

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #15

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 17, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
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'Kanata 

O'Kanata was performed by the amiskwaciy Drummers. The group is comprised of fifteen students from Grades 9 to 12 from amiskwaciy Academy under the direction of Elder Francis Whiskeyjack.

The group has performed at the:

- Edmonton Archery Club Association
- October 2013 Board Meeting - Welcome of the New Superintendent
- Mayor Iverson's Swearing-In Ceremony:
- Various schools throughout the district
- The Aboriginal Headstart Conference at the River Cree
- Canadian Forces Base Edmonton

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

The Superintendent advised that Trustees Chubb and Draper were absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the agenda for the June 17, 2014 board meeting be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. Communications from the Board Chair – None.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that Mr. Erik Lundeen, a first-year teacher at Belmead School, has been named the ASBA Zone 23 winner of the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. Erik teaches Grades 4 to 6 in the Interactions program which supports students with autism spectrum disorder. Recognized for his interactive and visually stimulating lessons, leadership skills and dedication to both student and personal growth, he has a knack for identifying and celebrating the often small and incremental gains his students make. He inspires his students to believe in themselves and their ability to soar to new heights.

Mr. Lundeen was the District’s nominee for the Alberta School Boards Association Zone 23 Edwin Parr Award. He will receive his award at an awards ceremony to be held during the Alberta School Boards Association Fall General Meeting on November 17, 2014.

Each year, the Alberta School Boards Association honours six outstanding first-year teachers to represent five zones throughout the province. These new teachers demonstrate excellence in utilizing a variety of instructional strategies to accommodate different students in their classrooms: the District names one of these first-year teachers as the Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee every year.

The Superintendent provided an update on the Excellence in Teaching Awards. He had mentioned at the May 6th board meeting, that thirty-seven district staff were selected by Alberta Education as 2014 Excellence in Teaching Awards semi-finalists. These teachers were among one hundred and thirteen Alberta-wide semi-finalists. Trustees honoured the District semi-finalists at a Board-hosted event on May 1, 2014. Alberta Education announced the twenty final award recipients May 21, 2014 – eight of the recipients were

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District teachers. Both the semi-finalists and award recipients will have access to reserve funds for professional development. He congratulated:

- Lloyd Bloomfield, Harry Ainlay High School
- Terry Colp, M. E. LaZerte School
- Janet Fast, L.Y. Cairns Junior-Senior High School
- Coreen Hudec, Lillian Osborne High School
- Arlene Lipkewich, A. Blair McPherson School
- Ginette Marcoux, McKernan School
- Joanne Olsen, Youngstown School
- Brenda Scaddan, Queen Elizabeth High School

The Superintendent made the following comments with respect to the request for information that was made at the April 10, 2014 board meeting (Send a staff member including a school principal to observe a presentation by the Pregnancy Care Centre and provide a report to the Board.): *As you will recall, concerns were expressed at a public board, regarding the Pregnancy Care Centre presenting to classes on the topic of sexual education as guest speakers. Claims were made that the Centre was shaming students, providing inaccurate scientific information and that the content of the presentations had a religious context.*

Subsequent to those concerns, I asked staff to look into this situation and, as a result, on April 22 and 23, 2014, Ms Norris, Manager Employee Health Services (who is also a Registered Nurse), and Victoria School Principal Tami Dowler-Coltman observed a Pregnancy Care Centre presentation at a CALM class at Victoria School. They reported that the Centre thoroughly covered CALM curriculum in a scientifically-sound presentation which was inclusive, respectful of individual differences and without religious context. In fact, both of the staff members were quite impressed and confident in the quality of the presentation. They highlighted that students were provided a safe and caring environment in which to explore feelings, ideas and issues surrounding personal choices and decisions.

Dr. Sandra Stoddard subsequently contacted the Pregnancy Care Centre to follow up with respect to ensuring consistency in the quality of presentations, across all presenters. She reiterated that scientific, inclusive, curriculum-based presentations that are free from religious bias was an expectation of the District. The Pregnancy Care Centre assured this was a requirement of the Centre as well. They informed us that they have common presentations with an accompanying script to ensure high-quality and consistency across all presenters associated with their organization.

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In addition, I want to highlight that, with respect to instructional resources for sexual education, the District encourages teachers to refer to the Canadian Guidelines for Sexual Health Education and the lesson plans, programs and comprehensive evidence-based information developed by Alberta educators and health professionals housed online at www.teachingsexualhealth.ca

The Guide to Education indicates that studying controversial topics that give rise to alternative points of view, such as human sexuality, assists in preparing students to participate responsibly in society as well as providing opportunities to develop the ability to think clearly, to reason logically, to open-mindedly and respectfully examine different points of view and to make sound judgments. The District believes that guest speakers can inject new ideas and opinions into the classes; however, there is a recognition that teachers must ensure those presenters adhere to the program of studies, policies and expectations of the District.

As well, the District provides parents the right to exempt their children, where courses of study include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion, human sexuality or sexual orientation. The District remains committed to keeping parents apprised of whom and when guest speakers will be presenting to further assist them in making decisions regarding exemption. We also remain committed to ensuring a comprehensive approach to teaching human sexuality by using a wide-range of teaching and learning resources that value diversity in the district so that all students see themselves and their lives positively reflected within the curriculum. I have personally also met with our principals and reiterated the expectation that parents be given an opportunity to know before presentations happen, the content of the presentations, who the presenters are and an expectation that this be communicated with the home so that parents can be proactive in terms of their decision making with respect to the teaching of human sexuality in our classrooms.

I will provide my comments to the recording secretary to be included in the meeting minutes.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #14 – June 10, 2014

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #14 held June 10, 2014 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board heard from registered speaker Ms Gaylene Borgstede regarding the replacement school.

H. Reports

2. Report #10 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held June 10, 2014)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “1. That Report #10 of the Caucus Committee from the meeting held June 10, 2014 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “2. That, in preparation for the Organizational Board meeting to be held on September 2, 2014, the following be approved:**
 - a) The Policy Review Committee, the District Priorities and Governance Committee, and the Board and Superintendent of Schools Evaluations Committee remain as three standing committees.**
 - b) The Audit committee be converted to a committee of the whole.**
 - c) In advance of the late summer retreat, the Advocacy Committee and Community Relations Committee terminate.**
 - d) The purpose of each standing and ad hoc committee be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure value-added benefits and alignment to the Strategic Plan.**
 - e) The proposed wording changes to the Terms of Reference, as submitted by the Policy Review Committee, the District Priorities and Governance Committee, and the Board and Superintendent of Schools Evaluations Committee.**
 - f) Trustee representation on the Capital Region Services to Children Linkages Committee be terminated.**
 - g) Trustee representation on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Committee continue.**
 - h) An August Board retreat, in lieu of the Board’s fall retreat, be organized to prioritize possible initiatives in support of the District’s Strategic Plan. In advance of the retreat, Trustees will be provided with a package of pre-reading material to provide context for the work and clarify the terms of the retreat.”**

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The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 2a).

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 2b).

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 2c).

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adams, Gibson, Hoffman, Ip, Janz and Martin

OPPOSED: Trustee Johner

The Motion was CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 2d).

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 2e).

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 2f).

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 2g).

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 2h).

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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3. Motion re Child Care

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

- “1. That the Board join the Edmonton Catholic School Board in endorsing the following resolution: *The Provincial Government should fund child care space in new school buildings above and beyond projected infrastructure needs for classroom learning and develop a cohesive child care strategy.***

- 2. That the Board develop key actions to advocate this position to the Province.”**

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“That the motion be referred to the Board strategic planning retreat (2014) for consideration in the context of how it relates to both District priorities one and three which read:

- 1. Foster growth and success for every student by supporting their journey from early learning through high school completion and beyond.**

- 2. Enhance public education through communication, engagement and partnerships.**

The current Chair of the District Priorities and Governance Committee will report back to public board regarding recommended next steps by November 2014.”

The Board Chair called the question on the Referral Motion.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Gibson, Hoffman, Janz and Johner

OPPOSED: Trustees Adams, Ip and Martin

The Referral Motion was CARRIED.

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4. Board Policy AEBB.BP – Wellness of Students and Staff

The Board heard from the following registered speakers:

- Ms Cristina Stasia. Ms Stasia also provided written information to the Board.
- Ms Stephanie Laskoski. Ms Laskoski also provided written information to the Board.

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

- “1. That the draft new Board Policy AEBB.BP - Wellness of Students and Staff be considered for the third time and approved.”**

Trustee Hoffman noted that there is currently a curriculum redesign taking place in Alberta and asked that information be provided regarding who individuals or organizations could provide feedback to regarding concerns or items they would recommend be included in curriculum such as teaching about sexual consent.

The Superintendent undertook to provide this information.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

There was a brief break at this point.

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

- “2. That, Board Policy AEBB.BP – Wellness of Students and Staff having been approved, the following board policies be rescinded:**
- a. FBE.BP – Health and Wellness of Staff and Students**
 - b. FBFA.BP – Occupational Health and Safety**
 - c. FIC.BP – Employee Assistance**
 - d. GIAA.BP – Health Instruction Materials**
 - e. GJ.BP – Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Programs and Services”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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5. Annual Report – Wellness of Students and Staff

The Board received information outlining the supports and services provided to support the wellness of students and staff during the 2013-2014 school year.

Trustee Janz suggested that, for future reports regarding the wellness of students and staff, mention be made of other health-related initiatives going on in the district such as *Winter Walk Day*, active transportation plans and partnerships with Safe, Healthy, Active People Everywhere (SHAPE).

6. Annual Report –Diversity and Equity

The Board received information outlining the supports and services provided to support diversity and equity during the 2013-2014 school year.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Gibson, Chair of the District Priorities and Governance Committee, noted that, on September 17, 2013, the following motion was referred to the 2013-2014 District Priorities and Governance Committee to review governance models that best align with the Education Act (which comes into effect in 2015) and existing legislation: *That the Edmonton Public School Board resolve to develop and implement practices that will support a transformation to a more representative, democratic and participatory model of governance.* He advised that the Committee reviewed the motion and believes that the recommendations approved at today's board meeting regarding the review of the Board's standing and ad hoc committees (contained in Report #10 of the Caucus Committee) address this motion.

Trustee Hoffman, the Board's representative on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors, reported on the Board of Directors meeting that took place last week. Three advocacy messages are being recommended for school boards and Trustees to consider using locally and with NDP and Conservative leadership candidates over the summer:

- The need for long-term, predictable, sustainable funding for education.
- Infrastructure shortages – not just in growing areas but also deferred maintenance in mature areas
- School boards being governing bodies elected by their communities to represent them and the need for democratic decision making when it comes to public education

The full report will be posted on the Board Intranet Site (BIS) for Trustee information.

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Trustee Hoffman noted that, through the ASBA, she is a member of the Curriculum Redesign Advisory Committee as is Trustee Gibson who serves as an industry representative. She advised that an update to the Math curriculum was placed on Alberta Education's website Monday as a program guide to support teachers in delivering the curriculum. It is recommended as a resource to support teachers in the upcoming school year.

Trustee Gibson noted the Board will be meeting with the members of the Capital Region Caucus next week.

Trustee Hoffman noted that meetings were also scheduled with the Board and the education critics from the Wildrose, NDP and Liberal parties.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None

L. Notices of Motion – None

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 4:25 p.m. and reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

Trustees Chubb and Draper were absent.

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

The Board heard from the following registered speakers:

- Ms Gina Shimoda regarding WiFi
- Ms Marcey Kliparchuk regarding WiFi. Ms Kliparchuk also provided written information to the Board.

The Board Chair noted the following motion was approved at the at the January 25, 2011 board meeting: *That Edmonton Public Schools continue the practice of relying on Health Canada and the World Health Organization safety standards to guide its decisions on the installation and use of WiFi in all its buildings with the understanding that the Administration will keep the Board informed should there be any changes to the standards.* The current board stands by the motion and will continue to rely on the standards. It is suggested, that if the individuals chose to continue to do advocacy to address their concerns, they consider approaching Health Canada and the World Health Organization.

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N. **Adjournment (5:10 p.m.)**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Sarah Hoffman, Board Chair

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