

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #8

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, January 20, 2015 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

Student Trustee

Johannah Ko

Officials

Angela Anderson
Lisa Austin
Diana Bolan
Jim Davies

Mark Liguori
Ron MacNeil
Mary Michailides
Kathy Muhlethaler

Lorne Parker
Darrel Robertson
Sandra Stoddard

Board Chair: Michael Janz

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Nels Olsen, President
CUPE Local 3550 – Carol Chapman, President
CUPE Local 474 – Barry Benoit, President

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees as well as Student Trustee Ko were present.

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C. Approval of the Agenda

Acting Board Chair Janz advised that an item would be added to the board meeting agenda under Section D – Communications from the Board Chair regarding the election of a new Board Chair for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year until the next Organizational board meeting in September 2015.

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

“That the agenda for the January 20, 2015 board meeting be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. Communications from the Board Chair

Acting Board Chair Janz advised that the District has placed an ad in the Edmonton Journal and Edmonton Sun that will appear on January 21st for Maintenance Workers’ Appreciation Day acknowledging and thanking district members of CUPE Local 784 for their ongoing contributions to creating safe, comfortable and healthy environments in which students and staff can learn and work. He thanked the maintenance staff for their efforts.

Trustee Hoffman reported on the meeting with City Council that took place Friday, January 16, 2015. There were seven Trustees in attendance at the meeting (two other Trustees had previous commitments with the Alberta School Boards Association and were unable to attend), as well as the Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Stoddard. The Mayor and five Councillors attended the meeting. She advised that there was a presentation on the District’s student demographics and some of the trends over the last few years as well as where students reside. There was also discussion regarding infill and capital projects. She believed the meeting was very productive.

Trustee Hoffman advised that she had e-mailed Trustees and the Superintendent over the weekend with her resignation as Board Chair. She will continue to serve as the Trustee for Ward G in accordance with the *School Act*. She noted that, in accordance with the *School Act* and the Trustees’ Handbook, a Caucus Committee meeting was held this morning to discuss next steps regarding the resignation.

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Election of Board Chair

Acting Board Chair Janz called for nominations for the position of Board Chair.

Trustee Johner nominated Trustee Janz.

The Acting Board Chair, seeing that there were no further nominations, advised that he had been elected by acclamation as Board Chair for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year until the Organizational Board meeting in September 2015.

Election of Board Vice-Chair

The Board Chair called for nominations for Board Vice-Chair.

Trustee Chubb nominated Trustee Draper.

Trustee Chubb nominated Trustee Gibson.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

**“That voting for the position of Board Vice-Chair be done by secret ballot.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Ballots were distributed by Mrs. Fraser.

The Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Stoddard left the room to count the ballots.

Dr. Stoddard announced that the majority of the Board had elected Trustee Draper as Board Vice-Chair for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year until the Organizational Board meeting in September 2015.

The Administration undertook to destroy the ballots.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent congratulated Assistant Superintendent Mark Liguori on his appointment as Superintendent of Elk Island Public Schools which will commence in February. He noted it was Mr. Liguori's last board meeting with Edmonton Public Schools and thanked him for his years of tremendous service and dedication to the District.

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The Superintendent reported on the meeting he and Trustee Janz attended with Minister of Education Dirks, Deputy Minister Lorna Rosen and several other Alberta Education representatives on Monday. Discussion took place regarding activities undertaken by the District in the past year in meeting some of the goals of *Inspiring Education*. Discussion also took place with the respect to the new *Education Act* and the challenges the District will face with some of the changes in the *Act* such as student address and attendance areas.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #7 – December 16, 2014

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #7 held December 16, 2014 be approved as printed.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – None.

H. Reports

2. Report #6 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held January 6, 2015)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“1. That Report #6 of the Caucus Committee from the meeting held January 6, 2015 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“2. That the contracting of Conroy Ross to assist the Board and Superintendent Evaluation Committee in conducting the 2014-2015 Superintendent of Schools’ Evaluation be approved.

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3. That the process and timeline as outlined in the consulting request for proposal from Conroy Ross with respect to the 2014-2015 Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation be approved.
4. That the costs for conducting the 2014-2015 Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation be taken from the Board Initiative Fund."

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- "5. That the Board of Trustees approve the land exchange between the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Public School Board."

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

3. Environmental and Social Justice Initiatives

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

- "That District recognition for environmental and social justice initiatives be incorporated into the District Awards program, by creating two distinct award categories for schools to apply for (one for environmental justice and one for social justice)."

The Board Chair called the question.

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

OPPOSED: Trustee Johner

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

There was a break at this point.

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4. Holistic Health (H20) 15-25-35 Locally Developed Courses

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That the Holistic Health (H20) 15-25-35 locally developed course series be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 2018.”

Several Trustees expressed concern with some of the terminology and concepts in the course content such as “spirituality” and “interconnectedness” and believed that clarification should be provided regarding what religious philosophies, practices and/or traditions may have been drawn upon in the development of this locally developed course. In keeping with [Board Policy GAA.BP – Delivery of Student Programs of Study](#), Trustees also wanted assurance that this course is not based on a particular faith and is of a non-proselytizing nature. Concern was also expressed regarding how the outcomes of the course will be measured and evaluated to ensure academic rigour is met.

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the report be referred to the Administration for review taking into consideration Trustee feedback and brought back to a future board meeting.”

The Board Chair called the question on the Referral Motion.

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Ip and Johner

The Referral Motion was CARRIED.

There was a break at this point.

Student Trustee Ko left at this point for the duration of the meeting.

5. Early Learning Students Reassessment and Transportation Costs (Response to Request for Information #068)

The report was provided in response to a Trustee request for information.

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6. Grade 3 Student Learner Assessment (SLA) Pilot
(Response to Request for Information #069)

The report was provided in response to a Trustee request for information.

The Superintendent undertook to provide information regarding potential supply costs associated with the marking of Grade 3 Student Learner Assessment (SLA) tests.

7. Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusive Education in Alberta Schools
(Response to Request for Information #074)

The report was provided in response to a Trustee request for information.

8. Bereavement

Vice-Chair Draper reported on the passing of Mr. Brian Gaida.

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

There were no registered speakers for this item.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Martin advised that more than two hundred students, staff, teachers and community members have worked together on a beautiful mosaic project of birch forests at Highlands School led by two artists in residence, Theodora Harasymiw and Heidi Oshry, of the Kora Mosaic Studio. They worked with students and staff over the last month to create an imagery of birch forests on three different panels at the school. The *Artist in Residency* and project were sponsored by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Trustee Chubb advised that, on January 17, 2015, he and Trustee Martin attended an event to celebrate Milad-un-Nabi which commemorates the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad organized by the Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities and the Aga Khan Council for Edmonton. The keynote speaker for the event was Karima Bennoune. He noted Mayor Iveson was also in attendance and acknowledged the District's Arabic programming.

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Trustee Adams, the Board's representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, noted that interviews will begin tomorrow for the new Director of the Foundation. She also reported on the following fundraising events:

- January 28, 2015 – Kingsway District Association *Business Association Day with the Edmonton Oil Kings* at Rexall Place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- January 29, 2015 - South Edmonton Business Association (SEBA) mixer at the Melting Pot from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Draper reported she attended the closing assembly at Belvedere School, held at the end of a successful FNMI (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) Celebration Week. The week was facilitated by Holly Yuzicapi, the Cultural Engagement Coach from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education with the District. The unit provides, at no cost to school communities, four days of cultural arts based programming in Grades K-9. She collaborates with the principal and teachers to plan the four days of programming that incorporates First Nations, Métis, and Inuit activities in classrooms and throughout the school. These initiatives support and enhance a welcoming and inclusive school community by engaging all students and staff through the pillars that exist within all cultures. The activities explore cross-curricular learning opportunities in all core subject areas through cultural arts based programming that enhance the Programs of Study. She congratulated everyone involved in the week-long celebration activities.

Trustee Johner, the Board's alternate representative on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors, reported on the January 15-17, 2015 ASBA Board of Directors meeting she attended. She noted the following:

- The meeting focused on strategic planning.
- The following ASBA advocacy priorities were established:
 - Sustainable, predictable funding
 - Infrastructure
 - Local board autonomy
- The request for information requested by Trustee Hoffman regarding expenditures of the Association was discussed. A hard copy of the information was provided at the meeting. The ASBA Administration advised that a copy of the information will be e-mailed to the Board of Directors for review and determination of next steps.
- The theme for the Spring General Meeting in Red Deer was determined – *All About Students*.

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Trustee Hoffman reported that, last Tuesday, she and Trustees Ip and the Superintendent attended the K-3Curriculum Development Prototyping Recognition and Celebration event. There were over two hundred staff, stakeholders as well as officials from Alberta Education and University of Alberta and St. Albert Public Schools in attendance. The project was finished on time and under budget. She noted that staff enjoyed having collaborative time to share resources and ideas during the project. She commended the Superintendent, Ms Aubry and the staff involved in the project.

9. Student Trustee Update

The report was deferred to the next board meeting.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Hoffman requested that information be provided outlining the current composition for the District Recognition and District Student Awards programs. The information should also include any potential changes to the current programs which could help align them to the District's Mission, Vision, Priorities and Values.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Chubb served notice of the following motion:

That a letter be sent to the Minister of Education recommending including the topic of consent in the curriculum connected to Human Sexuality.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment (5:40 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michael Janz, Board Chair

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