

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #9

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, March 18, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Sarah Hoffman
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner
Ray Martin

Officials

Diana Bolan
Jim Davies
David Fraser

Mark Liguori
Ron MacNeil
Kathy Muhlethaler

Darrel Robertson
Sandra Stoddard

Board Chair: Sarah Hoffman

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

Staff Group Representatives

CUPE Local 3550 – Carol Chapman, President
Edmonton Public Teachers – Nels Olsen, President

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the agenda for the March 18, 2014 board meeting be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that Friday, March 21st is the Annual United Nations *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*. Racial and ethnic discrimination occur on a daily basis, hindering progress for millions of people around the world. Racism and intolerance can take various forms – from denying individuals the basic principles of equality to fuelling ethnic hatred that may lead to genocide – all of which can destroy lives and fracture communities.

The first article of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". The *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination* reminds us of our collective responsibility for promoting and protecting this ideal.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #8 – March 4, 2014

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

"That the minutes of Board Meeting #8 held March 4, 2014 be approved as printed." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Recognition

2. Edwin Parr Teacher Award

The Superintendent announced that Mr. Erik Lundeen, a teacher at Belmead School, was the District's nominee for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award.

H. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers.

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I. Reports

3. Edmonton Student Transportation Feasibility Study

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

**“That the Edmonton Public School Board and Edmonton Catholic School District enter into an Agreement in Principle and initiate Phase I of detailed design and implementation, as referenced in the Feasibility Study.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a break at this point.

4. School Year Calendar 2014-2015 and 2015-2016

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

- “1. That the revised 10-month calendar for the 2014-2015 school year be approved.**
- 2. That the proposed 10-month calendar for the 2015-2016 school year be approved.”**

The Superintendent advised that the School Year Calendar pilot project presents a unique opportunity to work with the ATA to provide a new, dynamic context in which teachers can enhance their skills so we can do an even better job in supporting student success. The collective agreement the Board signed with the ATA last November provides the ability to annualize teacher time, which opens the door to greater flexibility in how we schedule for professional development. Within this new framework, we will be able to lengthen the school day to allow for two extra PD days and one more day-in-lieu for time that teachers have invested in parent-teacher conferences. The potential shift to common professional development days is a significant part of the pilot project and would offer a number of important advantages. It would bring together large groups of district teachers from across grade levels to share their knowledge and expertise. We’ve already seen phenomenal work happening in catchment groups and common PD days would definitely help to broaden these collaborative efforts even further.

The Superintendent added that common PD days would also mean greater convenience for parents, especially if they have children going to different schools. They’ll be better able to plan for childcare, transportation and recreation or educational programs because their children would be off school at the same time. The draft revised school year calendars also allow for a five-day weekend in November of 2014, an extended weekend in May 2015 and another five-day weekend in May 2016.

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The Superintendent concluded by saying that there's something powerful in tapping into the collective wisdom of educators who have taught a wide range of kids of all backgrounds, needs and abilities. To truly live our Vision and Cornerstone Values, we have to invest in building capacity and diversifying skill sets across all staff groups, and certainly among teachers. Our goal is to ensure students benefit from the best learning experiences possible. If approved by the Board, he is confident the pilot project will help us to strengthen and sharpen this work, and in the process, create pathways of success for every child we have the honour to educate.

Trustee Gibson requested that the Superintendent's introductory remarks be included in the meeting minutes.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

5. District Priorities and Governance Committee: Development of the District Priorities 2014-2018

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the Vision, Mission, Values and 2014-2018 District Priorities be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. Process and Timeline for the 2014-2015 Budget and for the Fall Review of the 2013-2014 Results and the Plans for 2014-2015

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

“1. That the process and timeline for the 2014-2015 spring budget and the revised 2014-2015 fall budget be approved.

2. That the process and timeline for review of the 2013-2014 results and the 2014-2015 plans be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Replacement School Process
(Response to Request for Information #010)

The report was discussed.

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

There were no registered speakers.

K. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Draper advised that, on March 15, 2014, she attended the *Youth Engagement Think Tank* at the invitation of MLA Matt Jeneroux, who is also the Chair of the Youth Secretariat and Youth Advisory Panel. The objectives of the day-long session were: (1) *To discuss best practices for youth engagement, how community partners and Government can work together and look at developing recommendations for action.* (2) *To ensure that youth have a voice in current policy through open discussions on the Children's Charter and on preventing bullying through healthy relationships and resiliency.* A final report and summary of the day will feed into a draft strategy that will be brought forward in the Spring.

Trustee Chubb advised that on, March 4, 2014, he and Trustee Martin attended the Edmonton Intercultural Dialogue Institute's 9th Annual Dialogue and Friendship Dinner. Keynote Speaker Former Mayor Stephen Mandel spoke about the need to ensure women's rights are extended throughout society. There were a number of dignitaries in attendance from the Legislative Assembly and City Council. Premier Allison Redford also attended the event.

Trustee Johner noted she attended the March 13-14, 2014 Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors meeting on behalf of the Board Chair. The draft 2014-2015 budget was approved and will be presented to school boards at the ASBA Spring General Meeting which will be held June 2 to 3, 2014 in Red Deer.

Trustee Johner noted that Trustees and the Administration have been invited to attend facilitated consultation sessions to assist school boards in considering an alternative model for collective bargaining with teachers. The sessions will take place March 20, 2014 at the Double Tree Hotel.

Trustee Johner, the Board's representative on ASBA Zone 23, noted the next ASBA Zone 23 general meeting will take place March 21, 2014.

Trustee Hoffman advised that, on March 7, 2014, all Trustees as well as the Superintendent attended a meeting with members of City Council, the Edmonton Catholic School Board, the Conseil scolaire Centre Nord and the Edmonton Community Sustainability Coalition (ESCS) to discuss advancing the recommendations outlined in the [ELEVATE](#) report.

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L. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson requested that the Administration identify potential areas beyond student transportation for improved efficiency and/or improved service through partnerships with other school districts, and suggest steps should the Board wish to pursue these opportunities.

M. Notices of Motion – None.

N. Next Board Meeting Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

O. Adjournment (5:20 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Sarah Hoffman, Board Chair

Dr. Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director
Governance and Strategic Support Services