



Edmonton School District No. 7
One Kingsway
Edmonton, Alberta

McCauley Chambers
Tuesday, February 28, 2017
2:00 p.m.

Board Meeting #9

AGENDA

**BOARD OF
TRUSTEES**

**Michael Janz
Board Chair**

**Michelle Draper
Board Vice-Chair**

**Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip
Cheryl Johner
Ray Martin
Bridget Stirling**

- A. O Canada 
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of the Agenda
- D. Communications from the Board Chair
- E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools
- F. Minutes:
 - 1. DRAFT – Board Meeting #8 – February 14, 2017
- G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives
(NOTE: Pre-registration with the Board Office [780-429-8443] is required by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2017 to speak under this item.)
- H. Reports:
 - 2. Report #2 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held February 14, 2017 (Information)
 - 3. Student Senate 2016-2017 Work Plan (Information – Presentation)
Note: 30 minutes is required for this item.
 - 4. Second, and Third and Final Reading of Policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications (Recommendation)
 - 5. Motion re Designation of Education Property Taxes (Recommendation)
- I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – 5:00 p.m.
(NOTE: Pre-registration with the Board Office [780-429-8443] is required by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2017 to speak under this item.)

- J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**
- K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information**
- L. Notices of Motion**
- M. Meeting Dates**
- N. Adjournment**

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, February 14, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip
Cheryl Johner

Ray Martin
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Lisa Austin
Grace Cooke
Ron MacNeil
Karen Mills

Kathy Muhlethaler
Lorne Parker
Nancy Petersen
Kent Pharis

Madonna Proulx
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 and Janis Zielke, First Vice 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.)

The Superintendent advised that Trustee Janz was absent. All other Trustees were present.

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C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

**“That the agenda for the February 14, 2017 board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Acting Board Chair

The Acting Board Chair advised that February 22, 2017, is Pink Shirt Day and that it was started following an anti-bullying stand of two grade 12 Nova Scotia students in 2007. The students took action after witnessing a grade 9 student being bullied for wearing pink to school and encouraged their schoolmates to wear pink to send a message against bullying. Since then, the Pink Shirt Day Campaign has sent a powerful message that Bullying Stops Here. Through awareness and education, Canadians can continue to take a stand against bullying.

On behalf of the Board, the Acting Board Chair encouraged everyone to wear a pink shirt on February 22 to symbolize that as a society we will not tolerate bullying anywhere.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that a Teacher Collaboration Committee meeting was held on February 7, 2017. He explained that 60 randomly selected teachers from a variety of schools in Divisions 1 to 4 throughout the District came together to discuss student assessments. The Committee will be reviewing the information and sharing a report with all leaders across the District in order for them to continue to have conversations with parents and staff.

The Superintendent advised that the Hockey Helps Kids fundraiser was coming to a close with only two days left and encouraged everyone to go online to vote.

The Superintendent shared that open house season is once again happening. He said that the Communications department has designed a fabulous campaign which will be advertised on the District website, announced on radio stations, social media and signs throughout the City. It is a great opportunity for families to tour the District’s schools, meet staff and to get know the programs and cultures in the schools because we are a district of choice. The Superintendent shared that the Find a School tool is on the District website which provides information and dates of schools that will be hosting open house sessions.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #7 – January 31, 2017

MOVED BY Trustee Chubb:

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“That the minutes of Board Meeting #7 held January 31, 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. High School Accommodation Framework 2016-2019
(Response to Request for Information #198)

The Trustees received a presentation in response to a request for information.

Trustee Gibson requested that Administration meet with the City of Edmonton to discuss potential leasing options, including the South Grant MacEwan campus, should there be a shortfall of student spaces in attendance area high schools in the future and that this information be provided to the Trustees.

Trustee Gibson requested that Administration discuss transportation routes stemming from the expansion of the LRT and special school bus routes with the City of Edmonton and that this information be provided to the Trustees.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams shared that she attended a dinner meeting where members from the student senate were present and that she had an opportunity to have very meaningful conversations with two of the students. The students expressed that being involved in the Student Senate has given them a purpose and opportunities for meaningful engagement. Trustee Adams expressed that the students' testimony was powerful and she thanked the Administration for supporting the Student Senate initiative.

Trustee Chubb reported that on February 4, 2017, he attended the Chamber of Commerce luncheon where Minister Mason spoke about the provincial government's priorities for 2017 and the impact and opportunities of Alberta's \$24.8 billion capital plan.

Trustee Draper advised that she attended the North East Edmonton Lunar New Year Event held at Londonderry Mall on February 4, 2017, along with many other dignitaries including Mayor Iverson and the Minister of Education.

Trustee Draper reported that on February 6, 2017, she brought greetings from the Board at Edmonton Public Schools Career Pathways Professional Learning Day held at W.P. Wagner School. Prior to Minister Eggen's keynote speech as part of the "Education on Planet Earth"

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conference that afternoon, she and Trustee Stirling met with stakeholders, including the Alberta Council for Environmental Education, to further explore linkages to career pathways and environmental, outdoor and energy education.

Trustee Ip shared that on January 18, 2017, he had the opportunity to speak to a grade six class at Greenfield School during their City Hall School program. He spoke to the class about the role of a Trustee in the governance of the Edmonton Public School Board.

Trustee Ip reported that on January 20, 2017, he brought greetings on behalf of the Board at the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association Lunar New Year celebration at the Bonnie Doon mall. He shared that the festival was filled with performances and activities by Edmonton Public School staff and students.

Trustee Martin reported that on February 1, 2017, he attended the Eating Disorders Awareness Ceremony at the Alberta Legislature.

Trustee Martin advised that on February 10, 2017, he attended the second Annual Black History Celebration held at Edmonton City Hall.

Trustee Stirling reported that she attended the Career Pathways Professional Development Day at WP Wagner School on February 6, 2017, with Trustee Draper and that was wonderful to see teachers out from across the District present.

Trustee Stirling reported that on February 9, 2017, she attended the launch of the next phase of End Poverty Edmonton, which is transitioning from a strategy to a community organization dedicated to ending poverty in the City.

Trustee Stirling advised that on February 9, 2017, brought the opportunity to welcome the Minister for the Status of Women Stephanie McLean to Braemar School, where she met with staff, students, and Terra partners to learn more about how this program is helping to open up future possibilities for young mothers and their children by ensuring these students can complete their high school education and prepare for a successful life after graduation.

Trustee Stirling shared that she had the pleasure of bringing greetings on behalf of the Board at the Chinese New Year Gala at the Myer Horowitz Theatre. She explained the event was hosted by the Confucius Institute of Edmonton and featured performances by students from China's Lanzhou University. Trustee Stirling reported that representatives from the provincial government as well as from the Chinese Consulate of Calgary joined the celebration.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Martin requested that the Administration research new funding recently announced by the Provincial Government to help Indigenous newcomers succeed in Edmonton and advise if

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there is any opportunity for Edmonton Public Schools to access this funding as it is well documented that many of the District's Indigenous students are coming to the District's schools from northern Alberta and as far away as Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Draper serviced notice of motion on behalf of Trustee Janz that the Edmonton Public School Board advocate to the provincial government to eliminate the choice of designation of education property taxes.

The Acting Board Chair advised that the notice of motion served will be brought forward to the next public Board meeting.

L. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment (3:05 p.m.)

The Board Acting Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Acting Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director, Board and
Superintendent Relations

DATE: February 28, 2017

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Michelle Draper, Caucus Committee Chair

SUBJECT: Report #2 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held February 14, 2017)

ORIGINATOR: Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations

REFERENCE: [Trustees' Handbook](#) – Caucus Committee - Section 5.4
[Trustees' Handbook](#) – Section 6 – Board Committees
[School Act](#) - Section 61

ISSUE

The Board approved the following recommendations at the March 3, 2015, Board meeting: That a resolution be approved directing that Section 5.4 of the Trustees' Handbook be revised to give the Caucus Committee final decision-making power on certain types of matters, and yet constrain that power so it is used only when absolutely necessary.

The following recommendation was approved at the February 14, 2017, Caucus Committee meeting:

Transfer of Funds from Unrestricted Surplus to Capital Reserves

1. That \$15,000,000 be transferred from Unrestricted Surplus to Capital Reserves, be approved.

BACKGROUND – Recommendation 1

Based on the audited financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2016, the District has a total of \$99.5 million accumulated operating reserve funds including a \$3 million school generated fund (SGF) surplus, which is internally restricted, leaving a net balance of \$96.5 million and an accumulated capital reserve balance of \$57.1 million.

On November 29, 2016, the Proposed Distribution of the 2015-2016 District Surplus report was presented and the Board approved the following recommendations:

1. That the 2016-2017 planned use of surplus funds – Phase I totaling \$60.8 million released in conjunction with the 2016-2017 fall revised budget be approved .
2. That the 2016-2017 planned use of surplus funds – Phase II totaling \$6.8 million and the 2017-2018 planned use of surplus funds totaling \$16.5 million be approved.
3. That the use of capital reserves in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 for \$11.1 million and \$5 million be approved.

Based on the figures included in the November 29, 2016, report and factoring in the above approved recommendations (which include both 2016-2017 and 2017-2018), the District forecasted an ending

accumulated operating surplus balance of \$34 million, and a capital reserve balance of \$41 million by August 31, 2018.

Factoring in the recommended transfer of \$15 million approved at the February 14, 2017, Caucus Committee meeting, and the revised forecasted ending balances would be \$19 million in accumulated operating surplus and \$56 million in capital reserve funds by August 31, 2018.

KM:sj

DATE: February 28, 2017

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Student Senate 2016–2017 Work Plan

ORIGINATOR: Nancy Petersen, Acting for Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Marnie Beaudoin, Regan Holt, Bill Howe, Sean Jones, Karen Mills

REFERENCE: [Public Board meeting October 4, 2016 item 2](#)

ISSUE

The Student Senate is presenting to the Board of Trustees an update of their work towards the completion of their annual work plan.

BACKGROUND

At the public board meeting on October 4, 2016, Student Trustees, on behalf of the Student Senate, brought forward their work plan addressing four priority topic areas identified for the 2016–2017 school year. The topic areas were established collectively by the Student Senators and were based on input from students from across District schools.

The priority topics areas are:

1. **Student Health and Wellness:** reflecting alignment to Priority 2, Goal One: *A Focus on Well-being and Student Citizenship*. This priority topic area received the greatest weighting from the Student Senate with stress, mental health and preventative supports being some of the key concepts that emerged.
2. **Curriculum:** reflecting alignment to Priority 1, Goal Two: *Success for Every Student*. This priority topic area generated discussion regarding the importance of student voice in Alberta Education’s development of future Kindergarten to Grade 12 provincial curriculum, as well as emphasizing the importance of learning experiences that are meaningful and engaging to students.
3. **Preparation for Life Beyond School:** reflecting alignment to Priority 1, Goal Three: *Success Beyond Schooling*. This priority topic area reflected the strong awareness and connection from students between what they do in school now and what they will need to be successful once they complete Grade 12.
4. **Successful Learning in School:** reflecting alignment to Priority 1, Goal Two: *Success for Every Student*. This priority topic area generated discussion regarding what students learn in school today, with flexibility and strong teacher-student relationships emerging as key themes.

CURRENT SITUATION

In the fall, The Student Senate struck committees and appointed students as Committee Leads in support of three of the four topic areas. Each committee identified its core activities to accomplish by the end of June, 2017. The work of each committee is supported by District staff with content expertise in the priority topic area. The following activities are currently underway for each committee:

1. **Student Health and Wellness:** The Student Health and Wellness Committee is planning and hosting a mental health conference for up to 100 District students in April. The goals of the event include providing student leaders with opportunities to promote healthy school cultures, increasing mental health literacy, and enhancing students' understanding that "healthy brains make healthy learners".

In addition to defining the direction and vision for this youth event, the Student Health and Wellness committee has arranged a number of logistical details related to this event, including securing space at a District high school, confirming a keynote speaker and organizing volunteer roles.

2. **Curriculum:** The Curriculum Committee is advocating to Alberta Education to include student input into curriculum development. To this end, the committee is seeking the input of District students about current curriculum and the curriculum development process.

In the fall, the Student Senate was supported by the Curriculum and Resource Support unit to encourage students' participation in the Alberta Education survey about provincial curriculum change. To build on this, the committee is developing a survey to collect District students' perspectives about current curriculum and the curriculum development process.

3. **Preparation for Life Beyond School:** The Preparation for Life Beyond School Committee is seeking to identify questions District students have about life beyond school and provide responses from experts to these questions. The questions will be organized into two primary categories: post-secondary education and general life skills. The committee is developing a survey to elicit these questions from high school students across the District.

The fourth priority topic area identified earlier in the year by Student Senate was **Successful Learning in School**. As the work plan was being developed and implemented, it was recognized that the work of the three committees were all contributing towards successful learning in school. It was therefore determined by the Student Senate that Successful Learning in School would be addressed through the work of the other three priority topic area committees.

NEXT STEPS

To work towards completing their projects in their priority topic areas, the Student Senators will undertake the following actions:

- The Student Health and Wellness Committee will continue to organize the mental health conference for students, including establishing a registration system, advertising the event and finalizing session details for presenters and participants.
- The Curriculum Committee will finalize the curriculum survey, distribute it to students through the Student Senate and compile the data to share with Alberta Education.
- The Preparation for Life Beyond School Committee will gather information from District students through an online survey about their questions about life beyond school. The committee will review the results to identify the key questions students have about life beyond school, and begin to develop resources, such as short videos, to provide responses to these questions.

KEY POINTS

- The Student Senate established priority topics areas that are being addressed through the following:
 - The Student Health and Wellness committee is organizing a student conference on the topic of Mental Health and Well-being.
 - The Curriculum Committee is advocating to the Minister of Education to integrate student input and feedback into curriculum development

- The Preparation for Life Beyond School committee is developing a range of student supports to help them transition successfully to post-secondary education, and support students in the development of life skills.
- A fourth priority topic, Successful Learning in School, is being addressed through the work of the committees in the other three priority topic areas.
- The Student Trustees, on behalf of the Student Senate, will report to the Board of Trustees a final summary of their progress around the outcomes related to each priority topic area at a June public board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

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| ATTACHMENT I | N/A |
| APPENDIX I | N/A |

MB:mb

DATE: February 28, 2017

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Ken Gibson, Policy Review Committee
Trustee Cheryl Johner, Policy Review Committee
Trustee Bridget Stirling, Chair, Policy Review Committee

SUBJECT: Second, and Third and Final Reading of Board Policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications

ORIGINATOR: Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations

RESOURCE STAFF: Marnie Beaudoin, Nancy Petersen

REFERENCE: [IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications Trustees' Handbook](#) Section 6.1—Caucus Committee
Board Policy CH.BPFramework for Policy Development and Review

ISSUE

The Policy Review Committee is presenting policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications for second and third reading by the Board of Trustees at the February 28, 2017 public Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Policy Review Committee reviewed policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications to ensure it is current and ready for the municipal election in fall 2017. IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications was presented to the Board of Trustees for first reading at the January 31, 2017 public Board meeting.

RELATED FACTS

- Revisions to policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications include:
 - additions of three sections: Purpose, Definitions and Accountability
 - adjusting language to ensure consistency with current Board policies and the *School Act*
 - ensuring clarity and eliminating repetition
- The *Municipal Government Act* and the *School Act* were referenced during the revision process.
- District General Counsel has reviewed IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications.
- An online survey was posted to the District website to obtain stakeholder feedback on the revisions to IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications. The survey remained open until February 24, 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Board policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications be read for the second time.
2. That Board policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications be read for the third and final time.

OPTIONS

Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:

1. Approve policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications through second and third reading at the February 28, 2017 Board meeting.
2. Decline to approve the policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications and provide feedback and/or request changes.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

- The current policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications requires revisions to ensure the District is ready for the municipal election in fall 2017.
- The designated review year for IJA.BP was 2014.

NEXT STEPS

Once approved, the revised policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications will be posted on the District's website.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Policy IJA.BP Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications

MB:mb

CODE: IJA.BP**EFFECTIVE DATE:** (11-09-2007)**TOPIC:** Electioneering and Politically Motivated
Communications**ISSUE DATE:** (12-09-2007)**REVIEW YEAR:** (2014)

PURPOSE

To clarify the Board of Trustees' (the Board) responsibility to ensure the appropriate use of District resources during elections and political campaigns.

To ensure a learning and working environment that is free of political bias, disturbances and interruptions that may arise due to campaign activities.

DEFINITIONS

A **campaign** is an attempt by an individual or group to create action by students, staff, or others for a political objective, including achieving election to public office.

POLICY

The Board of Trustees believes that a locally elected school board is integral to public education and therefore, the District, under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools, shall play an active role in disseminating information to the electorate about school board elections.

The Board believes District resources should only be used for administrative and instructional purposes. District staff, students and resources shall not be used for distribution of politically motivated communications or campaign materials with the exception of Board authorized advocacy communications and as outlined in this policy.

- A. The Board of Trustees prohibits campaigning in or through Edmonton Public Schools by individual candidates or parties for school board, municipal, provincial or federal elections, with the following exceptions:
 - a. schools may organize all-candidate forums for educational purposes; and
 - b. school space may be rented after school hours by a candidate or party on a commercial use basis.
- B. The Board of Trustees prohibits the posting or distribution of campaign materials associated with school board, municipal, provincial and federal elections on lands, within buildings, or through communication vehicles owned by the Edmonton Public School Board except that campaign materials may be:
 - a. posted and distributed in that portion of a school rented for a campaign meeting or being used for an all-candidate forum; however, all political materials must be removed from school premises at the end of any such meeting;
 - b. used as classroom teaching aids on condition that support for an individual candidate or political party is not solicited; and
 - c. posted and distributed when specific to school board elections, as directed by the Superintendent of Schools and in accordance with this policy.

- d. posted or distributed regarding candidates for school board elections on condition that all candidates are treated equally and may not solicit or imply support for any individual candidate or slate of candidates.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Superintendent shall report any violation of IJA.BP *Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications* to the Board, with information regarding resolution of the situation.

REFERENCES

School Act Section 27

School Act Section 45.1(1)

DATE: February 28, 2017
TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Trustee Michael Janz
SUBJECT: Motion re Delegation of Education Property Taxes
REFERENCE: [Trustees' Handbook – Section 5.2.2 – Notices of Motion](#)

ISSUE

Notice of motion was served at the February 14, 2017, Board meeting.

RATIONALE

Many Albertans have the perception that where they designate their education property tax that it makes a financial difference. It does not, and this perception is problematic for many reasons.

1. As the province reviews amendments to the Modernized Municipal Government Act, it is an opportune time to request that education property tax be more transparent and more efficient. This would be a very simple and straightforward amendment that would reduce paperwork for municipalities and clarify the misconception that designation of education property tax makes a financial difference in the operational or capital funding provided to school boards.
2. In 1994, the provincial government removed taxation controls of school boards. Schools are funded on a per-pupil basis and the responsibility for resourcing schools resides with the provincial government. It is important to note that the designation of education taxes has no bearing on whether funding is increased or decreased. Education property taxes from across Alberta are collected by municipalities and then pooled into general revenue of the provincial government and allocated on a per student funding formula to individual school boards.
3. Designation of property tax does not have an impact on the Edmonton Public School enrolment process.
4. The designation of education property tax data does not inform capital planning decisions or influence the awarding of new schools.

Raising understanding about education funding with parents and communities is an important step in the District's advocacy for predictable and sustainable funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That, the Edmonton Public School Board advocate to the provincial government to eliminate the choice of designation of Education property taxes.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation; a letter be sent to the Minister of Education requesting the elimination of designating education property taxes and to advocate for predictable sustainable funding and new schools that aligns with the capital plan.

MJ:sj