

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #4

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, December 17, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Sarah Hoffman
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner

Officials

Diana Bolan
Jim Davies
David Fraser

Ron MacNeil
Kathy Muhlethaler

Darrel Robertson
Sandra Stoddard

Board Chair: Sarah Hoffman

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

Hannah Meyers, Angelina Berlinic and Julia Don Edwards, Grade 10 students from Victoria School, sang O Canada.

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

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

C. Approval of the Agenda

The Board Chair advised that a report from the Caucus Committee would be added to the agenda following report three.

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the agenda for the December 17, 2013 board meeting be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair noted everyone was saddened by the death on December 5, 2013 of one of the world's most influential people in history – the former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela. Schools lowered their flags to half-mast to honour his passing.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Board Chair advised that the District Recognition for Service, Team and Merit awards event to recognize the outstanding accomplishments, contributions, and achievements of parent/community members, staff members and students was held December 3, 2013. She commended the event organizers and those who put forward nominations.

The Board Chair advised that, on December 4, 2013, she attended the signing of the reaffirmation of an Education Memo of Understanding between the Province of Alberta and Spain to offer Spanish accreditation through school programming.

The Board Chair noted a Metro Board Chairs' meeting was held December 11, 2013, at which, it was determined the common areas of advocacy would be the budget challenges from last year and what boards would like to see in the upcoming budget as well as the common metro area infrastructure needs.

The Board Chair advised there was Board representation at the recent Public Schools Administrators Association event.

The Board Chair advised she attended the Violence Threat and Risk Assessment training session offer by Edmonton Catholic Schools on December 12, 2013.

The Board Chair advised she attended the 75th Anniversary Gala of the Al Rashid Mosque on December 14, 2013. The Al Rashid Mosque was the first mosque in Canada.

The Board Chair advised that the Tuesday, January 7, 2014 board meeting has been cancelled. The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

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E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that Principals Greg Kushnir and Karen Linden have been nominated to be two of Canada's Outstanding Principals, a prestigious award from The Learning Partnership. The final forty award winners will be determined, and announced in February. He offered his congratulations.

The Superintendent advised that Edmonton Public Schools was invited to appear before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages to provide testimony and recommendations on how the Federal Government can enhance its contribution to supporting French immersion programming. Ms Valerie Leclair, Program Coordinator for French Language Programs with the Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education at Edmonton Public Schools, provided a ten-minute testimony via video-conference on December 2, 2013 which included information regarding French Immersion programming in the district as well as the District's successes and challenges. He is proud of the fact that Edmonton Public Schools is widely seen as a national leader in second language education, and the District has been identified by the Commissioner of Official Languages as having the best French immersion programs in Canada.

The Superintendent advised that, earlier this month, the Confucius Institute in Edmonton (CIE) was recognized by the Chinese government as the Confucius Institute of the Year. CIE Director Dr. Wei Li and Assistant Superintendent Diana Bolan travelled to Beijing to receive the award from the Vice Premier of China, Madame Liu Yandong. This is the second time in three years the CIE has received this distinction.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #2 – November 26, 2013

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #2 held November 26, 2013 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

2. Board Meeting #3 – December 3, 2013

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #3 held December 3, 2013 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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H. Reports

3. Report #2 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held December 3, 2013)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “1. That Report #2 of the Caucus Committee from the meeting held December 3, 2013 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “2. That the appointment of Trustee Cheryl Johner to serve as the Board’s alternate representative on the Alberta School Boards Board of Directors for 2013-2014 be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “3. That the allocation of \$495 from the Board Initiative Fund to cover the cost of the Metro Boards Meeting held November 17, 2013 be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Report #3 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held December 17, 2013)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “1. That Report #3 of the Caucus Committee from the meeting held December 17, 2013 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “2. That the following designation for the period August 12, 2013 to August 31, 2014 be approved: Sandra Stoddard – Executive Director” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “3. That considerations to the Amiskwacyi lease be deferred pending administrative recommendations developed as a result of the growth accommodation strategy as well as the passing of the Planning Principles in September 2013. As a result, the motion approved at the June 18, 2013 board meeting with respect to the Amiskwacyi base rent (*That Recommendation #2 of the Amiskwacyi Base Rent report (That, in future years, the Amiskwacyi base rent be paid with funds other than those received from the province specifically for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education.) be referred to the Community Relations Committee to consult with the FNMI communities and bring a report to public board by January 31, 2014.*) is rescinded.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board heard from Ms Blanca Sanchez regarding the District’s space issues.

4. Motion re Resources to Strengthen Liaison Between First Nations Schools and Edmonton Public Schools

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“Given

- the degree and timing of student mobility between First Nations schools and Edmonton public schools,
- limitations in student records following the student,
- this Board's commitment to building social capital through partnerships as a means to strengthen student success,
- the Provincial Government's commitment to result-based budgets rather than funding in separate silos, and
- the Federal Government's desire to strengthen First Nations education,

that the Advocacy and District Priorities and Governance Committees consider the merits of developing a plan to engage the provincial and federal governments to provide the District additional resources to strengthen liaison between First Nations schools and Edmonton Public schools.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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5. 2012-2013 Financial Statements and Auditors Report

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “1. That for the 2012-2013 year, the transfer of \$17.4 million from the Unrestricted Surplus to Operating Reserves be confirmed.**

- 2. That the audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2013 be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break at this point.

6. Fall 2013 Update to the 2013-2014 Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

“That the Board formally adopt the Fall 2013 Update as the 2013-2014 annual District Budget.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Development of the District Priorities

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- “1. That the recommended process for seeking staff, student, parent, and community stakeholder input into the development of the District Priorities as outlined in Phase 1 of the Project Charter titled *Development of the District’s Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018* be approved.**

- 2. That the Agenda Outcomes for the January 26– 29, 2014 Board Retreat be approved.**

- 3. That the allocation of up to \$20,000 from the Board Initiative Fund to assist with the costs associated with the use of an external Program Evaluator to:**
 - support the development of goals, strategies, outcomes, and performance measures based on the District Priorities; and**
 - facilitate the creation of an online dashboard to measure progress on the priorities over the next four years be approved.”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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8. Annual Policy Development and Review Plan 2013-2014

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That the Annual Policy Development and Review Plan 2013-2014 be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

9. Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Call For Input into the ASBA Strategic Plan 2014-2017

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“That the Board approve the questionnaire responses as proposed by the ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee.”

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the questionnaire responses be amended so that the rankings for questions 9, 10 and 12 of the questionnaire remain as high priority and the rankings of all other items be lowered by one priority level.”

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on the Motion as Amended.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

There were no registered speakers.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Janz reported that he represented the Board at the Minister of Health’s Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination announcement on December 5, 2013. The vaccine will be available for all district students next fall.

Trustee Janz advised that the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights asked him to be the chair of their 2013 Human Rights awards ceremony held on December 10, 2013. It was noted at the ceremony that Evansdale School was Alberta’s first school to be a part of UNICEF Canada’s Rights Respecting Schools (RRS) initiative.

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Trustee Janz advised that, last night, he attended the Brander Gardens public meeting and engagement forum regarding space issues in that area. He commended all of the staff who participated in helping parents work through some of the tough issues the District is facing.

Trustee Johner, the Board's representative on ASBA Zone 2/3, reported that Zone 2/3 met on November 29, 2013. Trustee Adams was also in attendance. This was the first meeting of the Zones with the new Trustee representatives. The Labour Relations Representative and Alternate were elected at the meeting as well as the third member of the Advocacy Committee. She noted the Honourable Donald Scott, Associate Minister of Accountability, Transparency and Transformation provided a professional development presentation on the ongoing review of *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy* legislation. In addition, David Anderson, ASBA Executive Director, provided an overview of ASBA history. She noted the next ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting will take place Friday, January 24, 2014. Professional development at the meeting will be with respect to the Funding Framework, Tweeting for Trustees and Superintendent Compensation. She also noted the following upcoming events:

- January 19-21, 2014 – New Trustees Board Chair's Conference (open to all Trustees)
- January 21-22, 2014 – Community Engagement Conference

Trustee Gibson advised he had attended the Bessie Nichols special school council meeting on December 9, 2013 regarding the District's growth and accommodation issues. There were approximately 125 parents in attendance. He commended Principal Martyn, the school staff and staff from the Planning Department. He commended Superintendent Robertson, in particular, who attended the entire event and stayed 45 minutes after the official close of the meeting. He acquitted himself remarkably well and the community was extremely impressed. He felt this was an excellent demonstration of leadership.

Trustee Hoffman, the Board's representative on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors, reported on the following from the December 12-13, 2013 Board of Directors meeting:

- Discussion took place regarding Alberta's ranking on the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests dropping in reading, science and math. The Board of Directors approved a motion to request that ASBA administration enter into discussions with Alberta Education and other partners including the Alberta Teachers' Association to determine the cause of the decline and recommend actions to reverse the trend.
- The establishment of a task force to review alternate fee structures for the ASBA was approved.
- The audited financial statements were approved.

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- Members were approved for the Insurance Bureau as well as the Insurance Board.
- 2 members were appointed to the Alberta School Employees Benefit Plan (ASEBP) Committee
- 1 member was appointed to the Alberta School Boards Insurance Exchange

The Board Chair advised that a copy of her full, written report will be posted on the Board Intranet Site (BIS) for Trustee information.

Trustee Hoffman advised that, on December 5, 2013, she and several other Trustees attended the launch of the full-day kindergarten program at Princeton School. She commended the event organizers.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Janz served notice of the following motion:

That the Board seek support from Edmonton Catholic School District and Edmonton City Council to write a joint letter to the Minister of Education requesting a clear, transparent, and equitable process for the awarding of new schools.

Trustee Janz served notice of the following motion:

That, in alignment with the Premier's 2012 goal to end child poverty and District Priority #1 (provide supports and programs that will enable all students to complete high school), the Board write a letter to the Premier in support of the Child Care Poverty Reduction Report authored by the Alberta College of Social Workers, Public Interest Alberta, and the Edmonton Social Planning Council.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

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N. **Adjournment (4:35 p.m.)**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Sarah Hoffman, Board Chair

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