

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, June 12, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Leslie Cleary
David Colburn
Sarah Hoffman

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner
Heather MacKenzie

Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka
Christopher Spencer

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Bruce Coggles
David Fraser

Mark Liguori
Ron MacNeil
Jamie Pallett

Tanni Parker
Brian Smith
Tash Taylor

Board Chair: David Colburn

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Ed Butler, President

A. **Roll Call:** (2:00 p.m.)

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

B. **Ta Kanata (O Canada)** 

Ms Lorna L'Hirondelle, FNMI Consultant, Support for Staff and Students, and students Errol Crosby-L'Hirondelle and Sampson Laboucan sang Ta Kanata (O Canada).

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C. Recognition of National Aboriginal Day

1. National Aboriginal Day

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

“That the report entitled ‘National Aboriginal Day’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair noted that, at the May 8, 2012 board meeting revised Board Policy FM.BP - Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Use on District Premises and at District-Sponsored Functions was brought for first and second consideration but was subsequently referred back to the Policy Review Committee for consultation with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee. The policy was to be brought back to this meeting, however, in order to obtain the information requested, the policy will be brought to the September 25, 2012 board meeting.

The Board Chair noted that, at the May 22, 2011 board meeting, Trustee Janz served notice of motion regarding active transportation plans. Trustee Janz has requested that this motion be brought to the September 25, 2012 board meeting.

The Board Chair noted there was an error in today’s agenda order and asked the Board’s permission to move report #8 – Energy Service Company (ESCO) Bylaw up to come after report #6 – 2012-2013 Non-Resident Fees so that all three reports from the Policy Review Committee would be grouped together.

There were no objections.

The Board Chair advised that he and Trustee MacKenzie attended the Edmonton Pride Awards on Friday, June 8, 2012 where the Board received a Pride Award in recognition of its work in the creation of Board Policy IFA.BP - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. He noted that the Board was also recognized for this work by being invited to be the Grand Marshal at the Edmonton Pride Parade held on June 9, 2012. He noted that a number of Trustees were in attendance at the parade as was the Premier, Mayor, members of the opposition parties and participated in the formal ceremony following the parade.

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E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that, at the end of May Alberta Education provided an update to the Accountability Pillar for all jurisdictions. The report included the latest information about high school completion, dropout rates and survey results of students, parents and staff. He was pleased to advised that, in relation to high school completion, the District continues to make gains. We are up 0.7% to 68% (the provincial rate is up 0.5% to 74.1%) for the three-year rate and up 0.5% to 76.1% (the provincial rate is up 0.6% to 79.6%) for the five-year rate. Over the last five years the rate of improvement has been as follows:

- (3 year) EPSB + 3.0% Province +3.0%
- (5 year) EPSB +2.3% Province + 0.7% (EPSB is almost 3 times the rate of improvement of that of the province for the five-year rate)

The Superintendent expressed pride in the efforts of all staff for this improvement.

The Superintendent advised that the dropout rate has declined to 4.3%, which has been noted as a significant improvement. The District's transition rate, which is the rate of transition to post-secondary following high school, is 58.9 % which, while representing a 1% decline, is higher than the provincial rate of 58.4%.

The Superintendent advised that the overall results of students, parents and staff surveys indicate significant improvements in the categories of Safe and Caring and Citizenship. The area that showed a decline in survey results is parent involvement. This will require further study to understand what is going and what can be done about it.

The Superintendent concluded by stating that, overall, he is pleased with the improvements that have been made in high school completion, dropout rates and improvements in the Safe and Caring and Citizenship categories of survey questions. He expressed appreciation for the dedication and efforts of staff, students and parents.

F. Minutes

2. Board Meeting #15 – May 22, 2012

MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #15 held May 22, 2012 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board heard from the following speakers:

- Ms Sarah Hawkins regarding report #15 - District Turf Management
- Dr. Raquel Feroe regarding report #15 - District Turf Management
- Mr. Dale Hudjik regarding report #13 - Listing of School Buildings
- Mr. Dave Harris regarding the “zero grade” practice
- Mr. Ronald Engen regarding the “zero grade” practice

Mr. Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers, wished everyone a good summer and indicated he looks forward to the continued good working relationship between the Local, the Board and the Administration in the coming new school year.

H. Reports

3. Report #10 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held May 29, 2012)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “1. That Report #10 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held May 29, 2012 be received and considered.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “2. That the Administration conduct an analysis of honoraria for board members of at least five comparable school districts and that this information be presented at the next Board retreat. The report should also include information regarding the process these districts take in setting their levels of compensation.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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4. Motion re Reconsideration of Decision of Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)

MOVED BY Trustee MacKenzie:

“That the Board reconsider its decision to purchase a two-year district membership in the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA).”

The Board Chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees MacKenzie, Shipka and Spencer

OPPOSED: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Hoffman, Janz, Johner and Ripley

The Motion was DEFEATED.

There was a break at this point in the meeting.

5. Approval of 2012-2013 Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“1. That the 2012-2013 proposed budget of \$939,499,086 be approved.

2. That the Budget Report for the year ending August 31, 2013 be approved.”

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the Budget Report be amended to add unknown settlements with staff employee groups to the Significant Business and Financial Risks.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Cleary, Colburn, Johner, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Hoffman, Janz, MacKenzie and Spencer

The Amendment was CARRIED.

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MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the Budget Report be amended to add operating space that is not supported by current government per capita maintenance funding formulas and the District’s \$250 million infrastructure/maintenance deficit to the Significant Business and Financial Risks.”

After discussion by Board members regarding the proposed amendment, Trustee Ripley sought permission to withdraw the amendment.

There was no objection.

Trustee Ripley withdrew the amendment.

The Board Chair called the question on the Recommendation 1.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on the Recommendation 2 as Amended.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

6. 2012-2013 Non-Resident Fees

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “1. That the proposed 2012-2013 Non-Alberta Residents and Special Needs Non-Residents fees be approved.

2. That the proposed 2012-2013 International Student Tuition fee of \$11,000 and the International Student Application fee of \$250 be approved.”

Trustee Cleary left at this point in the meeting.

Trustee Hoffman requested that information be provided regarding the policy and/or regulation that relate to non-resident fees.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation #1.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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Trustee Cleary was absent for this vote.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation #2.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Trustee Cleary was absent for this vote.

There was a break at this point in the meeting.

Trustee Cleary returned to the meeting at this point.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – 5:00 p.m.

The Board heard from Mr. Michael Tachynski regarding the “zero grade” practice.

8. Energy Service Company (ESCO) Bylaw

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

“1. That subject to the Board of Trustees approval of the following debenture borrowing bylaw; **BE IT RESOLVED - THAT the Board of Trustees approve entering into an Energy Services Agreement with Ameresco Canada.**” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“2. That By-law No 2011-12-1 be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Shipka:

“3. That By-law No 2011-12-1 be read for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Mr. John Nicoll read By-law No. 2011-12-1 for the first time.

MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:

“4. That By-law No 2011-12-1 be read for the second time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Mr. John Nicoll read By-law No. 2011-12-1 for the second time.

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MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

- “5. That, in accordance with the authority of Section 69 of the *School Act*, By-law No 2011-12-1 be read for the third time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Mr. John Nicoll read By-law No. 2011-12-1 for the third time.

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “6. That By-law No 2011-12-1, having been read three times, be passed.”**

Trustee Ripley left at this point in the meeting.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Trustee Ripley was absent for this vote.

Trustee Ripley returned at this point in the meeting.

7. Review of Board Policy IEC.BP – Student Admission to the District

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “1. That Board Policy IEC.BP – Student Admission to the District be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “2. That Board Regulation IEC.BR – Student Admission to the District be rescinded.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

9. Review of Board Policy AGA.BP – Recognition of Students, Staff, Parents and Community

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “1. That revised Board Policy AGA.BP – Recognition of Students, Staff, Parents and Community be considered for the first time.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

**“2. That revised Board Policy AGA.BP – Recognition of Students, Staff, Parents and Community be considered for the second time.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

10. Review of Board Policy CH.BP – Framework for Policy Development and Review

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

**“1. That revised Board Policy CH.BP – Framework for Policy Development and Review be considered for the second time.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“2. That revised Board Policy CH.BP – Framework for Policy Development and Review be considered for the third time and approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

11. Response to Staff Group Budget Presentations

MOVED BY Trustee Cleary:

“That the report titled ‘Response to Staff Group Budget Presentations’ be received for information.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

There was a break at this point in the meeting.

12. Initiatives re Environment
(Information - Response to Trustee Request #174)

13. Listing of School Buildings
(Information - Response to Trustee Request #175)

14. Guidance and Counselling Initiative
(Information - Response to Trustee Request #190)

15. District Turf Management
(Information - Response to Trustee Request #199)

16. Designated Schools
(Information - Response to Trustee Request #200)

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17. Alberta School Councils' Association
(Information - Response to Trustee Request #204)
18. Feasibility of Term Limits for School Trustees
(Information - Response to Trustee Request #206)

MOVED BY Trustee Spencer:

“That the following reports be received for information:

- **Initiatives re Environment (Information - Response to Trustee Request #174)**
- **Listing of School Buildings (Information - Response to Trustee Request #175)**
- **Guidance and Counselling Initiative (Information - Response to Trustee Request #190)**
- **District Turf Management (Information - Response to Trustee Request #199)**
- **Designated Schools (Information - Response to Trustee Request #200)**
- **Alberta School Councils' Association (Information - Response to Trustee Request #204)**
- **Feasibility of Term Limits for School Trustees (Information - Response to Trustee Request #206)”**

Trustee MacKenzie referred to report #12 – Initiatives re Environment and asked which three schools adopted the organics recycling-composting programs.

Trustee Cleary left at this point in the meeting.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Trustee Cleary was absent for this vote.

19. Delegation of Authority – 2012 Summer Recess

Trustee Cleary rejoined the meeting at this point.

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

- “1. That, in accordance with Sections 67(1), 65(2) and 65(3) of the *School Act*, any special board meetings during the 2012 summer recess be at the call of the Board Chair or, in his absence, the Board Vice-Chair.**

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2. That, in accordance with Section 61(1) of the *School Act*, effective June 13, 2012, delegation of authority to the Superintendent of Schools to make decisions during the 2012 summer recess on behalf of the Board be approved.
3. That a report of all such decisions be brought to the first public board meeting in the fall of 2012.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Ripley, the Board’s representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, reported on the Third Annual *Ready for Life Breakfast*. There was a very strong student presence and student contributions. There was an inspiring video of what it’s like to teach kindergarten for a morning. There was a moving tribute to public school education by Hana Marinkovic. Guests had an increased understanding about public schools as safe and compassionate places that support students while they receive a rigorous and relevant education. She gave a special thanks to Ross Sheppard School for hosting the breakfast and to all the students, volunteers and Foundation staff involved. The outcome of the breakfast was that over 300 guests were in attendance and approximately \$375,000 was raised. There are still contributions coming but this means that we will be able to sustain full-day kindergarten programs at Lauderdale, Mee-Yah-Noh and Tipaskan schools for another school year.

Trustee Colburn, the Board’s representative on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors, advised that the next Board of Directors meeting will be June 14, 2012.

Trustee Johner, the Board’s representative on ASBA Zone 23, reported that, on May 25, 2012, she and Trustee Hoffman attended the Zone 23 general meeting and brought forward three proposed policy positions (health, safety and learning needs of sexual minority students and employees; financial literacy; and mandated kindergarten) to the members of the Zone to vote on. The membership requested that the mandated kindergarten policy position be split into two positions – mandated fully-funded half-day kindergarten and fully-funded full-day kindergarten for children with socio-economic vulnerabilities. All four positions passed and will now be brought to the ASBA Fall General Meeting. The Pembina Hills School Division also brought forward two proposed policy positions both dealing with transportation. One asking for a comprehensive review of transportation funding and the

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other asking for an increase in the funding rate to reflect the actual transportation costs of ECS special needs. Both of the proposed policy issues were passed as well and will also be brought to the Fall General Meeting.

Trustee Shipka, the Board's alternate representative on the Public School Boards Council (PSBC), reported on the PSBAA Spring General Meeting he attended the previous weekend. The Minister presented on a number of things including his three areas of priority are: infrastructure, the *Education Act* and bargaining. He found the professional development courses helpful.

Trustee Spencer, the Board's representative on the Capital Region Services to Children Linkages Committee, advised that the date for the 2012 Governor's Forum has been set. It will take place Thursday, September 6, 2012. It is a full-day program. The main focus will be to provide feedback on the Social Policy Framework for Human Services.

Trustee Ripley, the Board's representative on the former Community Sustainability Task Force, reported on the City Council's Community Service Committee meeting she attended yesterday. Councillors asked questions on and discuss a motion related to the ELEVATE report. Dr. Parker was also in attendance. There were some good questions and comments, and at the end of the discussion, the Committee voted to take forward a three part motion to Council to:

- 1) Endorse the report and suggested framework;
- 2) Focus work on the most distressed neighborhoods with items such as landscaping, business incentives, lifelong learning opportunities etc.; and
- 3) Administration to bring back estimated budget/costs.

The vote by Council on these three inter-related motions will take place Wednesday, June 20, 2012. The agenda with the precise wording will be posted on the City website.

Trustee Johner reported on the event she attended at the Africa Centre last Friday that was a collaboration between the Africa Centre and the Native Counselling Services of Alberta to celebrate the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation. It was an excellent celebration of story-telling, drumming, dancing and enjoying lunch and conversation. The spirit of the event was awareness, respect and cultural reconciliation. There were many other agencies that were working in partnership on this celebration including the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation, Somali Canadian Education and Rural Development Organization, John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights, Edmonton Heritage Council, Boys and Girls Club, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Edmonton and area. She urged her colleagues to consider attending this event next year.

