

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #18

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, September 8, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip
Michael Janz

Cheryl Johner
Ray Martin

Officials

Lisa Austin
Jim Davies
Jonah Lempogo

Ron MacNeil
Kathy Muhlethaler
Kent Pharis
Lorne Parker

Darrel Robertson
Sandra Stoddard
Mike Suderman

Board Chair: Michael Janz

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Nels Olsen, President
CUPE Local 474 – John Vradenburgh, President

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That the agenda for the September 8, 2015 board meeting be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair noted that eight candidates have registered to run in the Ward G Trustee By-Election. As part of the September 22, 2015 public Board meeting, each of the Ward G Trustee candidates will be provided three minutes to present their election platform. The presentations will commence at 1:30 p.m. and will be webcast live. The presentations will be posted on the District website following the Board meeting for the public to view prior to By-Election Day – which is Monday, September 28, 2015.

The Board Chair thanked all district staff who worked through July and August to get schools ready for the first day of school today.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent noted that, today marks the beginning of the 2015 -2016 school year. This morning 92,470 students, slightly more than the 92,000 projected, were back in class, meeting new and old friends, finding homerooms and lockers, cracking the books, and setting their hopes and dreams for the coming year. As they walked through the doors, they were met by staff throughout district schools who are eager to welcome, support and challenge them.

Success for all students remains the District's collective focus and we will continue to ensure each student has access to an excellent teacher in a high-quality learning environment. Edmonton continues to experience growth and in some schools, space issues continue to be a reality - especially in the southwest. While infrastructure will continue to be a challenge this year, his commitment is to continue to work collaboratively with the Province, parents and stakeholders to find ways to meet the District's space challenges.

As stated in the District's strategic plan, parents are key partners in the education of their children and so today, he encouraged all parents to seek out every opportunity throughout the year to get involved in their child's education. By working together we can make a huge difference in a child's educational success.

He stated, in conclusion, that he is looking forward to the year ahead with enthusiasm and optimism and that it is an honor serving such a great District.

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F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #17 – June 23, 2015

Trustee Chubb referred to the notice of motion recorded on pages eleven and twelve of the minutes with respect to the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP) and the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) and advised that this motion will be scheduled for deliberation at a future Board meeting pending response to the Board's request for further information from the ASBA.

Trustee Gibson noted a revision was required on page nine of the minutes with respect to the vote on Trustee Ip's amendment. The vote should have indicated that Trustees Adams, Ip, Janz and Johner voted in favour of the amendment and that Trustees Chubb and Martin voted in opposition.

MOVED BY Trustee Chubb:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #17 held June 23, 2015 be approved as amended.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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

H. Reports

2. Actions Taken Under Delegation of Authority – 2015 Summer Recess

Information was provided regarding the actions taken by the Superintendent of Schools under the delegation of authority during the 2015 summer recess.

3. Bereavements

Vice-Chair Draper reported on the passing of Mrs. Audra Bourque, Mr. Barry Brown, Mrs. Jacqueline Gafka.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Draper advised that she and Board Chair Janz, as well as representatives from Edmonton Catholic Schools, the City of Edmonton and Edmonton Police Services were in attendance at a media conference on August 31, 2015 to remind drivers to slow down in school zones and to pay extra attention to safe student drop off and pick up.

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Trustee Draper advised that she and Board Chair Janz attended the First Riders Event on September 1, 2015. Education Minister Eggen also attended the event.

Trustee Draper was pleased to note that Alberta Education will be working with school authorities to schedule Early Development Instrument (EDI) data collection and information sharing during the 2015-2016 school year. This will support the commitment to improve the wellbeing of children as identified through the Early Childhood Development Mapping Research Project (2009-2014). She was also pleased to note that Alberta Education has indicated its commitment to ensuring that supports are in place to ensure the 2016 data collection is a success. Work is underway to ensure that school boards have information, materials, support and training for EDI data collection. Financial reimbursement for the kindergarten teacher time required to complete the EDI questionnaires will be provided, and the Ministry is examining ways to ease the administrative burden associated with the data collection activity.

Trustee Adams, the Board's representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, reported on the following upcoming fundraising events:

- An Evening with Tommy Banks - Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at the Enjoy Centre in St Albert - the event is being sponsored by Westglen School as part of its 75th anniversary celebration
- The 2nd Annual edMUDton Urban Adventure 5km Mud Run – Saturday, September 26, 2015 at Chappelle Gardens

Trustee Adams expressed appreciation for the sponsoring groups and their wonderful support in raising funds for full-day kindergarten.

Trustee Gibson reported on the inaugural meeting of the Construction, Manufacturing and Transportation Career Pathways Working group held on August 18, 2015. The committee, chaired by district staff member Julian Pacholik, is comprised of internal and external stakeholders. The committee is proposing to focus on an initiative for junior high, given the excellent work already underway for elementary and senior high students.

The focus of the initial meeting was to develop a framework to evaluate potential initiatives. Key criteria include:

- Link to curricular outcomes
- Accessibility for all junior high students
- Information about pathways and next steps
- Stakeholder support

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Trustee Gibson noted that the working group has made an excellent start for this exciting district initiative.

Trustee Janz noted the District is fully committed to finding cost savings and efficiencies aligning with the direction provided by Premier Rachel Notley and Education Minister Eggen and is open to continued expansions of partnerships for cost savings. He noted that, with regard to the Edmonton Student Transportation Authority (ESTA) initiative with Edmonton Catholic Schools, that the District understands the complexity of the issue and is fully committed to resolving the issues of all parties to ensure the initiative can go forward. The suggestions that the project is on hold are erroneous. He noted, in conversations with the Board Chair of Edmonton Catholic Schools, that they are fully-committed to the initiative as well.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Draper served notice of the following motion:

That Edmonton Public Schools endorse the overall EndPovertyEdmonton Strategy, and specifically those recommendations in the report connected to education.

Trustee Janz served notice of the following motion:

That the Edmonton Public School Board, in line with our previous advocacy for initiatives supporting health and wellness promotion and investing in disease and illness prevention, give our conceptual endorsement to supporting a Wellness Foundation for Alberta, as outlined by Wellness Alberta.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

M. Adjournment (2:20 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michael Janz, Board Chair

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