

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #15**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Sherry Adams
Shelagh Dunn
Michelle Draper

Trisha Estabrooks
Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Grace Cooke
Todd Burnstad
Karen Mills

Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler
Lorne Parker
Nancy Petersen

Darrel Robertson
Mike Suderman
Liz Yule

Board Chair: Trisha Estabrooks

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

B. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

**“That the agenda for the April 28, 2020, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair congratulated Superintendent Darrel Robertson for winning the College of Alberta School Superintendents EXL Award for Excellence in School System Leadership. She explained that this award is given to superintendents who show excellent leadership ability and who have enhanced the profession of school system administration over the course of their career.

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The Board Chair thanked those in the community and partners of the Division who have stepped up and helped out others, including many students, during this pandemic. She remarked that last week was National Volunteer Week and said that though we have thousands of volunteers in Division schools who help out with school councils, lunch programs and reading to kids, right now there are countless numbers of volunteers who are also contributing time and money to support students that require extra support at this time.

The Board Chair also thanked parents. She said that parents have many responsibilities at this time and deserve the Division's support and encouragement as many navigate daily challenges of working from home and supporting their children's learning. The Board Chair commented that others are navigating the difficult situation of job loss and the uncertainty of when this pandemic will end. She shared that she has the utmost respect for parents, who are all trying to their best for their children at this time.

The Board Chair advised that April 28th is the National Day of Mourning for workers injured or killed at the workplace. She explained that in recognition of the men and women of our Province and of the Division who are part of the statistics, the Edmonton Public School Board on April 27, 1998, proclaimed every April 28th as an annual 'Day of Mourning' in recognition of workers killed, injured or disabled on the job.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent reported that the pre-enrolment process has now been completed with 93 percent of the Division's students enrolled. He thanked families and students for utilizing this process and shared that it has been greatly appreciated. The Superintendent thanked schools for their reminders and follow up with parents and students. He encouraged families and students to contact their principals with any questions they may have.

The Superintendent welcomed 12 new principals to the Division. He explained that new principals are confirmed based on the results of a two-year evaluation period, a recommendation by the Assistant Superintendents and a decision by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent announced the following principals who have been confirmed, effective September 1, 2020:

- Geetha Ball, Centennial
- Alison Barber, Lauderdale
- Diane Brown, Clara Tyner
- Jon Paul Cooper, Garneau
- Barbara Davis, Waverley
- Mary Ann Dobson, Mount Royal
- Trina Empson, Delwood
- Sandra Marianicz, Talmud Torah
- Bryan Out, Kirkness

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- Scott Poon, Fraser
- Christine Simmons, Delton
- Sheri Tchir, Abbott

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #14 – April 14, 2020

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting 14 held April 14, 2020, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no submissions from registered speakers for this item.

G. Reports

2. Report #14 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held April 7, 2020)

Information was received regarding actions taken at the April 7, 2020, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Report #15 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held April 14, 2020)

Information was received regarding actions taken at the April 14, 2020, Caucus Committee meeting.

4. First, Second, Third and Final Reading of HG.BP Student Behaviour Conduct

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

**“1. That Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct be considered for the first, second, third and final time at this meeting.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct be considered for the first time.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“3. That Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct be considered for the second time.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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**“4. That Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct be considered for the third and final time and approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Transportation Fees and Services for 2020-21

MOVED BY Trustee:

**“That the 2020-2021 Proposed Student Transportation Fee Schedule be approved for implementation effective August 2020.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

6. Impact of the Weighted Moving Average Funding Model
(Response to Request for Information #064)

Administration provided a detailed explanation of the impact of the Weighted Moving Average (WMA) for Edmonton Public Schools and highlighted the following:

- How the Division will receive funding allocation through grants now based on the WMA
- The funding gap under the new model (assuming per pupil finding from 2019-2020)
- The impact of this formula on students

The Trustees will be sharing and providing clarification regarding the implications of the WMA funding model with constituents in their Wards and advocating for “real time” per pupil funding.

Trustee Janz requested that the Board Chair advise the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) that the WMA funding model is a detriment to Metro School Boards. He suggested that a varied funding formula be considered based on the size of jurisdictions, due to unintended consequences that are materializing from the current WMA formula.

Trustee Draper requested that the *Impact of the Weighted Moving Average Funding Model* report be sent to the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange.

Trustee Adams requested that key messages be prepared for Trustees for future discussions with their constituents.

7. Changes to Program Unit Funding (PUF)
(Response to Request for Information #068)

The Trustees and Administration had an in-depth discussion regarding the impacts due to changes made by the provincial government to Program Unit Funding (PUF). Key points that were discussed were:

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- The 2019-2020 PUF budget was approximately \$39 million; funding for 2020-2021 is projected at approximately \$9.5 million. This is a variance of approximately 76 percent.
- Under the current PUF model, our Division serves approximately 1,040 pre-Kindergarten PUF children. Under the new model, the projected number of pre-Kindergarten PUF children served will be approximately 600. This is a decrease of approximately 42 per cent.
- The Division will offer pre-Kindergarten programming in six hub schools as opposed to 10 hub schools that offered programming during the current year.
- The current 22 pre-Kindergarten satellite locations are being suspended as of September 2020.

Trustee Draper requested that the *Changes to Program Unit Funding (PUF)* report be sent to the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange, and the Minister of Children's Services, Rebecca Schulz.

8. Edmonton Public Schools Nutrition Response to COVID-19
(Response to Request for Information #069)

Information was provided regarding supports that are in place to help the Division's most vulnerable families address food security issues and how these supports are being communicated.

The Board Chair left the meeting at this point. Vice-Chair Dunn chaired the remainder of the meeting.

9. Edmonton Public Schools Action re COVID-19 Pandemic
(Response to Request for Information #070)

An update was provided to the Board of Trustees on how the Division is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including what actions have already been taken and what further actions are planned to support all students in their learning.

H. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Ip reported that the annual Ready for Life fundraising breakfast had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. He explained that the Foundation has pivoted the event to a Reading for Life virtual event that will be happening on Friday, May 1, 2020.

Trustee Ip shared that people could participate by staying at home, reading a book, and reflecting on literacy and learning. He encouraged participants to register for the event so that the Foundation can acknowledge them and said that the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation invites those who are in a position to do so to please consider donating to help children.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

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Trustee Gibson asked what the Division's plan is to collect lessons learned from current online delivery of education in the event there is a second shut-down due to COVID-19 in late 2020 or in 2021.

- J. **Notices of Motion** - None
- K. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.
- L. **Adjournment:** 5:10 p.m.

The Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations