

**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, October 10, 2023.

**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 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.

**A. O Canada**

**B. Roll Call: 2:19 p.m.**

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:**

**“That the agenda for the October 10, 2023, Board meeting be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MINUTE BOOK****D. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair expressed gratitude and thanks, on behalf of the Board, to Trustee Estabrooks for her incredible service as Board Chair to students and families, the Division, the city and the province of Alberta. Trustee Estabrooks carried out the role with grace, humility, professionalism and with a fierce commitment to the value of public education. She has also been a mentor to the first-term Board of Trustees and showed them how to do the job of governance well. While Trustee Estabrooks has stepped down from the role of Board Chair to pursue other very exciting and worthwhile possibilities, the Board continues to look to her as an exceptional Trustee and an important member of their team. The Board Chair welcomed Trustee Estabrooks to provide her comments as outgoing Board Chair.

Trustee Estabrooks said she is humbled to have served alongside all the Trustees and said it has been quite an honour to be selected as the Board Chair from amongst her colleagues. She is looking forward to great things ahead for this Board under Board Chair Kusiek's leadership.

The Board Chair said October 2 was Custodial Staff Appreciation Day and October 5 was World Teachers' Day. We rely on the hard work of custodians every day to keep schools clean and contribute to a great learning environment. We look to teachers to guide students in their learning, inspiring young minds every day. On behalf of the Board, she offered heartfelt thanks to both staff groups.

The Board Chair shared that October 10 is World Mental Health Day. A key Division priority remains the well-being and mental health of students and staff. If anyone is struggling, please reach out to your network, a trusted friend or colleague, or one of the many available Division resources.

The Board Chair said last week was Read In Week. She thanked the schools that welcomed guests, and the many guests that visited students and shared their love of reading. She also thanked the students - for their questions, their enthusiasm, and for the fun surprises, like the "turkey tango" performance at one kindergarten classroom she visited.

The Board Chair stated that October is Learning City Month. Edmonton is the first Canadian city to become a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. Last year, the City of Edmonton successfully led a coalition of community partners, including Edmonton Public Libraries, the three school divisions/boards and eight post-secondary institutions to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. The Board looks forward to showcasing the great learning happening at Edmonton Public Schools throughout the month of October.

The Board Chair shared that October is Latin American Heritage Month. Latin Heritage American Month was adopted in the House of Commons in 2018 and is meant to recognize the important contributions of the Latin American community, as well as to celebrate, share and promote their unique culture and traditions with all Canadians. Edmontonians of Latin American Heritage enrich our communities and our schools.

The Board Chair shared that October is also Islamic History Month. Results from our student demographic survey last year show that 16 per cent of students in grades 4-6 and 18 per cent of students in grades 7-12 identify as Muslim. Taking time to learn about Islam this month and throughout

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the year, such as acknowledging days of significance in our multi-faith calendar, is an important part of ensuring that Muslim students, and all students, feel safe, welcome and that they belong.

The Board Chair extended gratitude to Minister Nicolaides for inviting Edmonton Public Schools to participate in an event with a delegation of Education Ministers from Germany. Superintendent Robertson and the Board Chair attended and learned more about how Germany structures vocational training for students. She also thanked Division staff for hosting representatives from Germany at Bannerman School to share the work the Division does on inclusion and supporting every student's pathway toward a life of dignity and fulfillment.

### **E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent congratulated Board Chair Kusiek on her election as Board Chair. He said the Division is thrilled to be working with her and continuing to serve this fine Board.

The Superintendent expressed a heartfelt gratitude of appreciation for the service of the former Board Chair, Trustee Estabrooks. He thanked her for navigating through some very complex times as the former Board Chair. The Division appreciated her support and her heart for kids in that work.

The Superintendent thanked Trustee Hole for taking on the role as the Board's representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (Foundation) Board of Governors. The Foundation's work is really important work to support Division kids.

The Superintendent congratulated Vice-Chair Sawyer on her election as Vice-Chair. He said the Division is looking forward to working with her and to continuing to serve this fine Board.

The Superintendent said that running for the office of Trustee is an incredible public service. The Division is large and complex, and the Board of Trustees all lead in various ways and as part of a team to help support the success of the Division's 115,000 students. He thanked the Board of Trustees and expressed congratulations to them once again.

The Superintendent shared that the official enrollment numbers, as of September 30 count, are 115,176 students welcomed into Edmonton Public Schools. This represents approximately a five per cent increase, and it's only about half a per cent over what the Division projected. He expressed his appreciation to Division staff working through those projections and their incredibly accurate work. The increased enrolment numbers have implications for the weighted moving average. He thanked Mr. Burnstad, in Financial Services, for ensuring the Division isn't underrepresented in that weighted moving average or overrepresented terribly. The Superintendent said that although the Division is very short on space, the Division welcomed our kids and wants to make sure that everyone has a great start to the school year.

The Superintendent expressed his appreciation to the many parents who reached out in appeal for spots in schools that they wanted to choose for their families. The Division carefully considered each and every one of those appeals. And if he had his wish everyone would get to choose exactly where it is they want to learn in Edmonton Public Schools but the Division is just under a lot of space pressure right now, in certain areas

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of the city. He appreciates everyone's patience, and the work of Division Support Services as they've navigated some complexities with our parent community.

The Superintendent advised that school councils are busy organizing for the year and said it's great to see that many are already up and running. School councils play a vital role in supporting our students and making connections between the school parents in the larger community. He expressed appreciation to the Board for providing school council memberships for all Division schools once again this year. The Division is co-hosting with Alberta School Councils' Association, an online training session for school council volunteers on October 24 and the registration deadline is October 16; for further details visit [epsb.ca](https://epsb.ca).

### **F. Approval of the Minutes**

1. Board Meeting – September 26, 2023

**MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:**

**"That the minutes of the Board meeting held September 26, 2023, be approved as printed."  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

### **G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

There were no registered speakers for this item.

### **H. Reports**

2. Board Policy AB.BP Appeals

**MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:**

**"That Board Policy AB.BP Dispute Resolution and Appeals be read for the first time and be approved for stakeholder feedback."  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

3. Governance and Evaluation Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan

**MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:**

**"1. That the Board approve the Governance and Evaluation Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan."  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**"2. That the Board approve the expenditure of up to \$5000.00 from the Board Initiative Fund for two professional learning sessions of two to four hours each, to be facilitated by external facilitators."**

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**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

- I. **Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports** - None
  
- J. **Trustees and Board Requests for Information** - None
  
- K. **Notices of Motions** - None
  
- L. **Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 2 p.m.**
  
- M. **Adjournment: 3:13 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

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Karen Mills, Director Board and  
Superintendent Relations