

Summary of Board Meeting #14
Tuesday, September 11, 2001

- A. **O Canada** – District video.
- B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.) – Trustee Bonko was absent.
- C. **Communications from the Board Chairman**
1. The chairman welcomed everyone back from the summer recess.
 2. The chairman expressed the board's condolences for those affected by the tragedy that occurred in the United States today.

The board then observed a minute of silence.

D. **Communications from the Acting Superintendent of Schools**

Mr. McBeath provided the following information with respect to student enrolment:

- The projected enrolment for 2001/2002 is 81,400.
- The telephone enrolment count was 79,695 on September 4th and 81,373 on September 11, 2001.
- Based on previous trends the enrolment should rise further to 81,600 by September 30, 2001, up 200 students from projected and up 787 students from the 2000-01 September 30, 2000 count.
- Compared with projected enrolments, the following trends are observed:
 - kindergarten enrolment is down 4.3%(264 students)
 - elementary is down 0.1% (47 students)
 - junior high is up 1.0% (180 students)
 - senior high is up 0.5% (547) from projected.
- Total enrolment counts at City Centre elementary/junior high schools is 1,576. This is down 161 from the projected 1,737 students in these schools (including Alex Taylor and Queen Mary Park). Last year's September 30th enrolment at these schools was 1,776.
- 41 students are enrolled in the Spanish Academy at Mill Creek School

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #13 – June 19, 2001
2. Board Meeting – June 28, 2001

Approved as printed. (AS)

F. Focus on Student Achievement

3. Blueprints for Supporting Teaching and Learning

Received for information.

G. Reports:

4. Report #18 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held August 28, 2001)

Approved recommendations re

- 2000-2001 Teacher Certificated Resignations and Retirements
- Teacher Certificated Resignations
- Funds for 2002-2003 Professional Improvement Leaves
- Board Self-Evaluation

The following verbal report was provided with respect to the board's self-evaluation:

The board has conducted an annual board self-evaluation for the past three years of this board's term of office and does so for a number of reasons:

- To facilitate communication and teamwork among board members.
- To enable the board to model its policy of system-wide evaluation (i.e., to hold itself to a standard as it holds others to a standard).
- To assist the board in clarifying its direction to more effectively plan, and provide for, the learning opportunities for children in the system.

In 1998, the board came together as a new working team to develop a goal and plan for its three-year term of office. Trustees developed what they have called a "legacy statement", that they would work towards and that they wanted this board to achieve in its term of office. It was developed as this board's touchstone – it kept trustees grounded and focused on their responsibilities.

They entitled it PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION. The statement reads:

We provided our community with effective leadership, developed strong community support for public education, secured sufficient resources, enabled staff and students to achieve high standards of performance required in a global society and fostered a spirit of cooperation and common purpose in the district.

The board self-evaluation process was modified to assist the board in monitoring its progress in achieving this legacy statement. In reviewing the board's evaluation results for each of the three years, there has been consistent and steady growth in all areas:

- Effective leadership – the board established clear direction for the district's focus on student achievement and instruction – the board's number one priority has been student achievement and it charged the superintendent and administration with finding ways of raising the bar – and the administration has been persistent in seeking out ways in which to make that difference -- we had early reading recovery, small class size project, a focus on numeracy...AISI projects and this work has manifested itself in the Blue Prints initiative.
- Development of strong community support for public education among the public --- the board took a risk in empowering a focus on advocacy among staff and parents through the open and honest sharing of information on the district's resources and needs through our open budget process at the local school level – the board made its own consistent and persistent messages to the Minister, MLA's, Facilities Task Force, Standing Policy Committee, Alberta School Boards Association – basically anyone who would listen.
- Securing additional resources – not necessarily sufficient resources --- but additional funding for instruction and infrastructure and building needs – approval for construction of 2 new schools, an additional \$113 million in capital funding, funding for Amiskwaciy Academy, funding for the small class size project, and provincial funding for full half-day kindergarten and ESHIP.
- Enabling staff to achieve high standards of performance through staff development programs, open communication and the creation of a climate of mutual respect and professional confidence ...our training programs for principal preparation and for leadership lead the province and are nationally recognized – the board urged the broadening of professional development to all levels of staff – the board supported the development and implementation of the Blueprints for Supporting Teaching and Learning initiative.

- Enabling students to achieve high levels of performance by providing the educational programming to meet the needs of all students – broadening the view of student success, focusing on a safe and caring environment in our schools and maintaining a zero tolerance for violence.
- Fostering a spirit of cooperation and common purpose in the district – among staff, parents, between the superintendent and the board, and between the board members themselves -- Visitors to the district frequently remark on the consistency of the messages about what it is we are about no matter who they talk to – there has been an alignment of our vision for the district which has permeated the corporate culture and enabled us to focus on our common objectives. 97% of District Staff and 100% of principals regard academic achievement as their top priority

However, the district, the board and the 93 boards preceding it, have never rested on their laurels, ...there is always more that can be done ... new students from year to year to help achieve their goals and dreams. The board encourages the next board of 2001-2004 to:

- Continue to encourage and empower the district to further its instructional focus for student achievement for all its students, The district is poised to make great strides in this area, board members hope the next board will keep up the momentum
- To maintain advocacy for public education and
- To work towards engaging the 70% of the public that do not have children in schools in the cause of a strong public education system.

The realization of the board's legacy statement in any measure must be attributed to the dedication and commitment that senior administration, the rank and file staff and our district's very active parent community have made to these objectives.. The administrator, central service provider, teacher, parent and students are the ones who have found ways of transforming the board's priorities and objectives into reality. In the board's estimation... there is no finer district and the 1998-2001 board of trustees are proud to have been a part of it.

5. Delegation of Authority – Acting Superintendent of Schools – 2001 Summer Recess

Received for information.

6. Motion Regarding Graduate Student Profile

Approved recommendation.

7. Review of Board Policies Re: Appeals and Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives at Board Meetings

Approved recommendation.

Update Policy Manual on district website.

8. Board Policy AB.BP Appeals

Approved recommendation.

9. Policy and Regulation Update FL.BP School Closure

Approved recommendation.

10. Policy and Regulation Update: FB.BR School Reopening

Approved recommendation.

11. Policy Regarding Discrimination and Harassment

Approved recommendation.

12. Process for Results Review and Three-Year Planning

a) Approved recommendation.

b) Trustees requested the following:

- that trustees review no more than four schools per meeting
- that new trustees be paired with an experienced trustee

13. School in Twin Brooks Neighbourhood

A verbal report regarding the status with respect to the progress of construction plans and meetings of the community of the school in the Twin Brooks neighbourhood was provided.

14. 2000-2001 Student-Parent-Staff District Satisfaction Survey Results

Received for information.

15. Community Survey Results 2000-2001

Received for information.

16. Results from the Audit of the HLAT Writing Task: 2001

Received for information.

17. Highest Level of Achievement Test Results: June 2001

Received for information.

18. Advanced Placement Examination Results: 2001

Received for information.

19. International Baccalaureate Examination Results: May 2001

Received for information.

20. Bereavement

Received with regret.

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports – None.

- **Community Relations Activities** – None.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

1. Ms Beaton, president Edmonton Public Teachers, thanked the board for three-years of transforming student lives. She commended board members for their advocacy of public education. She wished board members well in the coming election. She noted that Edmonton Public Teachers would not be holding its own trustee candidate forum, rather teachers will be attending the public ward meetings.
2. Mr. Steve Brodie, thanked the board for the letter of appreciation he had received for his efforts in organizing the tribute to Dr. Dossdall at the June 19, 2001 board meeting.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. The chairman noted the passing of Trustee Bonko's father.
2. Trustee Dean asked for an update on the westend study on junior high spaces.

K. Notices of Motion – None.

L. Meeting Dates:

Date	Time	Meeting Type
Tuesday, October 23, 2001	7:30 p.m.	Organizational Board

1. The chairman noted that the 42nd Annual Awards Night will be held on Thursday, October 4, 2001. The event will honour more than 80 district high school students who have achieved excellence and distinguished themselves in the areas of academic studies, fine arts, athletics, vocational choices and community involvement.
2. The chairman noted that READ-IN 2001 is scheduled for October 1-6, 2001. This year's theme, "*Picture the Word*" focuses on how art enhances the understanding and appreciation of the printed text. READ-IN is a remarkable success story, thanks to the generous support of the district's many partners, community and sponsors. This week-long celebration has renewed interest in and focused on the joy of reading. On behalf of the board of trustees, he invited all Edmontonians to participate in READ-IN 2001, from October 1-6.
3. The chairman acknowledged Trustee Melnychuk's contributions during her terms as trustee.
4. Trustee Melnychuk thanked staff for their help during her terms as trustee. She noted that her time as a trustee has been extremely rewarding.

M. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 7:50 p.m.