

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #2

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 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Sarah Hoffman
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner
Ray Martin

Officials

Jim Davies
David Fraser
Ron MacNeil

Mary Michailides
Kathy Muhlethaler

Darrel Robertson
Sandra Stoddard

Board Chair: Sarah Hoffman

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Nels Olsen, President
CUPE Local 3550 – Carol Chapman, President

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the agenda for the September 16, 2014 board meeting be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that, on September 6, 2014, she represented the Board at the Daughters Day 2014 event held at City Hall. Trustee Ip was in attendance as well. She presented Ms Joan Cowling with one of the Daughters Day awards in recognition of her contributions to education. Ms Cowling is a former Edmonton Public School Board Trustee, former Board Chair, and a former President of the Canadian School Boards Association.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that, in the coming days, district Grades 2 to 9 teachers will administer the Math Intervention Programming Instrument (MIPI). The instrument is a way to help teachers assess where each student is in terms of their math knowledge and skills learned during the last school year. Teachers will review the test results and create interventions for students who are struggling with critical learning outcomes in math. The instrument, which will be piloted this year, was co-created by district teachers and principals.

F. Minutes

1. Organizational Board Meeting – September 2, 2014

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held September 2, 2014 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

H. Reports

2. Report #2 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held September 2, 2014)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“1. That Report #2 of the Caucus Committee from the meeting held September 2, 2014 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “2. That the Board of Trustees’ approval of the formal sale of Wellington School land and building for \$4,755,000 to the City of Edmonton be confirmed.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

3. Motion re Transportation

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

- “1. That the Edmonton Public School Board ask the Province to restore the approximately \$1.5 million dollar shortfall that resulted from the recalculation of the urban transportation grant.
2. That the Board work with the Province to secure additional funding for transportation to help alleviate student growth pressures until much needed school space is available.”

MOVED BY Trustee Chubb:

“That Recommendation 1 be amended to read: *That the Edmonton Public School Board ask the Province to restore the approximately \$1.5 million dollar ~~shortfall~~ difference that resulted from the recalculation of the urban transportation grant.*”

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

The Amendment was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That Recommendation 2 be amended to read: *That the Board work with the Province to secure additional funding for transportation to help alleviate student growth pressures ~~until much needed school space is available.~~*”

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

The Amendment was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 1 as Amended.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 2 as Amended.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adams, Draper, Gibson, Hoffman, Ip, Janz, Johner and Martin

OPPOSED: Trustee Chubb

The Motion was CARRIED.

There was a short break at this point.

4. Greater Lawton Area – School Closures

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

- “1. That the Board approve a motion to close Lawton School effective on the date of the opening of the replacement school on the Rundle School site.
2. That the Board approve a motion to close R.J. Scott School effective on the date of the opening of the replacement school on the Rundle School site.
3. That the Board approve a motion to close Rundle School effective on the date of the opening of the replacement school on the Rundle School site.”

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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5. Board Policy CO.BP – Fiscal Oversight and Accountability

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

- “1. That new draft Board Policy CO.BP – Fiscal Oversight and Accountability be considered for the second time.**

- 2. That new draft CO.BP – Fiscal Oversight and Accountability be considered for the third time and approved.**

- 3. That, Board Policy CO.BP – Fiscal Oversight and Accountability having been approved, the following board policies be rescinded:**
 - a. Current Board Policy CO.BP – Fiscal Oversight and Management**
 - b. Board Policy CT.BP – Appointment of Principal Banker**
 - c. Board Policy CVE.BP – Auditor**
 - d. Board Policy CW.BP – Purchasing**
 - e. Board Policy HNB.BP – Instructional Fees**
 - f. Board Policy IAC.BP – Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations**
 - g. Board Policy IH.BP – Public Gifts”**

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 1.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 2.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 3.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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6. 2013-2014 Board Self-Evaluation

Trustee Chubb, Chair of the 2013-2014 Board and Superintendent Evaluation Committee, read the following statement with respect to the 2013-2014 Board self-evaluation:

On behalf of the Board and Superintendent Evaluation Committee, I wish to report that the Board of Trustees has completed its annual self-evaluation for the 2013-2014 school year.

Annually reflecting on the Board's performance is important in our ongoing efforts to provide strong leadership for the District with an ultimate goal of supporting the success of the students and families we serve. Research shows that when boards engage in ongoing evaluation processes that are both formative and summative in nature, they demonstrate commitment to quality, excellence and continuous learning.

As part of a quality public institution that is committed to both excellence and continuous improvement, the Board asks individual Trustees to evaluate the Board once per year. From June 9, 2014 to July 7, 2014, Trustees took the opportunity to complete a comprehensive on-line, summative Board self-evaluation survey. We evaluated ourselves on 112 indicators in eleven key areas. The results allowed the Board as a whole, to determine what it is doing well and what require additional focus.

The areas covered were:

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| 1. | <i>Mission, Vision and Priorities</i> | <i>3.38 out of 4</i> |
| 2. | <i>Results Orientated</i> | <i>2.77 out of 4</i> |
| 3. | <i>Alignment of Resources</i> | <i>2.77 out of 4</i> |
| 4. | <i>Budget</i> | <i>3.00 out of 4</i> |
| 5. | <i>Climate and Culture</i> | <i>3.02 out of 4</i> |
| 6. | <i>Board and Superintendent Relationship</i> | <i>3.61 out of 4</i> |
| 7. | <i>Board Relationship and Conduct</i> | <i>3.17 out of 4</i> |
| 8. | <i>Community Relations</i> | <i>3.24 out of 4</i> |
| 9. | <i>Policy and Governance</i> | <i>3.22 out of 4</i> |
| 10. | <i>Committee and Representative Work</i> | <i>3.17 out of 4</i> |
| 11. | <i>Decision Making</i> | <i>3.46 out of 4</i> |

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Some of the specific highlights from the survey are:

The Board felt the development of the Vision, Mission, Priorities and Values was a very comprehensive, evidence-based and inclusive process that has, and will continue to support strategic planning, policy development and decision making throughout the term of the Board.

We have an excellent working relationship among ourselves and the Superintendent leading to an open, honest and transparent communication environment, which supports a culture of trust and alignment of actions.

Trustees believe that evidence-based decision making and results reporting is a key to supporting and achieving the District Mission, Vision and Priorities.

The District needs to do a better job of providing parents and community members with easy-to-understand information.

Distributing funds equitably continues to be a concern for the Board, yet we are optimistic that our approval for the establishment of the Equity Fund will address some of the needs.

Concerns also continue to persist around adequate, predictable, sustainable funding.

Trustees have a great sense of urgency for new schools in areas where we cannot accommodate the growth in new neighborhoods.

In conclusion, the Board has been honored to guide the work of Edmonton Public Schools in this first year of our term and we feel a great sense of pride in our accomplishments and optimism for the challenges ahead.

The Board recognizes that this is a team effort and wishes to thank the students, staff, parents and community. We remain committed to engaging students, staff, parents and the community by providing ongoing opportunities for input and feedback into our decision making process.

7. 2013-2014 Superintendent's Evaluation

Trustee Chubb, Chair of the 2013-2014 Board and Superintendent Evaluation Committee, provided information with respect to the 2013-2014 Superintendent's evaluation.

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8. Bereavements

Vice-Chair Janz reported on the passing of Mrs. Theresa Allen, Mrs. Bonnie Kyle and Mrs. Linda Ross.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams, the Board's representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, advised that the edMUDton Urban Adventure 5-Kilometre Mud Run fundraiser would take place Saturday, September 20, 2014 with \$5 of every entry going to the Foundation. A 3-kilometre MuttMudder obstacle course challenge is also available for those who wish to participate with their dogs. She also advised that the Foundation will be hosting information sessions in October and November.

Trustee Gibson, Chair of the 2013-2014 District Priorities and Governance Committee, thanked Trustees Draper and Martin for their excellence contributions. The 2014-2015 District Priorities and Governance Committee, comprised of himself and Trustees Adams and Johner, had their first meeting earlier in the day and he was selected as the Committee Chair for the coming year. He noted there was discussion at the meeting regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Student Trustee and Board mentorship of the student – the Committee anticipates bringing forward more detail on this initiative to Board in November for consideration.

Trustee Draper advised that, on Sunday, September 14, 2014, she brought greetings on behalf of the Board at the Edmonton Chinese Community Mid-Autumn Lantern Festival that took place at City Hall. She noted Trustee Ip is a member of the Lantern Festival Committee.

Trustee Hoffman advised that she is working with the other Metro Board Chairs to arrange a Metro Boards' meeting prior to the ASBA Fall General Meeting which will take place November 16 to 18, 2014.

Trustee Hoffman, the Board's representative on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors, advised that Executive Director David Anderson is retiring. The Board of Directors met last week to discuss the search and recruiting process for a new Executive Director. The strategic planning process was also discussed at the meeting and there will be upcoming professional development sessions, likely through the various zones, to discuss this and ways individual school boards and Zones can provide input for the ASBA strategic plan. In conjunction with this, work is underway to develop an ASBA advocacy plan focussed on specific long-term priorities. School board input will be sought with respect to this. The goal is to have the advocacy plan in place by April 2015.

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K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Janz requested information be provided on the efficacy of two North Vancouver School District programs: "Firm Foundations" and "Reading 44". Was there a pilot project with Edmonton Public Schools? What were the results and what are potential next steps?

Trustee Hoffman requested the following information be provided with respect to the *Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusive Education in Alberta Schools – September 2014* published by the Alberta Teachers' Association:

- What recommendations in the report have already been implemented in the District?
- What recommendations in the report do we believe would support us in offering a successful inclusive educational environment for all students?
- What would be the potential resource implications of the recommendations?

Trustee Hoffman requested that information be provided on the current minimum, maximum and average ride times for:

- Regular yellow bus services
- Alternative program yellow bus service
- Special needs yellow bus service

L. Notices of Motion – None.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 4:25 p.m. and reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

All Trustees were present.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – 5:00 p.m.

The Board heard from Mr. Michael Tachynski regarding an appeal of the Board of Reference decision with respect to Mr. Lynden Dorval.

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N. **Adjournment:** (5:05 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Sarah Hoffman, Board Chair

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