

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #13

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, May 20, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Sarah Hoffman
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz
Ray Martin

Officials

Diana Bolan
Jim Davies
David Fraser

Mark Liguori
Kathy Muhlethaler

Darrel Robertson
Sandra Stoddard

Board Chair: Sarah Hoffman

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Nels Olsen, President

A. O Canada 

A video of the École Richard Secord Elementary School Choir singing O Canada in both an English and a French version was played. The Choir is comprised of one hundred and ten students from Grades 4 to 6 under the direction of Mrs. Brenda Bracke. The Choir has performed at City Hall and the Trustees' Christmas Coffee Party.

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

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

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C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the agenda for the May 20, 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. Dave Jones, Principal Harry Ainlay School, is the recipient of the Alberta Schools Athletic Association (ASAA) Robert H. Routledge Award. The award is presented annually in recognition of outstanding service to the students of Alberta schools in the promotion and operation of an athletic program. He has sent a congratulatory letter to Mr. Jones.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #12 – May 6, 2014

Trustee Draper referred to the item in the minutes regarding the report titled ‘Locally Developed Courses – District Developed and Acquired Elementary, Junior and Senior High’ (pages 5 to 7) and noted the request from Trustee Ip about including brief course descriptions in future reports, which she also supported, was omitted and requested that it be included in the minutes.

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #12 held May 6, 2014 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers.

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H. Reports

2. Report #8 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held May 6, 2014)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “1. That Report #8 of the Caucus Committee from the meeting held May 6, 2014 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “2. That the following designations for the period September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015, be confirmed:

**Diana Bolan – Assistant Superintendent
Mark Liguori – Assistant Superintendent
Kathy Muhlethaler – Assistant Superintendent
Sandra Stoddard – Executive Director”**

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

3. Locally Developed Courses – District Developed and Acquired Elementary, Junior High and Senior High

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the following locally developed course and resources be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools:

- a. New courses developed by Edmonton Public Schools

Course Name	Level - Credit	Approval Period
Digital Character Illustration and Modelling	35 (5 credit)	September 2014 – August 2018”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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4. Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Proposed 2014-2015 Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the Board support the Alberta School Boards Association’s proposed budget for 2014-2015.”

Trustee Chubb asked how the ASBA will address the unfunded pension liability of close to \$500,000 with respect to executive benefits.

Trustee Janz undertook to obtain the information from the ASBA.

Trustee Ip asked that information be provided regarding the cost of the District’s 2013-2014 ASBA membership.

Dr. Stoddard undertook to provide the information via TM.

Trustee Martin suggested that a formal audit of the benefits of membership in the Alberta School Boards Association be conducted.

Trustees Gibson and Ip also supported a review.

The Board Chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adams, Chubb, Draper, Gibson, Hoffman, Janz and Martin

OPPOSED: Trustee Ip

The Motion was CARRIED.

5. Annual Report – Literacy (Reading and Writing)

The Board received information regarding the supports and services provided to support literacy (reading and writing) during the 2013-2014 school year.

There was a brief break at this point.

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6. Annual Report – Special Education

The Board received information outlining the supports and services provided to students with special education needs during the 2013-2014 school year.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Draper advised that she attended the launch of the Early Childhood Mapping Project on behalf of the Board. The District is proud to support the Early Childhood Mapping Project in many kindergarten classrooms. The information from this research project affords a better understanding of how young children are doing so we can work together with communities and parents to support healthy child development. The Board recognizes that children facing vulnerable circumstances in kindergarten will likely continue to face challenges throughout their schooling. Using the new data from the Early Childhood Mapping Project, children's challenges can be identified early on and work can be done to prepare them for their learning journey ahead, in the classroom and beyond.

What we know as a result of the research that has been conducted is that less fifty percent of kindergarten-aged children in Edmonton and in Alberta are developing appropriately – based on the Early Development Instrument; where kindergarten teachers assess their students on physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and thinking skills, communication skills and general knowledge. Edmonton kindergarten students rank lower than those in the province as a whole.

Ms Gloria Chalmers, Co-Chair of the Community-University Partnership for the Study of Children, Youth and Families, stated that “no one is in charge of ‘zero to five’ – so when you get to the ‘Who is advocating for the children?’ They fall between the cracks.” Ms Chalmers also stated that, “Without addressing the needs of pre-schoolers, Alberta's education system can't truly achieve excellence. We're not going to change high school completion rates until we change the early years.”

The Board is pleased to collaborate with the community with respect to student growth and success. District schools are already acting on this information and participating in city coalitions that have been created to share diverse ideas and perspectives about to address and act on the Early Childhood Mapping Project research findings. The Board remains focused on student growth and helping every student experience success as demonstrated by the priorities; however, the study raises questions in terms of what are the Board's responsibilities and what can the Board do to continue to support early childhood development. She encouraged Trustees to come together to use this knowledge and support enhancing early childhood development.

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Trustee Adams, the Board's representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, noted the *Ready for Life* fundraising breakfast will take place on May 29, 2014 at M.E. LaZerte School – the goal of the breakfast is to raise \$100,000. She also noted that the South Edmonton Business Association (SEBA) is hosting a fundraising golf tournament on June 10, 2014.

Trustee Janz noted the next ASBA Zone 23 general meeting will be held on May 23, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. with the Edwin Parr Awards Banquet following in the evening.

Trustee Ip thanked Trustee Draper for attending the Early Childhood Mapping Project launch. He felt it provides a tremendous opportunity for the Board to have the conversation around the District's role in supporting early childhood development. He noted the south-west section of the city, in particular because of infrastructure issues, is facing challenges with respect to parents accessing quality child care; which ultimately raises the question of how the lack of quality child care is impacting early childhood development.

Trustee Hoffman noted May 9, 2014 was the 26th Annual Public School Administrators Association (PSAA) *Bids for Kids* fundraiser. She and Trustees Ip and Martin were in attendance. She thanked the District for continuing to demonstrate a commitment through this significant fundraising effort for the Boys & Girls Clubs and Big Brothers & Sisters of Edmonton to support some of the District's most vulnerable students in providing good summer experiences that foster social, intellectual and academic opportunities.

Trustee Hoffman noted that, on May 13, 2014 she and Trustees Adams, Chubb, Ip and Martin attended a dinner meeting with the Executive Committee of Edmonton Public Teachers. The meeting afforded an opportunity to exchange dialogue regarding some recent challenges and opportunities for the District as well as for the Local.

Trustee Hoffman, the Board's representative on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors, reported on the meeting held May 8 and 9, 2014. She noted that a great deal of work has been done since February regarding the development of a bargaining model by a team of ten trustees, including Trustee Martin, as well as three ASBA staff members. To date, a document has been created outlining the guiding principles moving forward with a new bargaining model. The project team will give school boards an update at the ASBA Spring General Meeting in June. The team's interim report has been circulated to school boards and an eight-minute recording explaining the findings thus far is available via telephone call in. This information will be posted on the Board Intranet Site for Trustee information.

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Trustee Hoffman also noted that the ASBA Board of Directors approved a motion to create a new committee to analyse ASBA membership fees. Details of the committee will be posted on the Board Intranet Site for Trustee information.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.

L. Notices of Motion – None.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 4:50 p.m. and reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

Trustee Johner was absent. All other Trustees were present.

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

The Board heard from the following speakers:

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

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