

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #10

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, March 3, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Sarah Hoffman
Nathan Ip

Cheryl Johner
Ray Martin

Student Trustee

Johannah Ko

Officials

Angela Anderson
Lisa Austin
Candace Cole

Jim Davies
Ron MacNeil
Mary Michailides

Lorne Parker
Darrel Robertson
Sandra Stoddard

Acting Board Chair: Michelle Draper

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 Trustee Janz was absent. All other Trustees including Student Trustee Ko were present.

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C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That the agenda for the March 3, 2015 board meeting be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Acting Board Chair advised that the Edmonton Public Schools’ 51st Annual Night of Music will be held at the Jubilee Auditorium Wednesday, March 4, 2015. The purpose of this event is to promote the importance of music education and recognize the musical accomplishments of district students. This year’s theme is *Together in Harmony*.

The Acting Board Chair advised that March 8, 2015 is the 104th Anniversary of International Women’s Day. The 2015 theme is *Make it Happen*. The day was created as an opportunity to recognize women around the world for their political, economic, and social achievements. She congratulated all of the women working in the District, who make vital contributions to student learning, the work of public education and the success of Edmonton Public Schools.

The Acting Board Chair advised that the Alberta Teachers’ Association Provincial Executive Council has proclaimed March 9 to 13, 2015 as Substitute Teachers’ Appreciation Week for the 2014-2015 school year. The role of the substitute teacher carries the same daily responsibilities of instruction, marking, discipline and supervision as that of regular classroom teachers. Substitute teachers play an essential role in maintaining the continuity and excellence of the learning process. She expressed appreciation, on behalf of the Board, for the value substitute teachers bring to the classroom during this time and throughout the year.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent reported that Mr. Rob Speers, Harry Ainlay School’s band teacher, received the John Philip Sousa Foundation Legion of Honor Award. This award recognizes band directors who have maintained school concert band programs of excellent music quality for a period of at least twenty years. He congratulated Mr. Speers, the Harry Ainlay Music Parents Association, and the Administration who have supported this program over the years.

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The Superintendent congratulated Ms Colleen Fraser, a teacher at Londonderry School, and her Grade 9 class for their second place finish in the National Citizenship Challenge. The Citizenship Challenge is presented by Historica Canada through funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Students study for and write a mock citizenship exam in this challenge.

The Superintendent advised that he had the opportunity to join the Human Resources Department in welcoming student teachers to the District. The session provided an overview of Edmonton Public Schools and the application process for aspiring educators. He noted the District is conducting a pilot this year that will have a committee of district principals observe student teachers in action this semester; helping HR Teacher Recruitment staff to identify and attract the best and brightest to a career with Edmonton Public Schools.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #9 – February 17, 2015

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #9 held February 17, 2015 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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

H. Reports

2. Caucus Committee

The Acting Board Chair noted this report was brought to the February 17, 2015 Board meeting. Trustee Hoffman proposed an amendment to Section 5.4 of the Trustees’ Handbook at the meeting. The proposed amendment and report were subsequently referred to the Administration for suggested wording for a proposed revision to Section 5.4 of the Trustees’ Handbook regarding a requirement for unanimous approval to delegate decision-making authority to the Caucus Committee.

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That a resolution be approved directing that Section 5.4 of the Trustees’ Handbook as outlined in Attachment I be revised in order to give the Caucus Committee final decision-making power on certain types of matters, and yet constrain that power so it is used only when absolutely necessary.”

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Trustee Hoffman requested permission to withdraw the amendment she put forward at the February 17, 2015 board meeting.

There were no objections and the motion was withdrawn.

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

“That the proposed revision to Section 5.4 of the Trustees' Handbook as outlined in Attachment I be amended to read as follows:

- 4. The delegation of decision-making authority to the Caucus Committee is subject to the following limitations:**
 - a. it shall be used only for matters that must be kept confidential or are time-sensitive; ~~and~~**
 - b. it shall not be used unless a motion is unanimously approved in Caucus Committee approving the making of a decision on a particular matter; and**
 - c. decisions made by the Caucus Committee shall be reported to the Board in a public meeting.”**

The Acting Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

The Amendment was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

- 3. Selection of Board Representative on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors**

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That the Board select a Trustee to serve as the Board’s representative on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Director for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year until the September 2015 Organizational Board meeting.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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The Acting Board Chair called for nominations for a Trustee representative to serve on the ASBA Board of Directors for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year until the September 2015 Organizational Board meeting.

Trustee Johner nominated Trustee Ip.

The Board Chair, seeing that there were no further nominations, declared Trustee Ip as the Board's representative on the ASBA Board of Directors for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year until the September 2015 Organizational Board meeting.

4. One Year Extension of Principal Banker

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

- "1. That the requirement for re-tendering the principal banker every five years be extended to six years as a one-time exception, and**
- 2. That the Bank of Nova Scotia be appointed as the principal banker of the Edmonton School District No. 7 for the fiscal year September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016."**

The Acting Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

5. Bereavement

The Acting Board Chair reported on the passing of Mrs. Barbara "Barb" Thomson.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Chubb thanked the Board for approving the motion he brought forward with respect to sending a letter to the Minister of Education recommending including the topic of consent in the curriculum connected to Human Sexuality. He noted the proposal has received broad-based support.

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Trustee Ip, the Board's alternate representative on Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 23, reported the following from the ASBA Zone 23 general meeting he attended Friday, February 27, 2015:

- He brought forward a letter with respect to the motion approved by the Board on February 17, 2015 regarding the ASBA's membership in the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA). The letter requests Zone 23 Board representatives and Board Chairs to take the information under consideration and discuss the issue of the memberships with their respective boards in preparation for the ASBA budget. The Chair of ASBA Zone 23 has committed to sending out the letter to all Zone 23 Board representatives and Board Chairs on this issue since it will be an agenda item at the March 20, 2015 ASBA Zone 23 General Meeting.
- The ASBA President and Executive Director reported that they are working on a broad advocacy strategy that will come to Zone 23 at a later time.
- The Spring MLA networking event has been postponed until the Fall.

Trustee Adams, the Board's representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, reported that the 5th Annual *Ready to Shine* fashion show fundraiser will take place at Kingsway Garden Mall on April 23, 2015. She also noted that the 6th Annual *Ready for Life* fundraising breakfast will take place at W.P. Wagner School (7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.) on May 14, 2015. The W.P. Wagner students have committed to their own fundraising activity for the Foundation called the Wag-a-thon that will run from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2015. Their goal is to raise \$30,000. She noted volunteers are required for the event.

Trustee Martin advised he recently visited Mount Royal School which provides Arts Core Programming. He noted the school had artists from the community engaging students in various art forms.

Trustee Hoffman reported that, last week, she participated on a Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention Association (GETCA) panel. She was pleased to see so many teachers taking part in the professional development opportunities at the Convention.

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Trustee Draper reported that she attended Fraser School's Kikosewin Family Dinner. She thanked the District's First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) colleagues who helped organize it. There were excellent performances and she particularly enjoyed the Inuit throat singer. She also attended Braemar School's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Family Night noting there was representation from post-secondary institutions at the event as well as performers and that the food provided included stew and bannock.

Trustee Draper congratulated Londonderry School teacher Colleen Fraser and her 902 class for achieving the second highest class average across Canada on the Canadian Citizenship Challenge Test and the highest class average across Alberta. She also congratulated the Grade 9 students at Dr. Donald Massey School for their fund-raising activities and excellent work in the community – the school will be celebrating the students' accomplishments tomorrow evening.

Trustee Draper advised that she brought greetings on behalf of the Board at the Lunar New Year Celebration Banquet on February 25th at the Dynasty Palace Restaurant. She noted that Trustee Ip attended as well as representatives from all levels of government. She also attended the City Centre Chinese New Year Celebration. Trustees Ip, Martin and Chubb were also in attendance. She also noted she attended a Chinese New Year Celebration at Kildare School.

Trustee Chubb noted that both he and Trustee Adams attended the Greater Hardisty Community Meeting on February 24, 2015. He noted that approximately three hundred community members attended the event as well as City Councillors Esslinger, Henderson and Walters. There was an excellent discussion about how schools and other City facilities play into mature neighbourhoods and their long-term health and vitality.

Trustee Ip thanked Meyonohk school for hosting CBC Radio on February 19, 2015 for a Lunar New Year celebration. He had the opportunity to share his own family celebration traditions for the radio feature.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Hoffman requested that information be provided regarding what the anticipated financial implications of Alberta Health Care Premiums would be for the District.

Trustee Gibson requested that information be provided on the status of the District's thinking around interim reading assessments; he noted, for example, that there were Highest Level of Achievement Tests (HLATs) at one time and asked whether they were still current.

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Trustee Gibson requested that information be provided regarding the status and next steps with respect to Career Pathways.

Trustee Gibson requested that information be provided regarding whether standardized school designs that incorporate flexible, multi-purpose space are available within the context of approved Provincial designs.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Draper served notice of the following motion on behalf of Trustee Janz:

That the Edmonton Public School Board write a letter to the Mayor and City Council advocating for a portion of the revenue collected from Photo Radar be directed to traffic safety initiatives around schools and school zones.

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

N. Adjournment (2:45 p.m.)

The Acting Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Acting Board Chair

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