to the PSBAA, Trustee George Rice, 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.”

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 1a).

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Gibeault and Gibson

The Motion was CARRIED.

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The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 1b).

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger and Gibson

The Motion was CARRIED.

The Board took a short break at this point.

9. Student Transportation Service Review Findings

Ms Madeline Rainey urged the Board not support Stantec recommendation 10.2.1. to reaffirm the policy which would enable the Transportation Department to end the transportation of special needs students to schools other than one to which they are directed. She believed this is discriminatory.

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the report entitled ‘Student Transportation Service Review Findings’ be received for information.”

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the meeting extend past 9:00 p.m.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

This report was deferred to the October 27, 2009 board meeting.

11. Status Report: Edmonton Public Schools Foundation

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“That the report entitled ‘Status Report: Edmonton Public Schools Foundation’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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12. Responses to Board Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

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

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

The Board concurred with the request.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

13. Bereavements

The Board Vice-Chair reported on the deaths of Mrs. Jean Carlson, a member of the District’ support staff; and Mr. Brian Buckhowsky, a member of the District’s teaching staff.

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)

14. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

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

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.

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.

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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

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.

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.

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.

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

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“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.”

The Board unanimously concurred with waiving notice of motion.

The Board Chair called the question.

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The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

L. Adjournment: (9:40 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary