

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #03**

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, October 10, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Shelagh Dunn
Michelle Draper
Trisha Estabrooks

Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip
Michael Janz

Cheryl Johner
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Lisa Austin
Grace Cooke
Todd Burnstad
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Lorne Parker
Nancy Petersen
Kent Pharis

Kent Pharis
Darrel Robertson
Mike Suderman
Liz Yule

Board Chair: Trisha Estabrooks

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau

Staff Group Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers – Heather Quinn, 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 Adams was absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That the agenda for the October 8, 2019, Board meeting be approved as printed.”

Vice-Chair Dunn advised that at the September 24, 2019, Board meeting a motion was referred to the Caucus Committee. She reported that the motion has been referred back to the October 8, 2019, Board meeting and that she would like to amend the agenda to bring this motion forward under agenda Item K: Notices of Motion.

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

“That the agenda for the October 8, 2019, Caucus Committee meeting be approved as amended.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair thanked everyone who has reached out and shared their thoughts on the use of seclusion rooms. She said these conversations aren’t always easy but they are important. She advised that Administration has put in a regulation with strict guidelines and that the District is part of the conversation on provincial guidelines due out at the end of October 2019.

The Board Chair remarked that provincial legislature reconvened as of today and that the Board looks forward to the tabling of the provincial budget on October 24th and hopes the Government of Alberta sees the importance of providing adequate and predictable funding to school boards across the province.

The Board Chair advised that every October, the District is proud to recognize two key staff groups who do so much to support our students and schools. She shared that October 2nd was National Custodial Staff Appreciation Day, when the District honoured more than 600 custodians and CUPE Local 474. She said these professionals keep our buildings safe, clean and comfortable. She also shared that October 5th was World Teachers' Day. The Board Chair acknowledged that teachers dedicate every day to helping students succeed and develop a lifelong love for learning. To recognize both of these staff groups, the District shared messages of thanks and videos highlighting their work on the District website and social media channels. The Board Chair thanked these staff members for their dedication.

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The Board Chair shared that the theme of this year's READ IN Week, which runs from October 7th to 11th, is *Celebrate with Stories* and that READ IN Week is celebrating 30 years of instilling the love of reading in all Edmontonians. She said that READ IN Week is a remarkable success story, thanks to the support of the District's many partners, our community and generous sponsors. The Board Chair advised that this annual week-long celebration has expanded partner involvement, renewed interest and focus on the joy of reading within the entire Edmonton Community. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, she invited all Edmontonians to participate in READ IN week 2019.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent reported that on September 27, 2019, one of the District's new school namesakes, Aleda Patterson, passed away. He advised that she was a former teacher in the District, and was instrumental in establishing the Personal Development Centre, now known as The Support Network. She was also the founder of the Edmonton ABC Head Start program. Since 1984, the ABC Head Start Society has grown from a single location serving 10 children and families to a comprehensive early learning, family support and community program, supporting over 430 families at different locations throughout Edmonton. He said although she will be missed in her many professional and personal circles, comfort can be found in the fact that her life was well lived. Her legacy will live on at Aleda Patterson School in the Afton neighbourhood.

The Superintendent advised that the District is continuing to grow and now has 105,000 students. This is an increase of 3,065 more students than last year which is the equivalent of over 100 new classrooms of students. He shared that this is the ninth year of consecutive growth.

The Superintendent reported that on September 24, 2019, the Government of Alberta released the Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Exam results for the 2018-2019 school year and that he was proud to share that District students did very well. Highlights include strong student performance across the majority of grades and subjects and a greater percentage of students completing high school within five years. The Superintendent congratulated students on their accomplishments and thanked District staff who work tirelessly to prepare students to achieve this success.

The Superintendent reminded everyone that Thanksgiving is close and that the District has a lot to be thankful for – dedicated staff, keen and curious students, and supportive parents and community partners. He shared that he hopes everyone will have an opportunity to spend time with loved ones and wished those traveling to be with friends and family outside of Edmonton safe travels.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #02 – September 24, 2019

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MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #02 held September 24, 2019, be approved as printed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

“That the Board allow 30 minutes for comments from the Public.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Board of Trustees heard from five registered speakers regarding the use of seclusion rooms.

H. Reports

2. Summary of the District Feedback Survey

Results from the 2019 District Feedback Survey were presented to the Board.

It was suggested that when the Trustees meet with the Student Senate that there be a mini focus group to discuss the results of the District Feedback Survey and to engage student voice.

3. 2018-2019 Board Self-Evaluation Summary

The Board of Trustees provided to the public a summary of the annual Board Self-Evaluation survey results from the 2018-2019 school year.

There was a short break in the meeting.

4. Strategic Plan Update – Early Learning

The Trustees received an overview of early learning, focusing on work being done with the Kitaskinaw Education Authority (KEA) of Enoch Cree Nation.

5. Seclusion Rooms (Response to Request for Information #052)

Information was provided regarding request for information #052.

Trustee Janz left the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Trustee Draper left the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

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I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Draper submitted the following report:

On October 2, 2019, Trustee Draper was pleased to represent Edmonton Public Schools and attend a community building event, "How we work together" in the northeast, hosted by Councillor Aaron Paquette and Police Chief Dale McFee.

On October 3, 2019, Trustee Draper attended an award ceremony at M.E. LaZerte School, and congratulated all the award winners.

Trustee Draper reports that READ IN Week is one of her favourite times of the year and that she read to Grade Six students from Kirkness, J.A. Fife and Dr. Donald Massey Schools. She has several other schools booked this week and looks forward to talking to students about the role of a Trustee and leadership, when reading "The Penguin Parade" as a special book she has chosen for this year's READ IN Week.

On October 8, 2019, Trustee Draper will be attending the Friends of Fraser Annual General Meeting and thanked all the volunteers who step up to make sure the voice of parents and community is well represented.

Trustee Dunn submitted the following report:

Trustee Dunn reports that it was a pleasure to attend the Orange Shirt Day event that was hosted by Safe and Caring Schools to remember residential school survivors and those who did not survive.

Trustee Dunn thoroughly enjoyed visiting schools in Ward C for READ IN Week and thanks the schools for all the invitations.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information - None

K. Notices of Motion

MOVED BY Trustee Ip that the following motion be withdrawn:

"That the Board through a gradual phase out end the practice of seclusion rooms before the start of the 2022-23 school year."

The Board Chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Draper, Dunn, Estabrooks, Gibson, Ip and Johnner

OPPOSED: Trustee Stirling

(CARRIED)

The Superintendent advised that ongoing updates regarding seclusion rooms will be provided to the Board of Trustees.

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- L. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.
- M. **Adjournment:** 5:30 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations