

MINUTE BOOK

- Board Meeting #16 -

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, September 13, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Svend Hansen

Wendy Keiver
George Nicholson
Don Williams

Officials

Angus McBeath
Donna Barrett
Bob Holt

Ron MacNeil
Corinne McCabe
Edgar Schmidt

Tanni Parker
Jerry Bayly

Chairman: Svend Hansen

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers: Mark Ramsankar, President
CUPE Local 3550: Trudy Grebenstein, President

A. **O Canada** – District Video

B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood reported that all trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chairman**

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.

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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.

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

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the minutes of the board meetings held June 28, 2005 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

E. Focus on Student Achievement:

2. District Staff Development Plan for 2005-2006 to Support Improved Student Achievement and High School Completion

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘District Staff Development Plan for 2005-2006 to Support Improved Student Achievement and High School Completion’ be received for information.”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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G. Reports:

Trustee Colburn left at this point in the meeting.

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

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- “1. That Report #17 of the Conference Committee from the meetings held June 13, July 26 and September 6, 2005 be received and considered.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- “2. That an ad hoc superintendent search committee, comprised of Trustees Esslinger, Hansen and Nicholson, charged with facilitating the search for a superintendent of schools and ensuring the full involvement of the conference committee at key points in the process, be confirmed.”**

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- “3. That the appointment of Davies Park to assist the Board in the recruitment and selection of the next superintendent of schools for Edmonton Public Schools be confirmed.”**

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Trustee Colburn returned at this point in the meeting.

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MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- “4. 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>
2004-2005-1	August 30, 2005
2004-2005-2	August 30, 2005
2004-2005-3	August 30, 2005
2004-2005-4	August 30, 2005
2004-2005-5	August 30, 2005
2004-2005-6	August 30, 2005
2004-2005-7	August 30, 2005”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- “5. That the nomination of Lois Hole for a posthumous ASBA Friends of Education Award be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

MOVED BY Trustee Williams:

- “That the report entitled ‘Delegation of Authority – Superintendent of Schools – 2005 Summer Recess’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools

MOVED BY Trustee Williams:

- “That the verbal report with respect to the evaluation of the superintendent of schools be received for information.”**

Trustee Williams, Chairman Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools Committee, provided the following verbal report with respect to the evaluation of the superintendent of schools:

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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.

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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.

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the process and timeline for review of 2004-2005 results be approved.”

Mr. Pallett advised that copies of the 2004-2005 Results Review documentation will be made available for individual trustees for the schools and decision units to be reviewed by that trustee on October 28, 2005 (rather than November 4, 2005 as indicated on page 2 of the report).

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.

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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7. Support for Elementary Music Curriculum

MOVED BY Trustee Keiver:

“That the report entitled ‘Support for Elementary Music Curriculum’ be received for information.”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The board took a break at this point.

8. Presentation Re Outcomes of the School Closure Summit

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘Presentation Re Outcomes of the School Closure Summit’ be received for information.”

Ms Kathryn Burke, Chair School Closure Summit, provided a presentation regarding the outcomes of the summit.

Trustee Colburn requested that Ms Burke comment on whether, in her view, the next report regarding the review of the 2005 school closure process and policy review indicated that the district was on the “right road”.

The chairman ruled that the question was out of order because he did not believe it was fair for Ms Burke to comment prior to the administration undertaking the review.

The chairman called the question on his ruling.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Hansen, Nicholson and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault and Keiver

The Chairman’s Ruling was UPHELD.

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.

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The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

MOVED BY Trustee Keiver:

“That the report entitled ‘Review of the 2005 School Closure Process and Policy Review’ be received for information.”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

MOVED BY Trustee Keiver:

“That the report entitled ‘District Actions to Support Achievement of Students from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds’ be received for information.”

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Hansen, Keiver and Williams

OPPOSED: Trustee Nicholson

The Motion was CARRIED.

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report entitled ‘Third Quarterly Report: March 1, 2005 to May 31, 2005’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

12. Response to Trustee Request for Information

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MOVED BY Trustee Keiver:

“That the report entitled ‘Response to Trustee Request for Information’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

13. Bereavement

The vice-chairman reported on the death of Tony Goossens, a member of the district’s custodial staff.

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

“That the report be received with regret and the actions of the administration in this regard be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports **•Community Relations Activities**

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.

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 whom will be from the metro boards. There will be two co-chairs – the vice chairman of the ASBA and the Deputy Minister of Education.

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

Ms Deanna Dixon requested that the board provide compensation for the lunch fees and transportation costs for junior high students who had attended Strathearn School.

Ms 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.

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J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

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.

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. Meeting Dates:

DATE	MEETING	COMMENCEMENT TIME
Tuesday, September 27, 2005	Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: (9:20 p.m.)

The chairman adjourned the meeting.

Board Chairman

Secretary