

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of Alberta held in the Centre for Education McCauley Chambers on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 2 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Trisha Estabrooks
Dawn Hancock
Marcia Hole

Julie Kusiek
Marsha Nelson

Sherri O’Keefe
Jan Sawyer
Saadiq Sumar

Officials

Angela Anderson
Todd Burnstad
Grace Cooke
Andrea Cooper

Karen Mills
Kathy Muhlethaler
Kent Pharis
Nancy Petersen
Cliff Richard

Darrel Robertson
Carrie Rosa
Ron Thompson
Liz Yule

Board Chair: Julie Kusiek

Recording Secretary: Catherine Angeles

The Board Chair called the meeting to order and called upon Trustee Sumar to provide a land acknowledgement.

Trustee Sumar acknowledged that he lives, works, plays, and enjoys the abundance that Treaty 6 land provides. This land, known by many names like amiskwacyi-waskahikan (nehiyawewin; “Beaver Hills House”), omahkoyis (Siksika; “Big Lodge”), and ti oda (Assiniboine; “many houses”), has been cared for by the Siksikaitsitapi, Denesuline, nehiyawak, Anishinaabe, Stoney Nakoda, and the Métis from the North Saskatchewan River Territory. This land has also been imprinted by the footsteps of the Inuit. It is only through their teachings and stories that we can fully appreciate the beauty of this land.

Trustee Sumar’s family settled not far from the Tsuut’ina Nation on Treaty 7 territory. As a young traveler, he was and continues to be grateful for the warmth of the people of Beaver Hills House despite the broken promises, mistreatment, constant displacement, and many other wrongs they have endured. He is reminded daily of their resilience and courage and that we must work toward a future where that immeasurable strength is no longer required.

Trustee Sumar said Ramadan is a time of self-reflection for Muslims. Later this week, they will also observe the renewal that comes with spring and the Persian New Year. Coupling these concepts, he is committed to reflecting on and recommitting to his personal journey to learn the truth and to acts of reconciliation, both big and small.

MINUTE BOOK**A. O Canada****B. Roll Call: 2:01 p.m.**

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Sawyer:

**“That the agenda for the March 19, 2024, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair expressed her gratitude to Minister Nicolaidis for visiting Belgravia School last week, where he announced the next steps in engaging Albertans on the province’s social studies curriculum. After the announcement, he visited a Grade 6 class engaging in insightful discussions and answering all of their questions. Both staff and students appreciated the opportunity to meet the Minister of Education and share their perspectives. The Board Chair encouraged everyone to review the draft of the new curriculum and provide feedback to the province as they continue to refine it. Division staff will also be providing feedback to Alberta Education, and the Board of Trustees is committed to offering their insights and recommendations to the Minister’s Office.

The Board Chair reported that following the suggestion made at the last Board meeting, she has shared the Operational Efficiencies report with the Minister of Education, highlighting Edmonton Public’s dedication to responsible financial management and our commitment to maximizing resources for classroom purposes.

The Board Chair shared that it was a privilege to attend the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association’s 40th anniversary gala, alongside many Trustees, the Superintendent, principals and teachers at EPSB schools offering the Mandarin Bilingual Program. This association has played a crucial role in the success of the Division’s Chinese Bilingual Program, which is offered in 14 schools this year and will expand to 15 schools in the upcoming year. The Board Chair expressed congratulations to the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association on 40 years of excellence!

The Board Chair encouraged all parents and guardians to take part in the Board of Trustees’ parent appreciation night on April 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Telus World of Science. This event is an opportunity to celebrate and express the Board of Trustees’ gratitude for everyone’s unwavering commitment to their child’s education. The Board of Trustees invites all parents/guardians to join them for a night of exploration and fun, including visits to the Arctic Journey gallery, the Dinosaurs exhibit,

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and the Legends of the Northern Sky at the Zeidler Dome. No RSVP is necessary, and they hope to see many parents/guardians there!

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent shared one last reminder that it's pre-enrolment and registration time. The window for registration and pre-enrolment started on February 1 and will end on March 22, right before Spring Break. While open houses have wrapped up for this season, if anyone has questions about what a school has to offer, reach out to the school principal to get the information needed.

The Superintendent said the Division Feedback Survey also remains open until March 22. Administration invites staff, students, and families to take a moment to provide feedback, helping them gauge the Division's performance and identify what constitutes a quality education system. He said everyone's insights are invaluable in guiding the Division's efforts to achieve our educational goals and better support our students and families.

The Superintendent said this is also our last week before Spring Break. He wished everyone a restful and relaxing break.

F. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting – March 5, 2024

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

**"That the minutes of the Board meeting held March 5, 2024, be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives on Items on the Meeting Agenda

There were no registered speakers for this item.

H. Reports

2. Report #09 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held March 5, 2024)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the March 5, 2024, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Report #10 of the Special Caucus Committee (From the meeting held March 12, 2024)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the March 12, 2024, Special Caucus Committee meeting.

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“That the Process and Timeline for the 2024-2025 Budget, as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2024-2033**MOVED BY Trustee Hole:**

“That the Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2024-2033 be approved for submission to the provincial government.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

There was a short break in the meeting.

6. Three-Year Capital Plan 2025-2028**MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:**

“That the draft Three-Year Capital Plan 2025-2028 for submission to the provincial government, be approved.”

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Sawyer:

“That the Board meeting be extended beyond 6 p.m.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Sumar the motion be amended:

“That the draft Three-Year Capital Plan 2025-2028 for submission to the provincial government, be ~~approved~~ amended to show Year 1 Priorities as follows:

1. ~~Glenridding Heights K-6*~~ ~~Dr. Anne Anderson 10-12~~
2. ~~Rosenthal K-6*~~ ~~Glenridding Heights K-6*~~
3. ~~McConachie 7-9*~~ ~~Rosenthal K-6*~~
4. ~~Delton Replacement K-6*~~ ~~The Grange 10-12~~
5. ~~Spruce Avenue Replacement/Modernization 7-9*~~ ~~Hawks Ridge K-6~~
6. ~~Dr. Anne Anderson 10-12~~ ~~McConachie 7-9*~~
7. ~~The Grange 10-12~~ ~~Castle Downs 10-12~~
8. ~~Hawks Ridge K-6~~ ~~Silver Berry K-6~~
9. ~~Castle Downs 10-12~~ ~~Delton Replacement K-6*~~
10. ~~Silver Berry K-6~~ ~~Spruce Avenue Replacement/Modernization 7-9*~~
11. **River's Edge K-9**
12. **Ellerslie K-9**

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The Board Chair called the question on the amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Hole and Sumar

OPPOSED: Trustees Estabrooks, Hancock, Kusiek, Nelson, O’Keefe, and Sawyer
(DEFEATED)

The Board Chair called the question on the original motion.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Letter Supporting National Framework for a School Food Program Act

MOVED BY Board Chair Kusiek:

“That the Board authorizes the Board Chair to send the letter, in Attachment I, to federal ministers whose portfolios have an education and/or student health component, with a copy to the Alberta Minister of Education, the Alberta School Board Association and the Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives on Educational Issues

There were no registered speakers for this item.

J. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports

Trustee Estabrooks congratulated the Hardisty Parent Council for raising funds for their new playground and working hard to ensure it is inclusive with a number of features for children with accessibility needs. The playground will include a one-of-a-kind play structure. She said it is also great to hear that the Alberta School Councils’ Association will be discussing an advocacy motion around school playgrounds at their upcoming meeting.

Trustee Estabrooks shared that she met with leaders in the Eritrean community on the weekend to talk about issues of public education and the importance of families being involved in the school community. They were particularly interested to learn more about the ways in which EPSB is funded and how when families arrive from Eritrea or any other country mid-way through the school year and they enrol their child in school, we are not funded for those students. She really appreciated the conversation with them.

K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - None

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L. Notices of Motions

Trustee Hancock gave notice that she would be making the following motion:

That the Board authorize the Board Chair to send the letter to Ministers of Education and Municipal Affairs in support of the Alberta School Boards Association’s policy position statement, “School trustee elections should remain free from a political party system”.

M. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 2 p.m.

N. Adjournment: 6:21 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations