



ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS REGIONAL DIVISION #14

The regular meeting of the Elk Island Public Schools Regional Division Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, November 15, 2007 in the Board Room, Central Services Administration Building, Sherwood Park, Alberta.

The Board of Trustees Meeting convened with Chair Bonnie Riddell calling the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board members present:

Mae Adamyk	Barb McNeill
Lisa Brower	Lynn Patterson
Glen Buchan	Bonnie Riddell
Skip Gordon	Ray Welsh
Pat McLauchlan	

Administration present:

E. Stang	Superintendent
B. Fleming	Associate Superintendent Instructional Services
E. Whitford	Associate Superintendent Human Resources
D. Lechelt	Acting Associate Superintendent/Corporate Secretary, Business Services
T. Orr	Director, Communication Services
J. Jarvie	Recording Secretary

Also in attendance was Amy Dyck, Sherwood Park News, Bill Shields, President of the ATA Local #28, and Blair Ching, Principal, Lamont High representing the General Leadership Group.

Call to Order 9:00 a.m.

Committee of the Whole Moved by L. Brower:

184/2007 THAT the Board meet In Camera (9:00 a.m.)

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**

Moved by P. McLauchlan:

185/2006 THAT the Board revert to regular session (10:00 a.m.)

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**

The Board recessed between 10:00 a.m. and 10:10 a.m.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION

Trustee M. Adamyk introduced Reverend Darren Wooff, Ardrossan United Church who offered the Invocation Prayer.

AGENDA

The Chair called for additions or deletions to the agenda. It was requested that the ATA report be dealt with in the morning because B. Shields has a prior engagement in the afternoon and that a motion relative to senior staff compensation be added under the Superintendent's Report.

Moved by L. Patterson:

186/2007 THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**

Board Chair

Corporate Secretary

- 4) Class size funding of \$45,000 for Ministik School
- 5) Class size funding of \$40,000 for Fultonvale Elementary/Junior High School
- 6) An additional \$25,000 for the Superintendent's contingency to top up the amount to the 2006/2007 level
- 7) An amount of \$15,000 to each Associate Superintendent's budget for contingent items
- 8) Increase of \$10,000 to the Principals' Professional Development fund
- 9) An addition of \$10,000 to the Communications budget to cover costs related to website administration
- 10) \$6,000 for the issuance of photo identification for all Central Office staff
- 11) Class size funding of \$40,000 for Salisbury Composite High School
- 12) Funding of \$70,000 for the purchase of the SynreVoice program for all schools and Central Office CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by M. Adamyk:

197/2007 THAT the Board of Trustees establish a reserve fund of approximately \$1,121,000 for future Board priorities. CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

Mundare School – Funding for Replacement Gymnasium

D. Lechelt presented the Mundare School – Funding for Replacement Gymnasium report. Emergent funding for a replacement gymnasium minimizes short term cost and provides the facilities required to meet the program needs of students at Mundare School. Affirmation of the priority for a replacement school in Mundare sets out the Board's intention to maintain school facilities within the community, and the importance of receiving emergent funding for the replacement gymnasium. The proposed recommendation is to request emergent funding, outside of the Three-year Capital Plan process, to design and construct a replacement gymnasium on the site, with a connecting link to the existing school. The design of the gymnasium would be such that the remainder of the replacement school requested in the Three-year Capital Plan could be constructed with minimal interruption to school activity on the site, at such time as funding is available from Alberta Education. In the interim, the school administration has worked with the Town of Mundare and the community to use local facilities for physical education activities. If student needs and program requirements are to be met a replacement gymnasium is required.

Moved by M. Adamyk:

198/2007 THAT the Board of Trustees request emergent funding from Alberta Education to design and construct a replacement gymnasium for Mundare School, at an estimated cost of \$2 million. CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by L. Brower:

199/2007 THAT the Board of Trustees affirm EIPS' 2008-2011 Capital Plan overall division priorities:
1. Fort Saskatchewan Elementary/Fort Saskatchewan Christian Joint School
2. Sherwood Heights Junior High Modernization and Gymnasium Addition
3. Mundare School Replacement CARRIED
4. Ecole Elementaire Ardrossan Replacement. UNANIMOUSLY

It was suggested that the Board Chair send a letter on behalf of the Board to the Town of Mundare extending appreciation for the partnership between the Board and the Town and advise them that Mundare School replacement was a priority of the last Board and will remain a priority for this Board. It was also suggested that a letter be written to the principal and staff of Mundare School for their commitment to excellence, flexibility and creativity in providing physical education to students.

Board Chair

Corporate Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORT

Teacher-Board
Consultation

L. Brower presented the report g from the Teacher-Board Consultation Committee meeting held October 10, 2007. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Use of electronic devices (iPods and Cell Phones) in schools – policy development
- Local Council Meeting – presentation on EIPS Committee Structure
- Open and honest communication – New Horizons
- 30 minutes of uninterrupted lunch time and supervision/Teachers with less than 1.0 FTE being assigned equal supervision to teachers with 1.0 FTE
- Staff absence forms

It was noted that the Instructional Services Department is currently collecting data in order to write a policy relative to the use of electronic devices in schools. Once written the policy will follow the policy development process.

Moved by L. Patterson:

200/2007

THAT the Board of Trustees receive the verbal report of the Teacher-Board Consultation Committee meeting held October 10, 2007 for information.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

ASSOCIATION/LOCAL REPORT

ATA Local Report

B. Shields, ATA Local President, presented the following information:

- on behalf of the ATA Local he extended congratulations to the new Board on their election or reaffirmation. He also congratulated newly elected Chair B. Riddell and Vice Chair P. McLauchlan. To further the good relationship between the ATA and Board he invited trustees to attend a working dinner meeting on January 8, time and place to be determined. He distributed 'homework' for the trustees to read prior to the meeting that will help to direct the discussion.
- he attended five different Awards evenings at schools.
- the Superintendent will attend the next Local Council meeting to explain the EIPS Meeting Structure
- the Banff Leadership Workshop was very positive, informative and a good opportunity for networking
- he attended the opening of Strathcona Christian Elementary School. He stated that the staff and students are very fortunate to have a new school.
- the New Teacher Induction will be held tomorrow evening in Fort Saskatchewan. The Board Chair and Superintendent will attend.
- from the ATA's perspective the recent System Professional Development Day went very well. Comments received were very positive, teachers enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues who teach the same subject or grade.
- teachers appreciated the recent fall break
- he attended a Local Presidents meeting on October 26 and 27. At the meeting the unfunded liability was discussed. He will attend a meeting this afternoon relative to that issue. In July Alberta Education made a decision that grade 6 and 9 teachers will mark multiple choice PAT exams and report the results to parents, this is something new. The ATA does not support PAT's and does not agree with teachers marking them. ATA President Bruseker has written to the Minister of Education requesting a meeting to discuss this initiative.
- he commented on PASI – Provincial Approach to Student Information. The government would like to track all student achievement and upload it to a provincial data base in order to track it. The ATA is questioning why the government needs all this information and what is the cost of collecting it. A lot of provincial money already goes into assessment. This will be discussed further at a later date. He also commented that provincially five years ago there was a ratio of six high school students to one computer, that ratio remains the same today.

Moved by S. Gordon:

201/2007

THAT the Board receive the verbal report from the representative of the ATA Local #28 for information.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

Board Chair

Corporate Secretary

excellence in public education as we challenge our students to reach their true potential. Diploma examination results and achievement test results provide only part of the overall picture of the performance of the province, a school jurisdiction or a school. These tests assess the achievement of provincial standards but many important learning outcomes cannot be measured by time-limited, paper-and-pencil tests. Many factors contribute to student achievement. The results of these tests and examinations provide essential information to schools and jurisdictions as they monitor student achievement in relation to provincial and local goals. The intent is to use these results for planning and reporting as one of the keys to establishing processes that lead to continuous improvements to education. The results are posted on the EIPS Website as part of the district Annual Results Report and School Education Plans. The results have been shared with parents at the Committee of School Council's meeting in October and with principals at the Elementary, Junior High and Senior High Sectional Meetings.

Moved by L. Brower:

205/2007

THAT the Board of Trustees receive for information the 2006 – 2007 Alberta Education Accountability Diploma Exam and Provincial Achievement Test results for Elk Island Public Schools.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

Human Resources Support (HRS) for
Principals Survey Report 2006 – 2007

E. Whitford and B. Beliveau presented the Human Resources Support (HRS) for Principals Survey Report 2006 – 2007. Last year the Board requested feedback on this program specifically feedback from principals to confirm that the HRS program was effective and assisted principals to hire teachers during the spring staffing process. The first phase of HRS was initiated in January 2007. Three contractors were hired to review and screen approximately 1,200 active teacher applications, 600 were interviewed and references checked. A Teacher Pool was created from 400 of the teachers interviewed. In April 2007 principals submitted requests for teachers. Human Resources provided a limited number of names from the Teacher Pool that were considered a good fit for the posted position. Principals shortlisted from this list of internal applicants and selected external applicants. Principals were surveyed in September 2007. The survey results strongly support the staffing phase of the HRS program. Implementing the suggested changes will improve the existing program and the support to principals. A communication plan, specifically for the new administrators will be developed through the Just-In-Time Training.

The Superintendent commended B. Beliveau for all his work on this initiative; it has saved principals a tremendous amount of time. He is looking forward to phase 2 of the process.

Moved by P. McLauchlan:

206/2007

THAT the Board of Trustees receive the 2006-2007 Human Resources Support for Principals Survey Report for information.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

Staffing Report June 1, 2007
to September 30, 2007

E. Whitford presented the Staffing report June 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007. She advised that Continuing, Probationary and Temporary Teaching Contracts, Certificated Leaves of Absence, Classified Probationary and Temporary positions and Classified Resignations and Retirements are all up compared to the same timeframe last year.

Moved by B. McNeill:

207/2007

THAT the Board of Trustees receive for information the Staffing Report from June 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

Board Chair

Corporate Secretary

ASSOCIATION/LOCAL REPORTS (Continued)

ASBA Zone 23 Mg - September 28, 2007 and October 26, 2007 G. Buchan presented the verbal report from the September 28, 2007 and October 26, 2007 ASBA Zone 23 meetings. He advised that EIPS Trustee Lisa Brower was chosen by the members of Zone 23 to be an Alternate Director for next year. The Proposed Emergent Directive entitled Increase Basic Funding Grant has been submitted to the ASBA. A committee will meet Sunday afternoon to review the emergent directives to decide if they will be accepted on the floor of the Fall General Meeting.

TEACHING AND LEARNING IN EIPS

Andrew School Principal L. Sabo, Director E. Dach and Videoconferencing Specialist L. Sereda presented information on the June 2, 2007 Premier's visit to Andrew School. A group of educators in the Edmonton area formed the Alberta Videoconferencing Advantage to look at opportunities for students to be involved with videoconferencing initiatives. The Premier's visit was an opportunity for EIPS to videoconference it to a number of schools in Sherwood Park, Mundare, Lamont, Edmonton, Grande Cache and Barrhead. Students learned first hand about the provincial government which is part of the grade 6 curriculum. This was the first videoconference that the Premier has been involved in. Anyone interested in hearing Ken O'Connor can see/hear him through the www.eips.ca link. Trustees requested that a list of schools offering the Ken O'Connor presentation via videostreaming be provided to them.

ASSOCIATION/LOCAL REPORTS (Continued)

ASBA G. Buchan advised that there has been a change to the voting procedures for the ASBA Fall General Meeting. It will now be one vote per Board and the Board Chair is responsible for voting on behalf of the EIPS Board.

G. Buchan reminded trustees of the Zone 23 breakfast that will be hosted by the Premier on November 23. The Premier will recognize school boards throughout Alberta for leadership in a number of areas.

Moved by G. Buchan:

208/2007

THAT the Board support the Proposed Emergent Directive that was submitted to the ASBA in preparation for the ASBA Fall General Meeting as follows:
"That the ASBA urge the Minister of Education to immediately increase the basic education grant to public school boards by 3%.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

TRUSTEES' REPORT/NOTICES OF MOTION

M. Adamyk reported that:

- Nellie Sobkow, teacher at Andrew School was commended for being chosen to attend the Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy in Ottawa from October 28 – November 2, 2007. If the Board wishes she would be willing to come and talk about her experience.

P. McLauchlan reported that:

- last week she attended a two day United with Youth Workshop organized by the Prevention of Family Violence Coalition in Fort Saskatchewan. Keith Patterson was the keynote speaker.
- students at Fort Saskatchewan Senior High rallied around a student who lost her leg to cancer. They raised \$26,000 through the Foot to Feet Campaign to purchase a prosthesis for her.
- Fort Saskatchewan Junior High held a silent auction fundraiser. Money raised will go towards building a school in Sierra Leone. The goal is to build the school, furnish it and provide a teacher for one year.

Board Chair

Corporate Secretary

L. Brower reported that:

- many schools throughout the district held outstanding Remembrance Day Ceremonies. She attended the one at Bev Facey where students from Wes Hosford, F. R. Haythorne and Bev Facey worked together to make it a very memorable service.
- she encouraged trustees to be in attendance at the ASBA Opening Ceremonies where Vegreville Composite High teacher Lindsay Jones will receive an Edwin Parr Award and speak to the audience. Her Principal R. Mills will also be in attendance.
- she provided each trustee with a copy of Understanding Privacy Legislation: How it Enables Information Sharing and Information Sharing Overview for Children and Youth in Alberta.

G. Buchan reported that:

- he has been asked to participate in a session organized through the Safe and Caring Schools initiative to develop policies. The Premier's wife, Marie Stelmach, is Honorary Patron of the group. If trustees have ideas that he can take to the group please let him know. He will report back to the Board as things develop.
- he provided trustees with a handout entitled Leadership Teams - The Art of Collective Governance that he received at the Canadian School Boards Association National Congress in July 2007 presented by Dickson Wood & Associates Inc. If trustees are interested in hearing more information a representative of the company could be invited to a Board meeting to present.
- he questioned whether there are guidelines on the type of things that members of school councils can fundraise for. The Superintendent advised that School Council cannot fundraise for things required for basic core, i.e. textbooks.

B. McNeill reported that:

- the past month has been very busy; a few events that she attended included the Partners in Education Foundation Meeting, the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Salisbury Composite High, and the Salisbury Composite High Awards Night.

B. Riddell reported that:

- as part of her professional development she attended Strathcona County's Social Sustainability Framework session. At the invitation of Dr. L. Oberg, Minister of Finance she attended an information session entitled CURRIKI, The Global Education and Learning Community presentation given by Dr. Barbara Kurchan. Dr. Oberg is a member of the CURRIKI Board of Directors. She encouraged trustees to visit the website at www.curriki.org to see what is available relative to curriculum.

Moved by L. Brower:

209/2007 THAT the Board meet In Camera (2:00 p.m.). CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by R. Welsh:

210/2007 THAT the Board revert to regular session (2:35 p.m.). CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Board Chair

Corporate Secretary