

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #7

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, January 31, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Cheryl Johner
Ray Martin

Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Todd Burnstad
Grace Cooke
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Kathy Muhlethaler
Lorne Parker
Kent Pharis

Madonna Proulx
Leona Morrison
Darrel Robertson
Mike Suderman

Acting Board Chair: Michelle Draper

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau

Staff Group Representatives

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

The Acting Board Chair called the meeting to order with recognition that we are on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

The Acting Board Chair advised that the firm alarm system at the Centre for Education is a Two Stage alarm system. Stage One is a single repeating alarm tone indicating a warning only and that evacuation is not required. Stage Two is a triple repeating alarm tone indicating that evacuation is required.

A. O Canada 

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

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The Superintendent advised that Trustees Ip and Janz were absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“That the agenda for the January 31, 2017 board meeting be approved as printed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. Communications from the Acting Board Chair

The Acting Board Chair shared that the Superintendent’s January 20, 2017 morning message was profound and requested to share it with everyone. The Acting Board Chair read the following morning message from the Superintendent:

“I was reflecting on the weekend how public education truly is a reflection of principles of inclusion. We’re here for the children and families who need us. No matter their ability or their background. Whether a child is an elite athlete or has severe special needs and is supported by an educational assistant at all times, there is a place for them in our classrooms. Whether a child has behavioural issues or is a self-starter whose enthusiasm we can hardly contain, there is a place for them in our classrooms. Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jewish, atheist, agnostic, LGBTQ, has one parent, two parents, a community of parents or no parents; there is a desk for them with us. That is public education. That is who we are.”

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Acting Board Chair thanked the Superintendent for his leadership and the work that is done by all for the best outcome for the District’s students.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent shared that the second annual Hockey Helps Kids Charity Cup Challenge launched January 17, 2017. He advised that Highlands Junior High and John D. Bracco Junior High schools are participating this year and that the students choose the charity that they are going to support through this initiative with the Edmonton Oilers. The Highland students have chosen the Make-A-Wish Foundation for northern Alberta and their team captain is Connor McDavid, Centerman for the Edmonton Oilers. The students of John D. Bracco have chosen to support the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton and their team captain is Milan Lucic, Left Wing for the Edmonton Oilers. The students have developed a video that reflects their charity of choice and fans at hockey games as well as anyone that visits the website will have the opportunity to vote on their favourite video. The video and school that receives the most votes will have \$25,000 donated to the charity that they support with each of the three runners having \$10,000 donated to their charity that they support.

The Superintendent encouraged everyone to go to the Hockey Helps Kids website and vote.

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F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #6 – January 17, 2017

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #6 held January 17, 2017 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 #1 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held January 17, 2017)

Information was received regarding actions taken at the January 17, 2017 Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Third and Final Reading of Bylaw to Amend the Trustee Ward Boundaries

MOVED BY Trustee Chubb:

“That in accordance with Section 69 of the *School Act*, Bylaw No. 2017-1 be read for the third and final time.” (CARRIED)

4. Review of Trustee Remuneration

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the proposed changes to Trustee remuneration be approved.”

MOVE BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the motion be amended as follows:

Tie future annual changes to the Edmonton Metropolitan Area COLA (as published by Statistics Canada as the consumer price index), a stable external measure, rather than rely on Trustee recommendations.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“That the proposed changes as amended to Trustee remuneration be approved.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. First Reading of Policy IJA.BP- Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

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“1. That Policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“2. That Policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications be read for the first time and approved for posting on the District website for stakeholder input.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Acting Board Chair advised that on February 28, 2017, a recommendation report will be submitted requesting second and third and final reading of Policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications.

6. First Reading of Policy AE.BP - Welcoming, Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Learning and Working Environments

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“1. That Policy AE.BP Welcoming, Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Learning and Working Environments be introduced.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“2. That Policy AE.BP Welcoming, Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Learning and Working Environments be read for the first time and approved for posting on the District website for stakeholder input.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Acting Board Chair advised that on February 28, 2017, a recommendation report will be submitted requesting second and third and final reading of Policy AE.BP Welcoming, Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Learning and Working Environments.

7. Bereavement

The Acting Board Chair reported on the passing of Mr. Evan Idler.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

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Trustee Chubb reported that on January 25, 2017, he and Trustee Adams attended an informal evening sponsored by the Alberta Teacher's Association (ATA) for exploration and conversation regarding the promises and challenges related to Alberta's curriculum reform. Also in attendance were three international guests:

- Dr. Arja-Sisko Holappa, a specialist in early education and curriculum theory and design in the Finnish National Board of Education.
- Rosemary (Rose) Hipkin, a Chief Researcher at the New Zealand Council for Educational Research.
- Teijo Päckilä, deputy head at the Seinäjoen lukio in Seinäjoki, Finland.

Trustee Chubb explained that Mr. Päckilä is an integral contributor to the project that has joined schools in Alberta and Finland together in a multi-year research effort focused on creating "A Great School for All." Trustee Chubb stated that particular attention was paid on how school leaders might navigate the road ahead and that the evening had some interesting conversation around the role of assessment in providing assurance to the public in education.

Trustee Johner reported that on January 30, 2017, she and Trustee Draper attended the Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do It! (MEND) information session. She explained it is a free community-based program for children ages 2 to 13 years old and their families. The program was founded in 2004 in the UK, and offers research-based child obesity prevention and early intervention programs at no cost to families.

Trustee Johner reported that on January 25, 2017, she attended the Edmonton Distress Line Breakfast that was promoted by Bell Let's Talk Day, to raise awareness of the impact of mental illness. She shared that the service is provided by the Canadian Mental Health Association and that without the distress line more than 1,500 calls would go unanswered each month.

Trustee Johner reported that on January 26, 2017, Dickinsfield School hosted a First Nations, Métis and Inuit family night which was as a great success and that there was cultural dance and indigenous crafts that were experienced by all. The students and staff cooked a traditional meal of stew and bannock.

Trustee Johner shared that the Beacon Heights full-day Kindergarten students were commissioned by Glenise Harvey, owner of the Dandi-Lines Art Gallery, to design works of art for the gallery's March 16, 2017, grand opening. She explained that in January 2017, the Kinders had the unique experience of working right at the gallery's art studio with an art educator to create masterpieces that evolved into an exhibit called "From the Fridge to the Wall." She thanked Glenise Harvey for this opportunity and for her support of the District's Foundation.

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Trustee Johner reported that to date, \$18,000 has been raised for the Sandra Woitas Scholarship Fund. With the help of 200 volunteers, \$14,085 was raised at the Kingsway Mall Wrap and Roll event. Trustee Johner also reported that EPCOR has gifted the Foundation with \$31,000 for two school years (2017-2018 and 2018-2019) to support Mee-Yah-Noh's full-day Kindergarten.

Trustee Gibson reported that he had the pleasure of attending the following school council meetings on January 17, 2017, Bessie Nichols and Michael A. Kostek, on January 18, 2017, Hillcrest, on January 19, 2017, Lymburn and on January 23, 2017, S. Bruce Smith.

Trustee Gibson reported that he solicited views of residents living near schools to learn their views on whether traffic safety is improving.

Trustee Stirling reported that she had the privilege of attending school council meetings at Gold Bar, King Edward, Mill Creek, Vimy Ridge Academy, and WP Wagner and that she is intrigued by the diversity of the parents and other school community members who attend and their commitment in supporting their schools and public education in general.

Trustee Stirling reported that on January 21, 2017, that she was joined by several of the Trustees to attend the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association celebration of the Lunar New Year. Trustee Stirling thanked all the organizers for putting on such a joyful and well-attended event and Mr. Michael Phair for taking part as the honorary God of Fortune.

Trustee Stirling stated that Trustee Janz joined her to attend the Shaping the Future conference, organized by Ever Active Schools, a provincial organization working to support comprehensive school health in Alberta. She explained it was an important opportunity to learn about research and initiatives across the province, including here in Edmonton, from both educators and academics, and to inform the work going forward as policy makers and advocates for welcoming, inclusive, safe, and healthy schools.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson requested that the Administration provide a list of schools that the City of Edmonton has worked with to improve traffic safety, and a list of the next schools that are scheduled to receive traffic safety improvements.

Trustee Gibson questioned whether the District has a program to replace aging items such as sinks with energy efficient fixtures, and if so, that an outline of the process used to identify a list of the schools to receive such improvements be provided.

Trustee Gibson stated that Rio Terrace and Quesnell Heights students are designated to Patricia Heights for elementary, but are designated to Laurier Heights for junior high rather than

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Hillcrest School as the other Patricia Heights students. Trustee Gibson requested that Administration review this.

- L. **Notices of Motion** - None
- M. **Next Board Meeting Date**: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
- N. **Adjournment** (3:30 p.m.)

The Acting Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Acting Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations