

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #03 -

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 14, 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

Ron MacNeil
Dean Power

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 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. 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

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #2 held September 23, 2008 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Improving Student Achievement:

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

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the report entitled ‘Improving Student Achievement at Parkview Elementary/Junior High School’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

3. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

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

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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H. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

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

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “1. That Report #1 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held September 30, 2008 be received and considered.”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

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

<u>Case Number:</u>	<u>Resignation Date:</u>
2007-2008-1	August 27, 2008
2007-2008-2	August 27, 2008
2007-2008-3	August 27, 2008
2007-2008-4	August 27, 2008”

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “3. That the four-point rating scale for the board evaluation questionnaire be retained for the next board evaluation cycle.
4. That the board evaluation instrument include a section that provides trustees with the opportunity to identify one priority area of improvement.
5. That, for the 2008-2009 board evaluation survey, the administration provide a listing of significant accomplishments over the previous year relative to each of the areas of evaluation.

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6. That the 2008-2009 Board Evaluation Committee be charged with recommending and facilitating a process for regular monitoring and assessment with respect to the five areas identified for improvement from the 2007-2008 board evaluation.

7. That each of the board committees be charged with incorporating those areas identified for improvement relevant to the respective committees' mandates into their work plans and reporting progress back to the Committee of the Whole."

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “1. That Report #2 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held October 14, 2008 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Gibeault, Chair of the 2007-2008 Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools Committee, provided the following report:

The board of trustees recently completed its annual review of the superintendent of schools. This evaluation is for the period of October 2007 to October 2008, and reflects on the work of Superintendent Edgar Schmidt for that period.

The evaluation of the superintendent by the board is a thorough process. The superintendent is evaluated in six categories, including vision and leadership, board and superintendent relations, communications, management, personal attributes and accomplishments. Trustees rate the superintendent against rigorous criteria for each category. Trustees are also given the opportunity to provide additional comments. The evaluation process also includes a review of the specific goals and action plans the superintendent has identified for the term of the evaluation. During the evaluation Trustees were asked to consider the Superintendent's work in relation to the district's mission, district priorities, the Superintendent's decision unit plan and the Board strategic plan.

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In its evaluation, the Board noted Mr. Schmidt's integrity and vision which have brought about a focus and a calm sense of shared purpose to the organization. He has established an expectation that all students will participate fully in the education system and that district staff will strive to prepare all students for high school completion. His commitment to distributed leadership and empowering district leaders was evidenced by his move to place Assistant Superintendents in a line position as direct supervisors of district principals.

The Board is pleased that the high school completion rate has improved again this year and, while the Grade 3 English Language Arts results as an indicator to future schooling success show a slight reduction, the Board expects that the superintendent will implement appropriate supports to address the challenges and to bring about improvements in this area.

The work of Edmonton Public Schools continues to be recognized world wide. This is chronicled in educational publications and requests from delegations to visit the District. The establishment of a Confucius Institute and formal agreements with a number of countries for second language development has contributed to the excellent reputation of our District. The fact that Edmonton Public Schools continues to be highly regarded by other educational communities is a tribute to the exemplary skills Mr. Schmidt brings to the superintendency and his exceptional efforts in advancing the quality of teaching and learning.

Through its positive evaluation, the Board has demonstrated a high level of confidence in Superintendent Schmidt. The Board views him as a man who acknowledges the diversity among the trustees, and who is able to respond to each trustee in a balanced and respectful manner. He is recognized for his excellent interpersonal skills. He acts with integrity, he is credible, he leads by example, and he is a man who holds himself accountable for achieving results.

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- "2. That the verbal report regarding the 2007-2008 Evaluation of the superintendent of Schools be approved."**

The board chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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5. Proposed Board Policy GBCB.BP – District Staff Code of Conduct

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “1. That proposed Board Policy GBCB.BP District Staff Code of Conduct be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “2. That proposed Board Policy GBCB.BP District Staff Code of Conduct Be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “That the last sentence of proposed Board Policy GBCB.BP – District Staff Code of Conduct be amended to 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.*” (APPROVED BY GENERAL CONSENT)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “3. That proposed Board Policy GBCB.BP District Staff Code of Conduct as amended be considered for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

6. Policy Reviews: DG.BP – Appointment of Principal Banker; DIE.BP – Auditor; DJ.BP - Purchasing

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “1. That Board Policies DG.BP – Appointment of Principal Banker; DIE.BP – Auditor; and DJ.BP - Purchasing be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “2. That Board Policies DG.BP – Appointment of Principal Banker; DIE.BP – Auditor; and DJ.BP - Purchasing be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

- “3. That Board Policies DG.BP – Appointment of Principal Banker; DIE.BP – Auditor; and DJ.BP - Purchasing be considered for the second time.”**

Trustees requested that the following information be provided regarding Board Policy DJ.BP – Purchasing prior to third reading:

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- Were ethical and environmental aspects considered in this policy?
- What would 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 statement still necessary?

The board chair called the question.

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Huff and Shipka

The Motion was CARRIED.

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

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“That board support for the proposed PSBAA 2009 fee schedule and budget be approved.”

Trustee Gibson suggested that, 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.

The board chair called the question.

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

OPPOSED: Trustee Gibeault

The Motion was CARRIED.

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I. Other Trustee Reports

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.

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.

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

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*. He asked trustees if there were any objections to supporting the amendments.

There were no objections raised by the trustees.

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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.

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.

Trustee Esslinger advised that she and Trustees Shipka and Rice attended the opening ceremonies for 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

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?

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?

Trustee Huff requested information regarding work updating policies and regulations regarding life-threatening allergies.

Trustee Huff requested information on the status of the annual implementation plan.

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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 – 6:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: (7:30 p.m.)

The board chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary