

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #6

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, February 4, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Sarah Hoffman

Nathan Ip
Ray Martin

Officials

Diana Bolan
Jim Davies
David Fraser

Mark Liguori
Ron MacNeil

Darrel Robertson
Sandra Stoddard

Board Chair: Sarah Hoffman

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

Miss Rebecca Lappa, a Grade 11 student from Victoria School, sang O Canada.

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

The Superintendent advised that Trustees Janz and Johner were absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the agenda for the February 4, 2014 board meeting be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that next week, February 10 to 14, 2014, is Random Acts of Kindness Week. The Board has endorsed and recognized Random Acts of Kindness Week since 1996.

The Board Chair advised that the Board held a consultation meeting with a number of invited stakeholders the previous evening regarding the draft Mission, Vision and Priorities. An on-line survey regarding the Mission, Vision and Priorities was also launched yesterday and will be open for input until February 14, 2014.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent provided an update regarding the work being done with respect to assessment. New administrative regulation, GKB.AR, will be finalized in the coming weeks which will ensure implementation of the Board policy on student assessment, achievement and growth. Over the past number of months, work has been done in collaboration with district leaders and lead teachers on the standards of assessment. A key feature of that work reflected in the draft regulation is the creation of school-wide intervention strategies for students when they don't complete their work in addition to enhanced collaboration and communication with parents. The goal is to ensure students are held accountable for their work and ensure the grades they are earning reflect their ability in the programs of study.

Parents, principals and teachers have been consulted in the development of the regulation and the consultation will be ongoing in the development of school-wide intervention plans that make sense for the local school community. The consultation has been thoughtful and thorough and he believes the regulation being created speaks about the character of the District which is that we have high expectations for students and staff. The core goal of this work has been to reinforce the District's practice of holding students to high standards and accountability. The regulation clearly articulates that student assessment must be equitable, valid and reliable across the District. It outlines the responsibility teachers have to make professional judgments about reporting achievement and performance based on a wide variety of assessment strategies, including providing students with many different opportunities to demonstrate their learning. In addition, teachers are expected to partner with parents to ensure their child receives the supports they need to experience success. School-wide intervention plans will also help to take some of the burden from teachers so they are not responding individually in each case. A systematic, supportive approach to working with families that provides teachers with support will help with the task.

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Communication needs to happen on a consistent basis with parents. There is a shared responsibility for learning by students, parents and teachers. The other important connection is the one between principals and teachers. Principals play a vital role in ensuring consistent assessment practices, and the regulation paints a clear picture of what that role entails. They must work with their teachers to develop communications plans for reporting student achievement and growth to parents and ensure these plans are aligned with school-wide assessment and intervention plans.

The Superintendent stated he believes that, as we look to complete this work and support effective implementation in September, it is worth taking a step back and appreciating that we've always been a District that demonstrates a high level of accountability in its assessment practices. September 2014 will give time to collaborate with staff, families and put thoughtful assessment plans in schools throughout the district. It is really the difference between compliance and commitment. He believes commitment to the work in assessment and in a variety of other areas is essential, not only among staff but among students and parents. We want to work to ensure the success of students throughout the District. We want students to reach their potential. The focus on providing students with the tools, strategies and interventions they need to overcome their challenges is unrelenting. We want to give them every opportunity to be successful along their journey. Assessment is an important part of that work – it allows students to demonstrate their learning and achieve the curricular outcomes. He is excited that we've developed a great process to strengthen these efforts well into the future.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #5 – January 21, 2014

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #5 held January 21, 2014 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board heard from the following speakers:

- Mr. Edson Cruz regarding the Logos Program at Winterburn School
- Mr. Paul Cornell regarding the Logos Program at Winterburn School
- Ms Frankie Harrogate and Ms Brenda Kerber regarding the Pregnancy Care Centre. Ms Harrogate and Ms Kerber also provided a list of secular organizations providing comprehensive sex education.

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- Mr. Lynden Dorval regarding the policy and regulation with respect to assessment

H. Reports

2. Revised Board Chair Discretionary Expense Allowance

There were no comments or questions with respect to this report.

3. Student Population Projections
(Response to Request for Information #006)

The report was discussed.

4. Bereavement

The Board Chair reported on the passing of Ms Myrtle Jacula, a member of the District's support staff.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Martin advised he attended the parent engagement evening yesterday at Highlands School held by the First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) and Diversity Unit. The evening was spent providing feedback on the proposed handbook in development titled *First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Family Guide to Edmonton Public Schools*. Representatives from the City and other stakeholder groups were also in attendance.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Chubb requested that information be provided regarding a process that could be used to identify possible locations for a replacement school and a timeline that would move this process forward in a timely manner for the Board's consideration.

Trustee Martin requested that information be provided on the research that led to the implementation of the Children and Youth Mental Health and Well-Being initiative announced by the Toronto District School Board on January 28, 2014.

K. Notices of Motion – None.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

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M. Adjournment (2:40 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Sarah Hoffman, Board Chair

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