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Trustee Johner reported that, last Sunday, she was put in a “live fire” situation as part of the Emergency Response Career Pathways (ERCP) Program offered by Centre High. Students in this program have the opportunity to experience practical exercises in the Career Pathways of Fire, Police and Paramedics. The Edmonton Fire Department has a Fire Rescue Training Centre in the west end where they have special buildings to train firefighters. Her group was suited up in the fire safety equipment and sent into a burning building. She found it to be an incredible experience. She encouraged her colleagues to participate in next year’s event.

Trustee Cleary advised that, on June 7, 2012, she attend the First Nations Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Celebration for Aboriginal Graduates hosted at J. Percy Page School. She thanked the FNMI and Diversity Unit who did an outstanding job recognizing the District’s Aboriginal graduates. It was an impressive event that recognized the achievements of approximately 300 Aboriginal graduates this year in the district.

Trustee Cleary advised that, on June 11, 2012, she attended the REACH Edmonton Council Board meeting. A number of Trustees and the Superintendent were also in attendance. Both boards and organizations are clearly aligned with ensuring positive outcomes for families and students. It is through this deliberate communication and collaboration that allows us to move positively from collecting data to collective action and impact.

Trustee Hoffman noted the significant contribution of over \$30,600 Vimy Ridge Academy students made last week to Habitat for Humanity. She attended the Vimy’s on June 7th where the students were recognized for their efforts. Not only will the money they raised support a house for Edmontonians but there is also a contribution moving forward for a family in El Salvador.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Shipka requested that the following information be provided:

- Approximately how many schools permit students to bring their smartphones to the classroom?
- What would be the benefits and the drawbacks about the District fostering students bringing their own portable technology to class so that every student could use their mobile device as a pedagogical tool?

Trustee Cleary requested that information be provided regarding the community engagement practices employed by the Vancouver School Board.

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Trustee MacKenzie requested that the following information be provided regarding funding for First Nations Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students:

- a description of the manner in which principals will report on how they spend their FNMI funding and what impact the funds are expected and demonstrated to have.
- information about how the Board will be apprised of this information (i.e. will it be through Results Reviews? The annual report? A supplementary summary report?)
- a description about how this information will be shared with various FNMI communities and about how feedback will be gathered to improve the administration of funds.
- typical explanations that administrators give to students and families for why they might want to identify as FNMI if asked – what benefit it may have to their education.

Trustee Spencer requested that information be provided regarding whether there would be implications for the District, in particular around the budgeting process, if elections are moved from the fall to the spring.

Trustee Spencer requested that information be provided regarding zero-based budgeting that the provincial is moving towards in terms of what extent the practice is used in the District. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of adopting the zero-based approach for decision units?

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee MacKenzie served notice of the following motions:

1. *That, beginning in November 2012, the Board hold weekly public Board meetings Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m., and weekly Conference Committee meetings Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. as needed. There will be regularly scheduled breaks from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. on days when Conference Committee meetings are held.*
2. *That the Administration determine and implement a Work Load Assessment Tool for Trustees and the Board as a whole.*
3. *That the Administration implement a mechanism for determining demand for alternative programs and language options among those families who do not yet have children in our programs. Including families with children who are 0-5 and families who have chosen to send their children to schools outside of the District as there is currently no public school with their desired program in their desired location.*

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BY-LAW NO. 2011-12-1

A BY-LAW RELATING TO THE ISSUE OF DEBENTURES OF THE
EDMONTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7 OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient by the board of trustees of the Edmonton School District No. 7 of the Province of Alberta, that the sum of \$15,000,000 should be borrowed on the security of the District, by the issue of debentures repayable in consecutive semi-annual installments with interest rate as determined from time to time by the Alberta Capital Finance Authority, for energy retrofits to schools, and district buildings in the City of Edmonton, for energy conservation.

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF ENERGY RETROFITS TO SCHOOL AND DISTRICT
BUILDINGS FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION

\$15,000,000

THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of the said District enacts as follows:

1. That the necessary proceedings be taken under the provisions of the School Act, to obtain authority of the Minister of Education to borrow aforesaid debenture funds or such portion of the said funds as may be required, for the aforesaid purposes.
2. That upon receiving the required written authorization, the Board of Trustees shall issue, on security of the district, debentures in the amount not exceeding the sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) repayable in forty (40) consecutive semi-annual installments with interest at the rate as determined from time to time by the Alberta Capital Finance Authority.

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READ A FIRST TIME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, A.D. 2012

CHAIRMAN

BOARD SECRETARY-TREASURER

READ A SECOND TIME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, A.D. 2012

CHAIRMAN

BOARD SECRETARY-TREASURER

**READ A THIRD TIME WITH THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF ALL MEMBERS
PRESENT

AND

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, A.D. 2012

CHAIRMAN

BOARD SECRETARY-TREASURER

(**SEE SECTION 69 OF THE SCHOOL ACT)