

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #05**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Trustees of the Edmonton School District No. 7 of the Province of Alberta held in McCauley Chambers in the Centre for Education on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Sherry Adams
Shelagh Dunn
Michelle Draper

Trisha Estabrooks
Nathan Ip
Michael Janz

Cheryl Johner
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Lisa Austin
Grace Cooke
Todd Burnstad
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler
Lorne Parker
Kent Pharis

Darrel Robertson
Mike Suderman
Liz Yule

Board Chair: Michelle Draper

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Heather Quinn, President
CUPE Local 474 – John Vradenburgh, President

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.

The Board Chair advised that the fire alarm system at the Centre for Education is a Two Stage alarm system. Stage One is a single repeating alarm tone indicating a warning only and that evacuation is not required. Stage Two is a triple repeating alarm tone indicating that evacuation is required.

The Board Chair advised those attending the meeting in person that the floor area is restricted to the Board of Trustees, Superintendent, Director of Board and Superintendent Relations and Recording staff, with an area reserved for media. She advised that she would signify to any other staff or registered speakers to come down to the floor at the designated time on the agenda. The Board Chair thanked everyone for their cooperation.

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A. O Canada 

B. **Roll Call:** (2:00 p.m.)

The Superintendent advised that Trustee Gibson was absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

**“That the agenda for the November 27, 2018, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair advised that the White Ribbon Campaign began on November 25, 2018, and will continue to December 6, 2018. She explained that the White Ribbon Campaign is intended to make the public aware that violence against women happens at home, on the street, and in the workplace, and that it is unacceptable. The Board Chair shared that the Board of Trustees endorsed the campaign in 1994 and urges schools and staff to recognize this initiative. She added that CUPE Local 474 (Custodial Staff) has provided each Trustee and staff members with a white ribbon in recognition of this campaign.

The Board Chair reported that on November 20, 2018, the Board of Trustees spent the day with staff from the Infrastructure and Communications departments to gain a deeper understanding of the District’s needs.

She explained that the day confirmed that the District is running out of classroom space and said that while the District has been fortunate to open 13 schools in the last two years, this really just helped the District catch up. The Board Chair commented that the District has had over 3 per cent enrolment growth every year for the last eight years and that the new schools provided 19,000 seats, but that the District grew by 22,000 students.

The Board Chair explained that the most acute shortage is high school space and even with the announcement of the Dr. Anne Anderson High School in Heritage Valley, the District anticipates being out of high school space by 2022. She said that is only three years away and it usually takes at least two years to build a high school.

The Board Chair confirmed that the District does have room in some mature community schools, but much of Edmonton’s population growth has been in new suburbs, so these schools are quite a distance from the students’ homes and that long bus rides are not ideal for students or families. She acknowledged that transportation costs already far exceed funding and that the Board of Trustees has been implementing more efficient practices wherever possible and subsidizing the cost of transportation to families for several years now. The Board Chair confirmed that the District was able to cover the bus fee increase for families this year, but subsidizing is not

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sustainable and that as student population outpaces new school construction, and as fuel and operating costs continue to rise, transportation costs will continue to grow.

The Board Chair shared that the Board of Trustees also discussed the District's deferred maintenance and said that schools are safe, and we do everything we can to make them welcoming spaces, but in many schools the building components are simply reaching the end of their lifespan. She advised that the bill to fix them is over \$750 million dollars and said that would just to bring things up to working order, not make the schools fully modern learning spaces.

The Board Chair explained that another impact of space shortage discussed was the way it limits the District's ability to provide alternative programs or space for partners who provide child care. She commented that the Board of Trustees is proud to be a District of choice, and that they share the frustrations families feel with not having programs of choice close to their homes.

The Board Chair advised that an advocacy plan is being developed and that the Board of Trustees will be engaging with parents and community to help inform the messaging.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that the District is in the process of completing the 2018-2019 Results Review and that the Trustees will be having conversations with principals from schools in the their wards. He remarked that parents and community members also join in the conversations as part of the Board's public accountability regarding Edmonton Public Schools and the annual reporting of the results and that the conversations are very informative. He thanked the Board of Trustees for their work and participation in the results review process and shared his appreciation to the administrators and staff for their work and preparation and shared that they are a very important part of the District's accountability system.

The Superintendent reported that towards to the end of October 2019, the District carried out a revised format for conversations regarding catchment work. He explained that schools are organized into high school catchment areas in the District and that catchment principals unite to develop collaborative improvement plans that are yielding improvements in student success. The Superintendent expressed his appreciation to all those involved and thanked the Assistant Superintendents for their leadership in the District's catchment work to ensure that schools are resourced with the tools they need to be successful.

The Superintendent stated that there is excellent work being accomplished in the District that will be shared in the Annual Education Results Review (AERR) report and reminded everyone that detailed Strategic Plan update reports regarding key aspects of the AERR such as literacy will be provided throughout the year.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #04 – November 6, 2018

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MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #04 held November 6, 2018, be approved as printed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

H. Reports

2. Funds for the 2019-2020 Clause 23 Professional Improvement Program

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

“That an allocation of \$1,300,000 from the 2019-2020 operating budget be approved for the Clause 23 Professional Improvement Program for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support to teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

3. Funds for the 2019-2020 Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

“That an allocation of \$150,000 from the 2019-2020 operating budget be approved for the Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program for the purpose of granting exempt staff professional improvement leaves and/or tuition support for the 2019-2020 school year.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

4. Board Policy EM.BP Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis on and in District Property and at District Functions

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

“That Board Policy EM.BP Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis on and in District Property and at District Functions be considered for the first, second and third time at this meeting.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“That Board Policy EM.BP Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis on and in District Property and at District Functions be considered for the first time.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“That Board Policy EM.BP Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis on and in District Property and at District Functions be considered for the second time.”

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(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

"That Board Policy EM.BP Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis on and in District Property and at District Functions be considered for the third and final time and be approved."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. 2017-2018 Audited Financial Statements

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

"That the 2017-2018 audited financial statements, notes to the financial statements and unaudited schedules be approved."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. Proposed Distribution of 2017-2018 District Surplus

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

That the proposed distribution of the 2017-2018 surplus be approved as follows:

"1. That the 2018-2019 planned use of surplus funds totalling \$48.6 million released in conjunction with the 2018-2019 fall revised budget be approved."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Janz was not present for the vote.

"2. That the additional planned use of capital reserve funds of \$2 million for 2018-2019 be approved."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Janz was not present for the vote.

7. Fall Update to the Revised 2018-2019 Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

"That the Fall 2018 Update to the 2018-2019 budget be approved."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Janz was not present for the vote.

There was a short break in the meeting.

Trustee Johner left the meeting.

8. Alberta Education Results Review (AERR)

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MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

**“That the Edmonton Public Schools’ Combined Three-Year Education Plan (2018-2019 to 2020-2021) and the Annual Education Results Report (2017-2018) be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

9. **Board Chair Discretionary Expense Allowance Report for 2017-2018**

A report of the expenses incurred under the Board Chair’s discretionary allowance for the period of September 2017 – August 2018, was provided for information.

I. **Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

There were no registered speakers for this item.

J. **Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**

Trustee Adams commented that the Superintendent brought messaging to the November 7, 2018, District Leadership meeting about charting the next four years for Career Pathways regarding the importance of how knowing the “why” makes the “what” more clear and becomes more impactful. She said his message also covered catchment work and how collaboration brings better outcomes for kids and opportunities to build capacity.

Trustee Adams submitted the following report in writing:

November 9, 2018 - Trustee Adams thanked the Meyokumin and Michael Strembitsky Schools for invitations to attend their very meaningful Remembrance Day Services. Trustee Adams gave special commendation for the exceptional music played by the students in each school. The time and effort devoted to honour our military personnel who sacrificed so much on our behalf was appreciated.

November 14, 2018 - Trustees Ip, Estabrooks and Adams attended the Chamber of Commerce Leadership luncheon featuring Jason Kenney as the speaker.

November 15, 2018 – The Edmonton Public Schools Foundation luncheon at Tipaskan School was very successful. Current and potential partners attended, as well as university students interested in learning about full-day Kindergarten. There was special time mixing with the Kindergarteners following the presentation.

November 16, 2018 - Members of the Custodial Collective Bargaining Negotiating teams met to formally sign the Custodial Collective Bargaining Agreement. Trustee Estabrooks and Adams had the privilege to serve on the negotiation team over the past year and were honoured to be part of the celebration.

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November 16, 2018 - The Policy Review Committee met to update their extensive work plan for the year and to determine next steps in the engagement plan for the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education policy.

November 20, 2018 – Trustee Adams shared her appreciation for Trustee Ip and the Infrastructure Committee for the preparation and leadership at the Board Generative discussion. Trustee Adams thanks District leaders who prepared relevant presentations supported with significant data that confirmed the infrastructure challenges the District is facing. The information helped to inform discussions throughout the day and will be a source of advocacy going forward. The District will continue to deliberate and seek innovative solutions for the challenging infrastructure problems in the days ahead.

November 22, 2018 – Trustee Adams attended the CASA Lectures Series, Session 3: Transgender Mental Health, at NAIT.

November 25, 2018 – Trustee Adams congratulated the Dan Knott School for hosting a two-day provincial leadership conference where there were 350 junior high students from 27 schools from across the province. The theme of the conference was Leaders in Training and it was a delight to bring greetings and encouragement to this exceptional group of young leaders who are serving their schools and communities.

November 26, 2018 – Trustee Adams attended Central Units Results Review and noted that it was a delight to hear about all the work that goes on at Central to help make the District as effective as possible. Chair Draper, Trustee Dunn and Trustee Adams were privileged to review the results from the following units: District Information Management, District Technology, Financial Services, Infrastructure, Student Transportation and Student Information. An informative presentation was given regarding the extensive work of each unit including the cohesiveness that brings all this work together.

Trustee Draper reported that on November 7, 2018, she attended a moving presentation at Steele Heights School by Dr. Eva Olson, a holocaust survivor, who shared her experiences of World War II and provided a message of hope, acceptance and love.

On November 7, 2018, Trustee Draper was pleased to spend some time at City Hall School, with the Grade 6 students from McLeod School. She explained that the students learn about local government, have many guest speakers, and better understand poverty and related issues through activities and discussions.

On November 17, 2018, Trustees Draper and Johner were pleased to attend the CUPE Local 784 (Maintenance Staff) Retirement and holiday party and said it was a lovely event and an opportunity to spend time with staff and their family in a social environment. Trustee Draper reported that she attended the Belmont and Bannerman School Council meetings on November

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19 and 21, 2018, and that she enjoyed engaging in great discussion with parents about the District and public education.

Trustee Dunn reported that it was a pleasure to attend the Canadian Council of Muslim Women Edmonton Chapter event that honoured namesakes of Edmonton Public Schools, Dr. Lila Fahlman, Soraya Hafez and Hilwie Hamdon.

Trustee Dunn shared that she enjoyed attending a School Council meeting at Aldergrove School and a School Council meeting with Minister Eggen at Victoria School, and that she remains thankful for the commitment and work of parents and families in shaping District schools.

Trustee Dunn expressed that it was wonderful to meet with principals and District leaders during results reviews and that she is awed by the dedication, perseverance and passion of the team as everyone works towards student success.

Trustee Dunn reported that she had the honour of speaking to a policy position to the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) on behalf of the Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees and the Greater St. Albert Catholic School Board advocating for increased, dedicated funding for mental health supports in schools as a collaboration between the Education and Health Ministries, which was supported by 95 per cent of Alberta School Boards.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked the Mount Royal School Council for hosting her at their recent meeting. She also thanked Abbott School for inviting her to visit the school last week.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked everyone that attended her Trustee Coffee event earlier in the month for the great conversation about public education and District schools.

Trustee Estabrooks also thanked McNally School and Principal Lisa Wright for including her in the school's Remembrance Day ceremony.

Trustee Estabrooks recognized the Edmonton Chapter of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women for hosting a commemorative event for three Edmonton women, Dr. Lila Fahlman, Soraya Hafez and Hilwie Hamdon that the District has named schools after.

Trustee Stirling reported that on November 9, 2018, she brought greetings and laid a wreath on behalf of the District at the Vimy Ridge Academy Remembrance Ceremony. She said that on the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, it was a moving day to remember and commit to working for peace. Trustee Stirling advised that she and Trustee Ip laid a wreath on behalf of the District at the City of Edmonton Remembrance Day ceremony at the University of Alberta's Butcherdome.

Trustee Stirling advised that she represented the Board of Trustees at the November 14, 2018, table-top conversation consultation meeting for the University of Alberta's strategic plan - For the Public Good. She said she shared the importance of our existing partnerships and relationship with

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the University of Alberta and spoke about how we can improve and strengthen this work for the benefit of all our students, alumni, and communities.

Trustee Stirling reported that on November 19, 2018, she attended the ASBA Fall General Meeting along with Trustees Dunn, Estabrooks and Janz.

On November 21, 2018, Trustee Stirling reported that she joined the Grade 1 class from Escuela Mill Creek School in placing their time capsule inside the wall of the new Mill Creek School building. She remarked that the students were full of energy and enthusiasm for their new school, and they shared their hopes for the future with members of the media who were present.

Trustee Stirling reported that on November 22, 2018, she attended the CASA lecture on transgender youth mental health with Trustee Adams. She explained that it was an excellent learning opportunity and helped increase understanding on how to affirm and support transgender students and ensure District schools are safe and welcoming for every child. Trustee Stirling thanked CASA for their continued partnership in this engaging lecture series on youth mental health.

Trustee Stirling congratulated the award recipients at the 10th Chinese Writing Competition Anniversary Awards on November 23, 2018. She remarked that students' hard work in learning Mandarin was celebrated, and it was great to see the benefit that children in the District gain from learning an additional language and building cross-cultural knowledge and intercultural understanding.

K. **Trustee and Board Requests for Information** - None

L. **Notices of Motion** - None

M. **Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.**

N. **Adjournment: 4:35 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations