



**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HELD AT THE EDUCATION CENTRE  
2651 CHINOOK WINDS DRIVE S. W.  
AIRDRIE, ALBERTA**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2009**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

Chair, Ward 3 Sylvia Eggerer  
Vice-Chair, Ward 2 Bev LaPeare  
Ward 1 Jennifer Avery  
Ward 4 Helen Clease  
Ward 5 Colleen Munro  
Ward 6 Dr. Bruce Pettigrew  
Ward 7 Don Thomas

**TRUSTEES ABSENT WITH  
NOTICE:**

All Present

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Superintendent of Schools Greg Bass  
Associate Superintendent of Business and  
Operations Darrell Couture

**COMMUNICATIONS:  
RECORDING SECRETARY:**

Director of Communications Angela Spanier  
Secretary Lorna Reynolds

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Sylvia Eggerer called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA:**

**#137 – 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BEV LAPEARE :**

That the Board of Trustees approves the June 4, 2009, Regular Board meeting agenda as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING:**

**#138 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE HELEN CLEASE:**

That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 21, 2009, as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## **STUDENT SHOWCASE – STEPHEN’S BACKPACKS**

**Project/Program Description** - Stephen's Backpacks is the dream of Stephen McPhee, a six year old who attends École Edwards Elementary School in Airdrie. With the help of his mom and dad, two years ago Stephen made backpacks for kids on the street in Calgary at Christmas time, as he did not think it was fair that he got so much and the kids on the street did not even have a bed to sleep in. That year he made 15 backpacks, with his favorite being the backpacks made for babies.

Last Christmas Stephan wanted to make more backpacks so his sister helped him write a letter and tons of companies and people in Airdrie helped make over 265 backpacks. Every backpack had a huge bow and lots of neat toys and mittens and school stuff inside. Since that time, Stephen's vision of rallying his communities and the children within them to help children in need has taken on a life of its own.

Now an official charity, Stephen's Backpack Society continues to help children in need by raising funds and supplying backpacks children in need, include a family who recently lost their home and possessions to a fire and to the homeless teens in the Airdrie community help support the homeless and children in need. His book "Dream Out Loud" gave all profits to helping two families off the street through "Inn from the Cold", which supplies the families with completely furnished apartments, including dishes, towels, bedding, food, clothes, bus tokens, Christmas gifts, backpacks and even Christmas decorations in Dec. 2008.

**Formal Recognition** - Stephen was a recipient of Alberta Great Kids Award in 2008 and was presented an award by Premier Stelmach. Stephen's Backpacks has been nominated as a finalist for Canadian Living Magazine "ME to We" awards. As well, Airdrie McDonalds chose Stephen's Backpacks as their local charity for this year's McHappy Day 2009.

**Future plans** - Stephen's Dream is to have a Happiness Hotel in Airdrie where children in need can stay until they have a permanent home. He came up with this just after Christmas in 2008. He even has drawn blueprints.

Stephen is a very humble little boy with a huge passion to help the homeless and make their lives brighter. His message is proclaiming a message of hope to all children and encourages them to think outside of their worlds. It is also a message of hope to children with special needs that they can make a difference and dream out loud.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Supt. Bass requested permission of the Board to add an item to his report:

- Approval of the 2009-2012 Three Year Plan

## **MOTION FROM THE FLOOR**

### **#139 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BEV LAPEARE:**

That the 2009/10 RVS Budget be separated into separate components: Support Staff Salaries; Plant, Operations & Maintenance; Transportation; and Instruction and Administration, due to the possible pecuniary interest of individual trustees in certain areas of the budget.

**CARRIED**

Trustee LaPeare declared a pecuniary interest due to her husband's employment with RVS, and left the meeting at 1:31 pm.

**2009/2010 RVS BUDGET – SUPPORT STAFF SALARY**

**#140 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BRUCE PETTIGREW:**

That the Board of Trustees approves a 4.8% increase to all support staff salary grids except for those staff whose salary has been previously red-circled and executive staff.

**CARRIED**

**2009/2010 RVS BUDGET – PLANT, OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

**#141- 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE HELEN CLEASE:**

That the Board of Trustees approves the Operations and Maintenance portion of the 2009-2010 RVS Budget as presented.

**CARRIED**

Trustee Bev LaPeare rejoined the meeting at 1:46 pm.

Trustee Jennifer Avery declared a pecuniary interest as she is a school bus driver in RVS, and left the meeting at 1:46 pm.

**2009/2010 RVS BUDGET – STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

**#142 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE COLLEEN MUNRO:**

That the Board of Trustees approves the Student Transportation portion of the 2009-2010 RVS Budget as presented.

**CARRIED**

Trustee Jennifer Avery rejoined the meeting at 1:57 pm.

**2009/2010 RVS BUDGET – INSTRUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION**

**#143 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE JENNIFER AVERY:**

That the Board of Trustees approves the Instructional and Administration portion of the 2009-2010 RVS Budget as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2009/2010 RVS BUDGET SUBMISSION TO ALBERTA EDUCATION**

**#144 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE DON THOMAS:**

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the submission of the 2009-2010 RVS Budget to Alberta Education.

**CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF THE 2009-2012 THREE YEAR PLAN**

**#145- 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BEV LAPEARE:**

That the Board of Trustees approves the 2009-2012 Three Year Education Plan as presented and directs administration to have it professionally printed for complete presentation at the June 18 Board Meeting.

**CARRIED**

## **MOTION FROM THE FLOOR**

### **# 146 – 09 Motion by Trustee Bruce Pettigrew:**

That the Superintendent's Report be temporarily suspended to accommodate the Exemplary Practice Showcase scheduled for 3:00 pm.

**CARRIED**

## **EXEMPLARY PRACTICE**

### **2009 Excellence In Teaching Awards**

Each year the annual Excellence in Teaching Awards is presented by Alberta Education with the support of the Alberta School Councils' Association, the Alberta School Boards Association, the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Edmonton Journal, the SMARTer Kids Foundation and XEROX.

The Excellence in Teaching Awards Program recognizes the innovative and outstanding teaching that takes place every day in classrooms across Alberta. This program provides Albertans with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many contributions teachers make to student learning.

Of the 130 finalists, 20 will be recognized with a Provincial Excellence in Teaching Award, and three will receive the SMARTer Kids Foundation Innovative Use of Technology Award. A dinner and awards ceremony is held to celebrate the accomplishments of these 23 outstanding teachers.

This year's 2009 Provincial Excellence in Teaching Awards go to:

#### **Nominee: Catherine Francoeur, École Edwards Elementary**

Catherine Francoeur began teaching in the early 1980's and has taught in New Brunswick and in Alberta - mainly elementary French Immersion. She came to Rocky View in 1990 and has taught grades 2-4 and resource. Catherine, in her quiet, no-nonsense way, encourages her students to work their hardest and learn their best. What she loves about teaching is the number of new beginnings: each fall there is a new crop of students; each lesson can be taught differently than the last; new curricula bring new ideas and strategies. As she is planning and implementing, Catherine seldom teaches the same way twice - there are the students' learning modalities to be considered, their background knowledge, new professional learning strategies to be incorporated, the students' multiple intelligences, and the purpose of the lesson. As well as educating her students, Catherine is a mentor and teacher for her colleagues. She has mentored student teachers, modelling second language teaching and learning for them. As a resource teacher, she worked with colleagues to develop engaging and enriching lessons for children with learning disabilities. Her sense of humour and joie de vivre are freely shared. Congratulations and thank you, Catherine. You are an excellent teacher!

*Submitted by Heather Hill, Acting Principal  
École Edwards Elementary*

#### **Semi-Finalist: Merrilie Stonewall, Cochrane High School**

- Graduated from University of Calgary not that many years ago
- Was given the choice of any school in Rocky View at which to teach music – chose Cochrane because of MacKay's ice cream and the beautiful drive. She has taught there ever since.
- Had tea with the Queen of England in 1978
- Received a Cochrane Chamber of Commerce award in 1998
- Received numerous Pan Canadian student Choice awards

At Cochrane High School, Merrilie has created a broad and rich Music & Performing Arts Program. She goes well beyond being merely a collegial and competent teacher. She uses her program to touch the minds and hearts of her students. Her empowering of students speaks of exemplary teaching that connects with the passion and knowledge of her students.

Merrilie creates an environment that is challenging for all student levels and her methods encourage an individual willingness and motivation to learn more difficult music. She nurtures, teaches, counsels and demands students give their best and her students respond cooperatively with high engagement and achievement. She produces powerful performers and performances and more importantly, confident and positively engaged individuals that create a culture of high mutual respect.

*Submitted by Chris Less, Principal  
Cochrane High School*

Finalist: Joshua Hill, Langdon School (2008 Smarter Kids Innovative Use of Technology)

As a teacher associated with Alberta's "Emerge 1:1 laptop project", Joshua Hill engages students daily in a myriad of assignments that demand the use of a variety of software programs for research, display or presentation. He is very conscientious about student achievement and is always seeking new and innovative ways to ensure that his pupils achieve their potential. Students may listen to a podcast, view a QuickTime video, conduct web research or even ask experts within a field. They can submit their assignments digitally for feedback and marking through the Plone site. Students may demonstrate their learning by creating iMovies, cigar box panels or digital photo essays. They often submit podcasts, written text, graphic novels in Comic Life and create web sites using iWeb.

Joshua's classroom is a model of collaborative learning at its finest. Highly engaged learners are very keen to apply their knowledge and share their expertise with others. Learner apathy, disciplinary challenges and even absenteeism have been dramatically reduced. Students utilize iCal and the school's Plone site in the place of traditional agendas. Learners are involved in editing their own work through the use of Voice Thread and Google Docs. Joshua utilizes the built in microphone to promptly provide verbal feedback to his students.

Joshua Hill is a highly dedicated, innovative professional who is very passionate about infusing technology into all of his classes and throughout the school. He readily shares his expertise with all students and staff. Langdon School is very proud of him and appreciative of his significant contributions to 21st century teaching and learning at Langdon School and in other Rocky View Schools.

*Submitted by Ira Stroh, Principal  
Langdon School*

Finalist: Julie Stover (Shepherd), Glenbow Elementary

Julie Stover (Shepherd) began her teaching career in 1977 in Kingston, Ontario. She made her way west and joined Rocky View Schools in 1981 and has taught at Andrew Sibbald, Elbow Valley and Glenbow School with the majority of her years at the Grade One level. Ms. Stover is truly a gifted teacher and a master at her craft. Her student-centered, active-learning approach is focused not only on developing readers, writers, and mathematicians but lifelong learners who are critical thinkers, problem solvers, global citizens, environmental stewards, and demonstrate civic responsibility. Ms. Stover's stimulating and engaging learning environment has inspired hundreds of students in their first year of school and each of them blossom under her care. Whether a student

needs enrichment and challenge, or has a learning disability or special need, Ms. Stover helps each child reach his/her potential. Visitors to her classroom marvel at the creativity and skill with which she creates conditions for optimal learning.

Julie has also been a coach and mentor to many of her colleagues over the years. She is highly involved in school initiatives and has provided strong leadership both at the school and division level, as Rocky View's Lead facilitator for the implementation of the new Health Curriculum. Julie led the development of our Safe and Caring School program and has been an AISI Lead Teacher for Glenbow School's last three AISI projects. Julie has also been involved in curriculum development for Language Arts and Social Studies and has given workshops for the school, division and to other districts. She has mentored numerous beginning teachers and student teachers and assumed the role of Acting Assistant Principal last year. It is an honour to work with this dedicated and talented teacher whose integrity, moral excellence, expertise and passion makes a difference each and every day to the Rocky View Schools learning community.

*Submitted by Deb Rougeau-Bell, Principal  
Glenbow Elementary School*

### **Edwin Parr Award**

Edwin Parr homesteaded in the Meanook area near Athabasca in 1920. Prior to 1925 he began his long career in educational affairs as a member of the board with the George Lake School District. He served as chair of the board with the Athabasca School Division and was on the council of the County of Athabasca from its formation in 1959 until his death in January 1963. Edwin Parr was president of the Alberta School Trustees' Association from 1956 to 1962. Ed Parr, as he was known to all, instituted an "Annual Teacher Award" in his school system. Each year a member of the teaching staff was chosen to receive a gold watch and an appropriate certificate for long and meritorious service.

In searching for a way in which his memory might be perpetuated and to honor the profession he so dearly respected, the Alberta School Trustees' Association established the Edwin Parr Teacher Award in 1964, open to any first year teacher for demonstrating excellence.

This year's Edwin Parr Zone 5 Award goes to:

Winner: Nancy Espetveidt, Bearspaw School

Nancy Espetveidt was born and raised in Calgary. She spent four years in Saudi Arabia with her family which helped her develop her sense of global community. Prior to becoming a teacher, Nancy worked for the community YMCA working out of a public school and organizing after school ESL classes and early childhood literacy programs. She also volunteered in Mexico with youth ages 11 – 17 years of age who had run into trouble with immigration authorities. Nancy was nominated for the Peace Medal by the YMCA which sparked Nancy's decision to become a teacher where she might influence more lives.

Nancy completed her Education degree at the University of Alberta in April, 2008 and graduated with distinction. Her major is elementary education and her minor is educational psychology. Nancy is a natural teacher who for a first year teacher has an exceptional range of instructional strategies. She promotes a democratic classroom emphasizing social responsibility and social skills. Her classroom has a strong sense of togetherness as students support one another in their learning. This sense of community helps all children but especially those with learning challenges.

Bearspaw School is fortunate to have this young, energetic and positive teacher. Nancy serves on a number of committees at the school, and coaches grade six basketball. She became involved with the ATA at the local level and was recently appoint the Chair of the Convention Board for the Palliser District. Nancy is recently married and loves to travel with her husband Jason, especially on road trips to the mountains.

Clearly Nancy has had an outstanding start as an educator in what will no doubt prove to be a long and successful career.

*Submitted by Dorothy Dyer, Principal  
Bearspaw School*

Chair Eggerer called a recess at 3:18 pm. The Board hosted a reception to acknowledge the accomplishments of the teacher award winners who were present at the meeting.

The Board Meeting resumed at 3:42 pm.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** - CONTINUED

### **CHARITABLE FUNDS BURSARY AWARDS**

#### **#147 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE HELEN CLEASE:**

That the Board of Trustees approves the proposed bursary amounts as provided and alternative 1 for 2009-2010, whereby the Board acknowledges a student/students or program that best exemplifies civic, social, and/or environmental stewardship, in direct alignment with goal three of the Board's 3YP, at all school award ceremonies.

Amendment by Bev LaPeare: that the phrase "at all school award ceremonies" be removed from the motion.

Trustee Clease accepted the amendment as friendly.

Vote on Motion #147-09 as amended.

**CARRIED**

The Charitable Funds Committee will review the bursary categories/amounts to ensure that school configurations that do not fit into the categories listed will be included.

### **POLICY HK ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNICATION OF STUDENT LEARNING AND POLICY HKA PROMOTION AND PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS – SECOND READ**

#### **#148- 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BRUCE PETTIGREW:**

That the Board of Trustees gives Second Read and therefore adopts amended Policy HK *Assessment and Communication of Student Learning* and Policy HKA *Promotion and Placement of Students*, as presented.

**CARRIED**

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Sylvia Eggerer Reported:**

- May 21 – Board & Planning Meetings
- May 26 – Policy Development Committee Meeting
- May 26 – AISI Celebration and Year 3 wrap-up
- May 26 – GMHS Fine Arts Evening
- May 27 – École Edwards School Council Meeting
- May 28 – Board Planning & Agenda Planning Meetings
- May 28 – Rainbow Creek Grand Opening
- May 28 – RVLC Graduation
- May 28 – Worked casino to support Plus 55 Summer Games
- May 29 & 30 – Attended PSBAA Conference & AGM in Red Deer. Minister Hancock joined in a discussion of the School Act.
- June 1 & 2 – Attended ASBA Conference in Red Deer. Jamie Vollmer discussed the role of the Board in governance.
- June 4 – Board & Planning Meetings

### **Bev LaPeare Reported:**

- May 21 – Attended the School Council meeting at Prairie Waters Elementary School.
- May 22 – Brought greetings from the Board at the Chestermere High School Graduation Ceremony. Congratulations to all grads!!
- May 25 – Attended the Indus School Council meeting.
- May 26 – Attended a Student Expulsion Hearing.
- May 26 – Attended the Transportation Committee meeting.
- May 28 – Attended the Board planning and agenda planning meetings.
- May 28 – Attended the Rainbow Creek Elementary School grand opening celebrations.
- May 30 – Attended the Excellence in Teaching and Smarter Kids Foundation awards ceremony in Edmonton. Congratulations to Josh Hill and Julie Stover!
- May 30-31 – Attended PSBA (Public School Board Association) Conference in Red Deer.
- June 1-2 – Attended ASBA (Alberta School Board Association) Conference in Red Deer.
- June 3 – Attended the Chestermere Lake Middle School Council meeting.

### **Helen Clease:**

- May 26 – Expulsion Hearing
- May 28 - Board Meeting Chestermere & Rainbow Creek Grand Opening
- May 29 - Travel to Red Deer to attend PSBAA
- May 30 & 31- PSBAA Conference
- June 1 & 2 – ASBA Conference
- June 3 – Elbow Valley Parent Council, Banded Peak Band concert, and SCHS One Village Silent Auction and Art Show
- June 4 – Board and Planning

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/COURSES**

Several Trustees attended the PSBAA (May 30-31) and ASBA (June 1-2) conferences in Red Deer. The Minister of Education joined a discussion on the School Act Review.

**NEW BUSINESS:** N/A

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**#149 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE HELEN CLEAVE:**

That the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**SECRETARY-TREASURER**