

**DATE:** May 17, 2022

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Vice-Chair Trustee Ip, Caucus Committee Chair

**SUBJECT:** Report #08 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held May 3, 2022)

**ORIGINATOR:** Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations

**REFERENCE:** [Trustees' Handbook](#) – Caucus Committee - Section 5.4

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### ISSUE

The Board approved the following recommendation at the March 3, 2015, Board meeting: That Section 5.4 of the Trustees' Handbook be revised 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.

**The following recommendation was approved at the May 3, 2022, Caucus Committee meeting:**

1. Recommended Spokespersons and Bargaining Objectives for Negotiations with Edmonton Public Teachers Local 37

*That Mr. Dave Devin and Ms. Angela Anderson be approved as co-spokespersons for negotiations with the Alberta Teachers' Association (Edmonton Public Teachers Local 37).*

*That the following objectives for the collective bargaining agreement between the Division and Alberta Teachers' Association (Edmonton Public Teachers Local 37) be approved:*

- *To achieve a revised collective agreement in collective bargaining that:*
  - *Continues to enable the Division to recruit and retain highly skilled teachers necessary to maintain quality teaching and learning in support of students' success;*
  - *Addresses local items in a manner that is congruent with memorandum of agreement ratified by TEBA and the ATA;*
  - *Ensures any financial implications of local items remain consistent within the existing, projected, and actual future financial and operational circumstances of the Division;*
- *To achieve the revision of the collective agreement with no work stoppage.*

### BACKGROUND

The collective bargaining agreement with the Alberta Teachers' Association (Local 37) expired August 31, 2020. In 2015–2016 the Province introduced legislation that provided a framework for central and local bargaining. This framework has been in place for the last two rounds of bargaining. In August 2021, agreement was reached between the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) and the Alberta Teacher's Association (ATA) on items that would be bargained centrally and those that would be bargained locally (Attachment I) for the round of bargaining that commenced in 2020. Bargaining on central items commenced in the fall of 2021 and is still underway.

2. Request for Advocacy Campaign Funding

*That the Advocacy Committee be authorized to spend up to \$6,000.00 from the Board Initiative Fund for the designing of a budget advocacy campaign.*

**BACKGROUND**

In February, the Advocacy Committee designed and invited all Trustees to participate in a #BudgetWatch social media campaign. As a follow up to that campaign, the committee is proposing a second campaign to highlight the gaps in funding received from the Province.

3. 2022-2023 Board Budget Considerations

*That spending from the Board Initiative Fund be limited to \$20,000.  
That spending from the Board Chair Discretionary Allowance be limited to \$500.*

**BACKGROUND**

While the funding commitment letter received on April 26, 2022 confirmed a slight increase in funding to the Division from the previous year, increasing enrolment and fixed costs is resulting in the most challenging budget the Division has faced in a decade. The Trustees' Handbook stipulates that each year the Board Initiative Fund balance start at \$45,000 and the Board Chair Discretionary Allowance start at \$2,154.

4. Signing of Confucius Institute Amendment

*That the amendment to the current Confucius Institute MOU be signed by the Board Chair.*

**BACKGROUND**

The current five-year agreement between the Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB), the Confucius Institute (CI) Headquarters of China (Hanban) and the Shandong Education Ministry was signed in November 2018. As of June 2020, Hanban has transferred their responsibilities to an education foundation, the Chinese International Education Foundation, administered by the Shandong Education Ministry and the Shandong Normal University. While the terms and conditions of the original agreement remain intact, the transition from Hanban to the Shandong Normal University as a supporting partner to the CI requires an amendment to the current agreement.

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