



Summary of Board Meeting #16 Tuesday, September 13, 2005

ASSIGN.

A. **O Canada** – District Video.

B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.) - All trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chairman**

1. The chairman advised of the passing of Mr. Don Assheton-Smith, a former Associate Superintendent on August 15, 2005 after a three-year battle with kidney cancer. Mr. Assheton-Smith provided dedicated service to the district for many years before retiring in 1994.
2. The chairman also reported on the passing of Former Trustee Shirley Forbes on September 4, 2005. Ms Forbes served five terms as a trustee from 1961 to 1983 and was chairman of the board during four of those years.
3. The chairman recognized the fund-raising efforts of district students for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

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

The superintendent introduced Mr. Mark Ramsankar, President Edmonton Public Teachers.

E. **Minutes:**

1. Board Meeting – June 28, 2005 - Approved as printed.

F. **Focus on Student Achievement**

2. District Staff Development Plan for 2005-2006 to Support Improved Student Achievement and High School Completion
 - a) Received for information.
 - b) Trustee Gibson suggested that the board set aside some time to articulate its values around professional development so that the district can consider funding in the next budget should AISI dollars no longer be available.

G. Reports:

3. Report #17 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings held June 13, July 26 and September 6, 2005)

Approved recommendations re:

- Superintendent Search Committee
- Appointment of Executive Recruitment Firm for Superintendent Search
- Resignations by Mutual Consent
- Nomination for ASBA Friends of Education Award

4. Delegation of Authority – Superintendent of Schools – 2005 Summer Recess

Received for information.

5. Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools

Received verbal report for information (*a copy of the verbal report is attached*).

6. Process and Timeline of the 2004-2005 Results Review

- a) Approved recommendation.
- b) Trustee Keiver referred to page 2 of the report and requested schools invite other interested parents to the subcommittee reviews in addition to the chairperson of the school council.

7. Support for Elementary Music Curriculum

Received for information.

8. Presentation re Outcomes of the School Closure Summit

- a) Received for information.
- b) Ms Kathryn Burke, Chair School Closure Summit, provided a presentation regarding the outcomes of the summit.
- c) The chairman advised that the information provided regarding the summit will be included as part of the review of the 2005 school closure process and policy review.

9. Review of the 2005 School Closure Process and Policy Review

Received for information.

10. District Actions to Support Achievement of Students from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds

Received for information.

11. Third Quarterly Report: March 1, 2005 to May 31, 2005

Received for information.

12. Response to Trustee Request for Information

Received for information.

13. Bereavement

Received with regret.

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports

• **Community Relations Activities**

1. Trustee Gibeault reported on the recent ASBA Board of Directors meeting and noted that the 2004-2005 Annual Report was presented. He urged trustees to review the Annual Report, noting that on page 7 the district was recognized for receiving a Premier's Award for Innovation and Excellence for its role in the City Centre Education Project.
2. Trustee Gibeault noted that the province has established a committee to review the Renewed Funding Framework. There will be four representatives from the ASBA, two of which will be from the metro boards. There will be two co-chairs – the vice chairman of the ASBA and the Deputy Minister of Education.
3. The chairman noted that he and Trustee Williams had attended the opening of the Argyll Centre at their new location at Terrace Heights School last night.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

1. Deanna Dixon requested that the board provide compensation for the lunch fees and transportation costs for junior high students who had attended Strathearn School.
2. Deanna Dixon requested that information be provided regarding the plans for Strathearn School.

The chairman advised that responses would be brought to the next board meeting for the board's consideration.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Colburn requested that the administration prepare a report on parent fundraising within the district based on asking the following questions of parent council groups:
 1. Does your parent council/association raise money? If yes, how much money was raised last year?
 2. Does your parent council/association raise money through casinos?
 3. How are your fundraising dollars spent?
 4. Do you believe fundraising in your school is:
 - (a) reasonable
 - (b) excessive
 5. Do you feel “pressured” to raise funds to support your school? If yes, please comment.

2. Trustee Keiver requested that information be provided on the exact number of students in the new receiving schools for the closed schools that are requiring lunch supervision services. What is the amount per student that is funded by the district for this supervision? On a school-by-school basis, does that amount cover the actual expense of the supervision or is there a gap which ends up being funded by the individual school and, if so, how much is that gap?

K. Notices of Motion – None.

L. Next Meeting Date: September 27, 2005 – 6:00 p.m. - Board

M. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 9:20 p.m.

**Verbal Report re Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools 2004-2005
Presented at the September 13, 2005 Board Meeting**

The Board of Trustees recently completed its annual review of the Superintendent of Schools. This is the fourth year in which Angus McBeath has served as the superintendent.

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.

Trustees are asked to consider the superintendent's work in relation to the Board's mission, the legacy statement and the district priorities and feedback is provided directly to the Superintendent.

As in the past Mr. McBeath's time as superintendent has been challenging and demanding. With the advent of class size funding, the district received welcome funds to help us meet the provincial targets for district average class sizes. Every dollar went to reduce class sizes across the district. The district also worked through the complex challenges of closing schools, which it is continuing to do. In addition, the district prepared its plans for the new three year planning cycle, despite continuing delays in funding announcements.

Vision and Leadership

Overall, the Board has a high level of confidence in the superintendent's vision and leadership. Trustees are highly satisfied with the superintendent's focus to support the achievement of students and he provides clear expectations for improving teaching and learning.

Board and Superintendent Relations

The Board expressed confidence in the superintendent and the demonstrated climate of professionalism and mutual respect he maintained. The superintendent ensures that reports and recommendations are careful, concise and accurate. The Board recognizes the challenge of anticipating issues and responding with objectivity and sensitivity and it relies on the superintendent to manage issues appropriately.

Communications and Management

The Board was particularly impressed with the Superintendent's communication skills and his ability to engage and inspire a range of audiences. The Superintendent's dedication and commitment to all students is clear.

From the management perspective, trustees have a high level of confidence in the Superintendent's commitment to staff and the negotiation of contracts with all district employee groups. A management issue requiring further attention of the Superintendent relates to student transportation and the accommodation of students.

Personal Attributes and Accomplishments

Trustees have observed and experienced the superintendent's integrity at all times. The board has observed exemplary interpersonal skills, decisiveness, and sees the superintendent as a positive role model to all. The Board expressed high confidence in the continued focus on student achievement, specifically high school completion for all students and superb results from all students.

Without question Angus is leaving us an important legacy. His work with the Board and with staff to do what is right for students is noble and necessary. Angus has done an excellent job as the superintendent. He will be truly missed.