



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Summary of Board Meeting #10 Held Tuesday, February 9, 2010

A. O Canada:  (6:00 p.m.) – *District O Canada Video*

B. Roll Call: All Trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

1. The Board Chair noted that next week (February 15th to 21st) is Random Acts of Kindness Week. The Board has endorsed and recognized Random Acts of Kindness Week since 1996.

The Board encourages everyone to recognize and participate in Random Acts of Kindness Week whether it be to help a needy friend or anonymously shovel a neighbour's sidewalk. Hopefully kindness is something we all practice throughout the year.

2. The Board Chair thanked the District's United Way team for all of the time and energy they devoted towards the 2009 campaign. The Board of Trustees could not be more pleased with the efforts the United Way team made this year to support students and their families

He thanked Mr. Neil McPherson, in particular, noting that Mr. McPherson once again led the way as campaign chair. Neil spent countless hours organizing campaign details and meetings, writing updates and liaising between the United Way and the five staff groups.

He also extended thanks to: Assistant Superintendent Bruce Coggles; Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers; Elli Culligan, representative from the Exempt staff; Trudy Grebenstein, President CUPE Local 3550 (Support Staff); Doug Luellman, President CUPE Local 474 (Custodial Staff); and Bruce Cutting, President CUPE Local 784 (Maintenance Staff).

The 2009 campaign goal of \$120,000 was surpassed by over \$6,500. Most notably, the \$68,600 raised through pledges and special events was over 10,000 dollars more than that raised in any of the previous six years.

This incredible success is due to the hard work of the United Way team and to the generous contributions of the five individual staff groups and staff members across the District.

Together, we are helping to make a positive change in our communities. We're giving hope to young people and encouraging them to believe in themselves and their potential to realize their ambitions.

He expressed confidence that, through a steadfast commitment to support the United Way, the Power of Five will continue to enrich the lives of many students and community members in the years to come.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #9 – January 26, 2010

Approved as printed.

F. Recognition:

2. An Act to Follow – Staff Recognition Program

Received for information.

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

H. Reports

3. Report #7 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held February 2, 2010)

Approved recommendation.

4. School Year Calendar 2011-2012

Approved recommendation.

5. Response to Board Request for Information

Received for information.

6. City Centre Education Partnership Sector Review

- a) The following people spoke with respect to this item:
- Ms Yvonne Chiu
 - Ms Tigist Dafla
 - Ms Holly Newman
 - Mr. Bill Glass – *Mr. Glass also submitted written information to the Board*
 - Ms Cathy Mercier
 - Ms Angela Hrycan
 - Mr. Eric Ible
 - Ms Patricia Moore
 - Ms Michelle Karasinski
 - Ms Treena Keiver
 - Ms April Sullivan
 - Mr. Brett Sullivan
 - Mr. Jim Plante
 - Ms Khatidja Khalfan
- b) The Administration undertook to provide the responses that had been provided to previously requested information regarding (a) whether students achieve at a higher standard in smaller school versus a larger school and (b) the cost per weighted students in small and large schools.
- c) Approved the recommendation.

The Board approved undertaking the provincial and Board mandated processes to consider the closure of the following:

- Eastwood School
- McCauley School
- Parkdale School
- The Elementary program at Spruce Avenue School

7. Greater Hardisty Area Sector Review

a) The following people spoke with respect to this item:

- Ms Verna Hochachka
- Ms Anna Carlson
- Mr. Jeff Riddle
- Mr. Russ Morrow
- Ms Dena Boyle – *Ms Boyle also submitted written information to the Board*
- Ms Jessica Knoch
- Ms Dee-Dee Kopchia
- Ms Sheila Mckay
- Ms Sally Merrill

b) The Administration undertook to provide information regarding the experiences of elementary students who transitioned from a closed school to a K-9 school.

c) Approved the recommendation.

The Board approved undertaking the provincial and Board mandated processes to consider the closure of the following:

- Capilano School
- Fulton Place School

8. Bereavement

Received with regret.

9. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports – None.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided with the total amount of the donations raised by schools for Haiti.

The Board concurred with the request going forward.

J. Notices of Motion

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

That a full report on the District's long-term plan in the area of space rationalization be brought to public board prior to any vote on school closures and that the report provide information in the following areas:

- a) In the current economic climate, approximately how many schools, over what period of time, would we need to close in order to meet our space rationalization objectives?*
- b) What is the optimal number of unused spaces that the District is working toward?*
- c) What is our plan to address the \$24 million spending beyond our level of funding in our Plant Operations and Maintenance budget?*
- d) Provide specific evidence on how and why the quality of education becomes compromised when a school population falls below a certain level.*

K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

L. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 11:20 p.m.