

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #8

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, March 4, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Sarah Hoffman
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johnner
Ray Martin

Officials

Diana Bolan
Jim Davies

David Fraser
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

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 March 4, 2014 board meeting be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that Edmonton Public Schools' 50th Annual Night of Music will be held at the Jubilee Auditorium on Wednesday, March 5th. The purpose of this event is to promote the importance of music education and recognize the musical accomplishments of district students. This year's theme is the 50th Anniversary of the event.

The Board Chair advised that March 8th is the 103rd Anniversary of International Women's Day. This year's theme is *Inspiring Change*. The day was created as an opportunity to recognize women around the world for their political, economic, and social achievements. She congratulated all of the women working for the District who make vital contributions to student learning, the work of public education and the success of Edmonton Public Schools

The Board Chair advised that the Alberta Teachers' Association Provincial Executive Council has proclaimed March 10 to 14, 2014 as Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week for the 2013-2014 school year. Substitute teachers play an essential role in maintaining the continuity and excellence of the learning process. The role of the substitute teacher carries the same daily responsibilities of instruction, marking, discipline and supervision as that of regular classroom teachers.

The Board Chair advised that Alberta Education's *Inspiring Education* Symposium was held February 19, 2014. She thanked Trustees Draper, Ip and Janz for joining her and the Superintendent along with school and central staff to represent the District which is clearly a leader in transformation.

The Board Chair advised that, last Monday, she brought greetings at the USchool Convocation at the University of Alberta. This program is designed to increase post-secondary attendance among students who are typically under represented at the post-secondary level. Students from the following schools were celebrated:

- Montrose, Grade 6
- Norwood, Grade 6
- Youngstown, Grade 4/5
- Balwin, Grade 8

The Board Chair advised that, last Wednesday, she served as a panelist and presented on Board Policy HAA.BP - Aboriginal Education to the University of Alberta's EDU 211 class which consists of pre-service education students who aspire to become teachers and are taking the Aboriginal Education and Contexts for Professional and Personal

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Engagement course which is now a required course for education students at the University of Alberta.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that, on February 19, 2014, the Minister of Education announced that Edmonton Public Schools has been selected by Alberta Education for provincial Curriculum Development Prototyping for Kindergarten to Grade 3. This project provides a unique opportunity for up to eighty-four district teachers from Kindergarten to Grade 12, across forty-six district schools who will be involved in the early processes of curriculum development and field testing. The initial phase of the Curriculum Development Prototyping work (March to June 2014) includes:

- the development of a draft Kindergarten to Grade 12 scope and sequence;
- the development of draft learning outcomes for Kindergarten to Grade 3 for English Language Arts (ELA), French Language Arts (FLA), Mathematics, Sciences, Social Studies, Arts Education and Wellness Education;
- the identification and/or development of draft Kindergarten to Grade 3 classroom-based assessments and learning and teaching resources for English Language Arts (ELA), French Language Arts (FLA), Mathematics, Sciences, Social Studies, Arts Education and Wellness Education.

The second phase (Fall 2014) will include the field testing of the above materials. The Curriculum Development Prototyping Project will conclude in December 2014. This work is the next phase of implementing *Inspiring Education* and the Ministerial Order on Student Learning (#001/2013). He added that, on Tuesday, he attended the first meeting that brought teachers together from across the District with respect to this project. Teachers will be engaged in fourteen days of curriculum writing. This is quite a commitment for those staff who have to prepare supply teaching plans for each of the fourteen days. The teachers will be working hard to ensure that the curriculum has rigour and that we are preparing students for success transitions to Division II and, ultimately, successfully lives as they work through the new curriculum.

The Superintendent advised that Canada is ending its 12-year military mission in Afghanistan on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, which will be marked by the lowering of the Canadian flag in Kabul. The Minister of Education has requested that Alberta schools also lower their Canadian flags to half-staff that morning to honour the completion the mission and recognize the sacrifice of those who have fallen and thank those returning safely home. More than 45,000 Canadians have taken part in the mission, and 162 people from all walks of life have made the ultimate sacrifice. Forty-six of those were either from Alberta or stationed in Alberta when they deployed.

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Information regarding resources Alberta Education has made available including a link to the Government of Canada's video of the flag lowering ceremony in Kabul has been shared with district schools.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #7 – February 18, 2014

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #7 held February 18, 2014 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers.

H. Reports

2. Draft Board Policy AEBC.BP – Wellness of Students and Staff

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That a new Board Policy AEBC.BP - Wellness of Students and Staff be considered for the first time and approved for posting on the District website for stakeholder input.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Bereavement

Vice-Chair Janz reported on the passing of Mr. Todd Bekolay, a member of the District's teaching staff.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Martin, a member of the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Bargaining Task Force, reported that he attended the Task Force Meeting on February 26, 2014. The Task Force met with representatives from Alberta Education. Alberta Education is consulting with the ASBA, Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS), Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA), Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA), Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta (AISCA) and the Federation des Conseils Scolaires Francophones de L'Alberta (FCFSA) to consider a new model for teacher bargaining. The Minister of Education is not precluding any specific model for collective

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bargaining other than pure, local bargaining as the sole process; i.e., there will be no local bargaining. The next meeting will be on March 20, 2014 at the Double Tree Hotel. All Trustees are invited to attend as well as the Superintendent and Administration. The deadline for school boards to consider and make submissions to the ASBA Task Force is April 29, 2014. The goal is to have a position prepared for the ASBA Spring General meeting.

Trustee Draper advised that she and Trustee Ip attended the Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention Association (GETCA) Parent's Evening on February 28, 2014 at Eastglen School. GETCA is one of the only convention boards in Alberta that still offers a keynote session for parents. She also appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with Edmonton Catholic Schools as well. She was honoured to give the opening remarks at the event which featured Craig Kielburger, Co-founder of the *Free the Children* Charity. He spoke about the importance of education being to inspire and that helping the world is a muscle that needs to be developed. Trustee Ip was recognized for starting a *Me to We* chapter. Mr. Kielburger also spoke at Teachers' Convention the following day.

Trustee Chubb advised that, on February 19, 2014, he attended an Aboriginal Community Night organized by Sharon Bourque, First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Coordinator. He commended her efforts for organizing the evening and her work with the Aboriginal community.

Trustee Ip advised that, on March 3, 2014, he and the Board Chair attended the 7th Annual High School Culinary Challenge Awards Gala at the Shaw Conference Centre hosted by the Canadian Culinary Federation (CCF). The Gala was a culmination of months of hard work by high school students. Teams of students guided by their mentors and teachers trained in the kitchen, learned new skills and mastered advanced techniques all in preparation for the competition in February. Over the last six years, more than seventy schools have participated in this competition. Trustees from Edmonton Public and Catholic School Boards, City Councillors, Minister of Culture Heather Klimchuk, as well as local dignitaries were in attendance. He congratulated all of the participating teams, especially from Jasper Place School whose team placed third at this year's competition. All students who participate in the High School Culinary Challenge have the opportunity to apply for a full scholarship to the three-year Cook Journeyman Apprenticeship Program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT).

Trustee Adams, the Board's representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors, advised that the *Ready to Frame* fundraiser will take place April 17, 2014 at the Nova Hotel. All Trustees are invited to attend.

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Trustee Janz noted he had attended the ASBA Zone 23 general meeting on February 28, 2014 at the St. Anthony Centre on behalf of Trustee Johner. There was discussion regarding the Bargaining Task Force and the bargaining process. Discussion also took place regarding the Provincial Government budget announcement that will take place on March 6th as well as with respect to the Provincial review currently taking place of the *Municipal Government Act*. Several boards will making submissions with respect to the review. The next Zone 23 general meeting will take place on March 21, 2014 at the St. Anthony Centre. All Trustees are invited to attend.

J. **Trustee and Board Requests for Information** – None.

K. **Notices of Motion** – None.

L. **Next Board Meeting Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

M. **Adjournment** (2:45 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Sarah Hoffman, Board Chair

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