

COPY

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SANCTION HEARING

Rebecca Kallal	Madam Chair
John Acheson	Panel Member
Laura Thibert	Panel Member
Cindy Olsen	Panel Member
Marilyn Bergstra	Panel Member
Carole Karbonik	Administers Oath
Debbie Engel	Complainant
Larry Kowalczyk	Respondent
K. Feehan, Esq.	For the Complainant
S. Renouf, Esq.	For the Respondent
A. B. Forestier, CSR(A)	Court Reporter

Edmonton, Alberta
June 18, 2012

1 please.

EXHIBIT 10:

STATEMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT CARR

4 Q MR. FEEHAN: This is your statement, is it,
5 Superintendent Carr?

6 A Yes, that is correct.

7 Q And on page 2 that's your signature?

8 A That is correct.

9 Q And you dated that on June 6th of 2012; is that
10 correct?

11 A That is correct.

12 Q You were the author of that statement?

13 A I am the author of that statement.

14 Q Did you have help with anyone in preparing that
15 statement?

16 A No, I did not.

17 Q Could you read the statement to us, please?

18 A On April 20th, 2012, the board of
19 trustees had scheduled a special meeting
20 to begin at 11:30 a.m. to consider a
21 motion to approve the use of capital
22 reserves for the purchase of three
23 modular classrooms to address projected
24 increase student enrollment at Sister
25 Annata Brockman School. The issues
26 surrounding projected increase student
27 enrollments at Sister Annata Brockman had

1 been a difficult issue facing the
2 district and included consideration of an
3 option of closing the junior high program
4 at the school with a potential relocation
5 of the program to another nearby
6 facility.

7 Prior to the commencement of the meeting,
8 I was approached by Chair Engel who
9 advised that Trustee Kowalczyk
10 approached her and stated he wished to
11 bring a matter before the board of
12 trustees in an in camera session. Chair
13 Engel advised that Trustee Kowalczyk had
14 approached her in the parking lot when
15 she arrived earlier that day and advised
16 her that he had a matter that was one of
17 the most serious matters that the board
18 would ever deal with and that absolutely
19 needed to be brought before the board
20 that same day. Upon hearing this, based
21 on Trustee Kowalczyk's statement and the
22 implied urgency, I assumed that the
23 matter was one involving a student or a
24 staff member, possibly involving the
25 disclosure potential criminal matter
26 involving staff or students.

27 Chair Engel also sought the advice of

1 Board Secretary Andrea Klotz for
2 direction regarding the appropriate
3 procedure that should be followed in
4 order to add an in camera item to the
5 April 20th, 2012 meeting agenda. Board
6 Secretary Klotz is responsible for
7 determining the appropriate
8 parliamentary procedure for board
9 meetings. We were advised by Board
10 Secretary Klotz that unanimous consent
11 would be required to add an in camera
12 item to the agenda.

13 At the commencement of the special board
14 meeting, Chair Engel advised the board of
15 trustees that Trustee Kowalczyk wished to
16 add an in camera matter to the agenda and
17 sought the unanimous consent required.
18 Trustee Bergstra raised questions as to
19 the nature of the matter, and Chair Engel
20 advised that it was an employee relations
21 matter. Upon so advising, unanimous
22 consent was obtained, and the item was
23 added to the agenda. The board then
24 proceeded to deal with the public
25 business of the meeting. At the
26 conclusion of the public portion of the
27 meeting, the board proceeded to meet in

1 camera in Room 206, and I was in
2 attendance at this meeting.

3 Trustee Kowalczyk indicated that he was
4 in receipt of a letter that had been sent
5 to the superintendent and copied to all
6 trustees from the district's junior high
7 principals. In his view, the letter was
8 critical of a decision that the board of
9 trustees had made to disregard the
10 recommendation of administration to close
11 St. Mark Junior High School. Motion to
12 close the school was defeated, and
13 instead the school was to remain open.
14 Trustee Kowalczyk was one of the four
15 trustees who voted against the motion to
16 close the school.

17 Trustee Kowalczyk was very obviously
18 upset with the contents of the letter
19 from the junior high principals. This
20 letter was one of several letters that
21 the trustees had received in previous
22 weeks that were critical of the decision
23 to keep the school open.

24 Trustee Kowalczyk proceeded to direct
25 several comments and questions to me. He
26 stated to me that he did not wish to be
27 "chastised by employee groups" --

1 And that's in quotes.

2 -- and he could not believe that I
3 personally would let this happen.
4 Trustee Kowalczyk then proceeded to
5 accuse me openly in front of all those
6 in attendance that I only supported west
7 end schools over those schools located
8 in the north end of Edmonton. I
9 understood him to be referring to a
10 component of the decision made at the
11 public portion of the meeting which
12 involved the relocation of a modular
13 unit from St. Charles Elementary School
14 to Sister Annata Brockman School.
15 I was taken entirely by surprise by
16 Trustee Kowalczyk's comments, since I
17 was expecting him to bring an entirely
18 different matter forward based upon his
19 previous comments. Furthermore, I was
20 taken aback by the demeanour of his
21 statements and felt very much attacked.
22 Trustee Kowalczyk was speaking in a
23 raised voice and was visibly upset and
24 disturbed.
25 Chair Engel then intervened and
26 indicated that Trustee Kowalczyk's
27 comments were inappropriate. I then

1 observed Trustee Kowalczyk cup his hand
2 around his mouth and proceed to mouth
3 the words --

4 I won't say them.

5 -- to chair Engel. I was beyond shocked
6 as I have never witnessed this type of
7 exchange in any of my interactions with
8 any trustees during my entire career
9 with Edmonton Catholic Schools. At this
10 point, I began to pack up my things and
11 advised the board that I would not
12 participate any longer in the meeting.
13 Trustee Kowalczyk again began to
14 verbally confront me and ask me, "why
15 are you leaving?" "what did you see?"
16 And, again, "what do you think you saw?"
17 Again, I felt attacked, demeaned, and
18 bullied. I replied to Trustee Kowalczyk
19 that I did not use such language, and I
20 left the meeting.

21 I believe that Trustee Kowalczyk chose
22 to mouth the words he did is because in
23 camera meetings are typically only audio
24 recorded and he did not wish to have a
25 record of such behaviour. That said, I
26 believe that there would be several
27 other witnesses to Trustee Kowalczyk's

1 conduct including Chair Engel, myself,
2 and several other trustees.

3 After leaving the meeting in Room 206, I
4 took several minutes to compose myself
5 in the hallway outside of the meeting
6 room. I was very upset at this point.
7 Chair Engel left the meeting in Room 206
8 and observed that I was upset. I
9 returned to my office and have not
10 discussed the event of April 20th, 2012
11 with Trustee Kowalczyk since.

12 That is my statement.

13 Q Have you got any comments to make about the events
14 of April the 20th, 2012?

15 A Certainly from my personal perspective, it was a
16 very unnerving experience for me as superintendent.
17 I really believe that I try ultimately very hard to
18 work with people and to work in a matter of
19 respect. I expect that of my staff around me and
20 they expect that of me as well. And I felt it was
21 a situation which, for whatever reason, was totally
22 blown out of proportion. It was a letter that was
23 written to the superintendent with a copy to the
24 board, and my position has always been in our
25 district I have -- I believe I have tried to change
26 our culture along the way and always, always trying
27 to ensure that there is transparency in what we do,