

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #12

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, April 11, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip
Michael Janz

Cheryl Johner
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Lisa Austin
Angela Anderson
Grace Cooke
Todd Burnstad

Ron MacNeil
Karen Mills
Kathy Muhlethaler
Lorne Parker

Kent Pharis
Darrel Robertson

Board Chair: Michelle Draper

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Nels Olsen, President

The Board Chair called the meeting to order with recognition that we are on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

The Board Chair advised that the firm alarm system at the Centre for Education is a Two Stage alarm system. Stage One is a single repeating alarm tone indicating a warning only and that evacuation is not required. Stage Two is a triple repeating alarm tone indicating that evacuation is required.

A. **O Canada** 

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

The Superintendent advised that Trustee Martin was absent. All other Trustees were present.

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C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Chubb:

**“That the agenda for the April 11, 2017, board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that April 22nd is International Earth Day which is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide and that several years ago, the Board identified Earth Day and Week as an initiative to promote within the District.

The Board Chair reported she was delighted to bring greetings, along with Trustee Stirling, at the welcome reception for the *Languages Without Borders National Conference* on April 6, 2017. She explained that this was the 6th annual conference, and that it connected second language educators from across Canada to learn the latest methods and research in second language learning.

The Board Chair shared that Edmonton Public Schools’ Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education helped organize the conference this year in partnership with the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT). She advised that the District has seven bilingual programs, 11 second language courses and an extensive French Immersion Program. The Board Chair reported that 48,500 students are enrolled in one of the District’s language programs, which indicates that nearly half of the District’s students are gaining second language skills.

The Board Chair advised that the diverse range of programming is made possible through the Institute of Second Language Education and the partnerships it has made with other organizations around the globe. On behalf of the Board, she thanked everyone involved in making this event possible.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent reported that on March 23, 2017, nine Elders and Knowledge Keepers gathered to share their perspectives on how the District can improve student success and achievement for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit junior high students.

The Superintendent explained that each of the invited Elders and Knowledge Keepers had an opportunity to share their personal experiences and offer cultural teachings with all of the participants.

The Superintendent thanked principals Brad Burns and Fred Hines and the District’s First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education department who collaborated to organize and host this opportunity at the Languages Centre at Woodcroft.

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The Superintendent advised that the District is working with the province on the Regulation that outlines the specifics of Bill 1, the *Act to Reduce School Fees*. He explained that there are a lot of details still not known and that he is looking forward to providing clarity to staff, students and parents as information is received.

The Superintendent thanked the staff, students and volunteers of Vimy Ridge Academy and the Centre for Global Education for the outstanding program they produced to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The Superintendent shared that he had the pleasure of attending this event along with Board Chair Draper and Trustees Chubb and Stirling.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #11 – March 21, 2017

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #11 held March 21, 2017, be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

H. Reports

2. Report #4 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held March 21, 2017)

Information was received regarding actions taken at the March 21, 2017, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Strategic Plan Update – Building Capacity for a Culture of Collaboration and Distributed Leadership – Professional Growth and Development

The Trustees received a presentation regarding building capacity for a culture of collaboration, distributed leadership, professional growth and development.

4. Motion re Funding for Playground – Government of Alberta 2020 Fiscal Plan

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That the Edmonton Public School Board advocate for funding of playgrounds committed to in the Government of Alberta’s 2020 Fiscal Plan that is proportional to the new schools announced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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There was a short break in the meeting at this point.

5. Motion to Close Junior High Programming at Winterburn School

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

“That the motion to close Grades 7-9 at Winterburn School, effective June 30, 2017, be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. Bereavement – Mr. James Luke

The Board Chair reported on the passing of Mr. James Luke.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams reported that she recently attended the New Schools Information Night at Michael Strembitsky School, featuring the three new kindergarten to Grade 9 schools: Shauna May Seneca, Jan Reimer and Svend Hansen in Ward I.

Trustee Adams advised that the Shauna May Seneca School building will be ready for the students in January of 2018. Until then, the staff and students will begin as planned in a designated section of the Jan Reimer School designated as “a school within a school” and stated this is an excellent solution to the problem of a construction delay. Trustee Adams shared that Principal Carter gave a comprehensive presentation to a number of parents excited to hear about the new school.

Trustee Adams shared that the Jan Reimer School will be the home of staff and students of both Jan Reimer and Shauna May Seneca for the first semester. She advised that under the leadership of Principal Sawyer, the students will be given a team of leaders who care and work to bring the best out of each student.

Trustee Adams advised that Principal Thompson presented information to the parents, students and staff present regarding the Svend Hansen School and shared that he is committed to build a strong team who will collaborate to achieve high academic and citizenship standards and that values emphasized under his leadership will be a strong family feel and deliberate connection with parents.

Trustee Adams indicated that parents were given opportunities to personally ask questions of each principal and of several District staff that were present. She stated that the evening was a great success as parents had a chance to view and experience the hearts and the competence of the leadership for each of these schools and the dedicated work of the District that supports the success of all students. She thanked everyone who made the evening so beneficial and the parents who took the time to take advantage of this opportunity.

The Board Chair provided the following report on behalf of Trustee Martin:

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She advised that there was a recent article featured in the Rat Creek Press that profiled the Delton School and the Intercultural Family Nights hosted by the school. The title of the article was *Delton School Stops Ignorance with Education*. Since January 2017, the Delton School has dedicated one night per month for Intercultural Family Nights.

The first intercultural night held at Delton School shared Aboriginal culture since the school currently has approximately 140 students who identify as First Nation, Métis or Inuit peoples.

Listed is a schedule of the Intercultural Family Nights:

- February 2017 – African-Canadian culture
- March 2017 – Arabic culture
- April 2017 – Eastern European culture
- May 2017 – Asian culture
- June 2017 – A celebration of all cultures

It was explained that a City grant funds the Intercultural Night events, which helps to pay for food, music, and performers. The Board Chair, on behalf of Trustee Martín, commended everyone involved in this initiative.

Trustee Ip reported that on April 2, 2017, he attended Cheti Chand Day at the Hindu Cultural Centre. He shared that this was a very important day as it marked and celebrated the New Year on the Indian calendar. He thanked the Hindu Cultural Centre for extending him the invitation.

Trustee Ip advised that on April 4, 2017, he had the opportunity to attend the Southwest Youth Collaborative Meeting (SWYC). He explained that it is a network of service providers and educators that serve youth in the southwest. Trustee Ip acknowledged their work in supporting many Edmonton Public School students.

Trustee Ip extended an invitation to parents and community members to the following coffee meetings he will be hosting jointly with the Nellie Carlson School Council on April 20, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. and at George P. Nicholson School on April 21, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.

Trustee Johner advised that the 7th Annual Student Spring Fashion Show Rule the Runway - will be held on April 27, 2017, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Kingsway Mall. She shared that the clothing collections are designed and created by students from L.Y. Cairns, Harry Ainlay Jasper Place, M.E. LaZerte and W.P. Wagner schools. Trustee Johner explained that this event celebrates the creative talents of Edmonton Public School students and is also a fundraiser to support full-day Kindergarten programs in Edmonton's most socially vulnerable communities.

Trustee Stirling advised that on March 22, 2017, she was pleased to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Terra Centre, an important community organization supporting pregnant and parenting teens and who are partners in the Braemar School program. She

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shared that the Terra Centre makes it possible for young families to grow and thrive, and she's always proud to support their work both in Braemar School and in the community as a whole.

Trustee Stirling reported that on March 23, 2017, she was tremendously moved to attend the meeting with the Elders and Knowledge Keepers and shared her thanks to the First Nations, Metis and Inuit education team who made this event possible.

Trustee Stirling thanked Board Chair Draper and Trustee Chubb, who visited Vimy Ridge Academy on April 6, 2017, to join in the recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. She thanked the many school staff and students who made the event possible.

Trustee Stirling reported that on April 7, 2017, Advanced Education Minister Marlin Schmidt visited the adult English Language Learning students in the Language Instruction for Newcomers (LINC) program at Metro Continuing Education. She shared that the students enjoyed having the chance to ask Minister Schmidt questions about education and politics in Alberta and to share their experiences as newcomers to Canada.

Trustee Stirling advised that on April 8, 2017, she was pleased to attend the launch of the Child-Friendly Housing Coalition of Alberta and to speak about the role of housing for families with children in supporting thriving and sustainable schools across the city, particularly in mature and core area communities. She shared that Trustee Janz also attended with his family.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Draper asked that, given the recent provincial announcement of funding for the Kindergarten to Grade 6 school in Pilot Sound (McConachie), the District's advocacy work with the City to explore partnerships as part of the District's new school construction and recent Memorandum of Understanding with the Edmonton Public Library, that the Administration advise of any potential partnership opportunities to create community and school library space at the new school.

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Ip served the following notice of motion:

To help address the critical need for high school space, the Board of Trustees advocate to the Ministers of Education and Infrastructure to award funding for the design of two high schools this year, in advance of the next round of capital announcements.

Trustee Stirling served the following notice of motion:

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That the Board of Trustees write to the Minister of Education in support of ensuring evidence-based, age-appropriate, medically accurate, comprehensive, consent-based, and inclusive sexual health education in the provincial curriculum.

Additionally, that, in this letter the Board advocate for a clear set of guidelines for vetting third-party presenters to ensure that classroom presentations are in compliance with the provincial sexual health curriculum and the requirements of the *School Act* around welcoming, caring, respectful and safe schools for all students, similar to the standards currently used by Edmonton Public Schools.

L. **Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.**

M. **Adjournment (3:30 p.m.)**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations