

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

B. Roll Call: All Trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair reported that the Fourth Confucius Institute Conference was convened in Beijing on December 11 to 13, 2009. The conference is an annual meeting of the 287 Directors of Confucius Institutes in 87 countries. In addition to the Directors the heads of partner organizations which host Confucius Institutes were also invited to attend.

Of the 287 Confucius Institutes, 278 are hosted by universities, 8 hosted by governments or community organizations, and only one, the Confucius Institute in Edmonton, is fully hosted by a school district. The purpose of the conference is share information about what is working to enable the Institutes to realize common goals, and also the identification of common challenges.

A selected number of Directors and Presidents of Institutes were requested by Hanban to make presentations. They were selected because of success realized in the implementation of their respective plans.

The Confucius Institute in Edmonton was selected to present on the central issue Hanban is now trying to address, that being “How Can Confucius Institutes Help Primary and Secondary Schools to Offer Chinese Programs?”

As Board Chair of the host organization for the Confucius Institute in Edmonton he was asked to present on this topic.

He provided the context and history of Chinese programming in our district, and identified ways in which Chinese is delivered, both through Bilingual and Second Language programs, providing the Alberta definition for each.

He also explained the uniqueness of the Confucius Institute in Edmonton in that it is not hosted by a university but rather by a public school district.

He talked about:

- the conditions that need to be in place to enable a Confucius Institute to work successfully with a school district in starting and supporting effective Chinese language education
- how a Confucius Institute can promote the learning of Chinese in the community, building both demand for the language and the confidence that it can be successfully learned within public education
- the role of the Confucius Institute in promoting Chinese culture and in so doing creating better understanding between our region and China, hence enhancing interest in learning Chinese, in particular on the part of students of non-Chinese heritage
- the role of the Confucius Institute in involving the business community and local government, helping them to see the cultural and economic benefits that accrue when a portion of the student population develops a working capacity in Chinese. I emphasized the importance of the Confucius Institute as a tool in encouraging early enrolment in Mandarin.

As a result of the presentation, Mr. Wachowicz, Director/Chair of the Confucius Institute Edmonton, received requests for information on Chinese support and bilingual models from Australia, New Zealand, England, and the United States.

The presentation provided much welcome information and helped to promote Edmonton Public Schools and its world class bilingual education model as a possible solution to Chinese language needs in many parts of the world. The Chinese Minister of Education made a special mention of the success of the Confucius Institute Edmonton as a model for Chinese language education abroad in his concluding speech of the Conference.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

1. The Superintendent advised that the deadline to submit nominations for the 2010 Provincial *Excellence in Teaching Awards* has been extended. All nominations must be forwarded to the Superintendent's Office by 4:30 p.m. Monday, January 18. Submissions will be forwarded directly from Central Services to Alberta Education by the provincial deadline of February 5th.
2. The Superintendent advised that the 200-2010 *Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Jurisdiction Survey* will be administered in schools during the period of February 1 to February 19, 2010. Participants will include all certificated staff at all schools and all students in Grades 4, 7 and 10. A change from previous years affects schools with an enrolment of fewer than 100 students in Grades 4 to 12. At these schools, all students in Grades 4 and above will complete the survey.

Parent surveys will be mailed from, and returned directly to, Alberta Education beginning January 11 and until February 19. The survey mail out is sent to parents of students in Grades 4, 7 and 10. For smaller schools having an enrolment of less than 100 students in Grades 4 to 12, surveys will be sent to parents of all students in Grades 4 and above. Parents wishing to receive the survey in another language will be instructed to contact their principal, who will then contact Alberta Education for additional instructions.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #7 – December 8, 2009

Approved as printed.

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement Through Reading Recovery

Received for information.

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Ms Betty Wedman advised that, on February 3, 2009, she hand delivered information to each Trustee regarding her son Alex Wedman who was bullied and who took his own life but has not received feedback to date regarding a number of questions she had regarding the Board's policies and practices with respect to bullying.

The Board Chair asked Ms Wedman to submit her questions to the Board Secretary for follow-up by the Administration.

H. Reports

3. By-Law No. 2010-1 A By-Law Relating to an Amendment to Edmonton School District No. 7 Electoral Ward Boundaries F and H

Approved recommendation.

4. Agreement with the City of Edmonton for the Conduct of the 2010 School Board Election

Approved recommendation.

5. Response to Board Request for Information

Received for information.

6. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

1. Trustee Colburn reported on initiatives of the Alberta Coalition for Healthy School Communities of which he is the Co-Chair. He reported that work has begun to establish five regional health teams aligned with the five CASS and ASBA Zones.

Each Zone organization will be asked to identify a representative to serve for a one-year on these teams. The ASBA Zone 23 meeting with the CASS and ASBA representatives will take place within the next month. The representatives will be responsible for reporting back to their organizations and thereby engaging all school boards.

They have also established an Aboriginal school health initiative to determine if there are any distinguishing challenges. Consultations have taken place with board reserve and off-reserve Aboriginal representatives.

2. Trustee Gibson reported that he would be representing the District at the ASBA FNMI (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) Student Success Group meeting tomorrow at which boards will be sharing their information regarding student achievement.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding the achievement outcomes for students who have experienced recent school closures. Provide a comparison of achievement results pre and post closure prior to the Board's consideration of the sector recommendations for Hardisty and CCEP.

A majority of the Board did not support the request going forward. In accordance with Board practice, the request is automatically treated as a notice of motion.

2. Trustee Huff requested that the Administration provide an analysis of the impact of the findings Alberta Education High School Completion longitudinal study on the District in the future and relation to the work on sector reviews.

A majority of the Board concurred with the request

J. Notices of Motion

Trustee Huff served notice of the following motion:

That the ACTS (Alberta Conflict Transformation Society) be invited to make a presentation to public board and that the Parents as Partners consider including restorative practice as a topic for the 2010-2011 year.

K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

L. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.