

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #01**

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

Present:**Trustees**

Sherry Adams
Shelagh Dunn
Trisha Estabrooks

Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip
Michael Janz

Cheryl Johner
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Lisa Austin
Todd Burnstad
Grace Cooke
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler
Lorne Parker
Nancy Petersen

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
CUPE Local 3550 – Carol Chapman, President
CUPE Local 474 – John Vradenburgh, President
CUPE Local 784 – James Niven, 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

MINUTE BOOK

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.

A. **O Canada** 

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

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

C. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“That the agenda for the September 10, 2019, Board meeting be approved as printed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair welcomed back the more than 105,000 students in the District, as well as their families and staff. She remarked that a new school year is a bit like a new calendar year. It’s energizing to witness what happens in District schools at this time of year and to feed off the energy and optimism that the start of a new school year creates. She thanked District staff who have created and will continue to create safe, caring and inclusive schools and classrooms.

The Board Chair advised that this is her first public Board meeting as Board Chair and thanked former Board Chair Draper for her service as well as Trustee Stirling for her service as Vice-Chair. She said that she is honoured to serve in this role and to serve alongside Vice-Chair Dunn.

The Board Chair expressed that this new school year comes with some additional challenges. In the spring, the Board of Trustees passed a budget based on a number of assumptions and not having a provincial budget means the District will begin this school year with a number of uncertainties. Uncertainties create challenges and many District schools had to make tough decisions for this fall based on assumptions. She advised that in some schools this may mean there are more students in a class. It also may mean previous supports offered at a school, for example mental health therapists, may not be available. The Board of Trustees looks forward to the tabling of the government’s budget in October and continued, strong investment in public education. The Board Chair remarked that students deserve it and that the District has critical infrastructure needs and requires ongoing, predictable and adequate funding to support Edmonton Public Schools’ growing student population.

The Board Chair said that she is pleased that the Minister of Education sees the value of funding the nutrition program and is maintaining funding for this coming school year

MINUTE BOOK

The Board Chair acknowledged that it has been an incredibly busy summer, with the quick introduction and then passage of the new *Education Act* as well as the new regulations. She explained that the full implication of the new Act and the regulations are still being figured out - and part of fully understanding what it all means hinges on what is or isn't in the provincial budget.

The Board Chair stated that the Board of Trustees is concerned about any budget cuts to education and how those will affect classrooms. She said that education needs predictable, long-term sustainable funding for all students and the Board cannot support a funding model that is solely tied to student performance. The Board Chair shared that the Board is open to finding new efficiencies and shared services between school boards, and in fact have been working with other districts collaboratively to find efficiencies.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked the staff that worked during the summer providing maintenance and custodial services or that attended Summer Institutes. He thanked all staff for everything they have done to welcome students to the 2019-2020 school year.

The Superintendent commented that the District entered this fall with some uncertainty, particularly with respect to the budget. He said the ability to stay connected to each other, to the District's vision, mission and Cornerstone Values is essential to navigate uncertain times. The Superintendent reaffirmed that the District will focus on the main thing – the success of each of the 105,000 plus students. He thanked parents and families for supporting their students through the first week of school and acknowledged that it is a very busy time. He reminded families that if they have any concerns, they should speak to the child's teacher or principal first and that for further support, they can contact District Support Services.

The Superintendent shared that it is truly an honour to get up every day to support children and he is very proud of the service that the District provides.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #16 – June 25, 2019

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #16 held June 25, 2019, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

2. Organizational Board Meeting – June 25, 2019

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

MINUTE BOOK

**“That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held June 25, 2019, 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

3. Actions Taken under Delegation of Authority – 2019 Summer Recess

The Superintendent reported that no actions were taken during the 2019 summer recess.

4. Strategic Plan Update – School Nutrition Program

The Trustees received an overview of the relationship between nutrition and students positively engaging in school, as well as work happening in some of the District’s most socially complex schools to help ensure children have access to healthy food.

The Trustees discussed the importance of the program, external partnerships and ways to grow the program.

Trustee Gibson suggested that the role of Edmonton Public Schools Foundation be heightened to include the recruitment of external partners. He also suggested utilizing media partners to promote the school nutrition program and advertise that new partnerships would be a welcomed support. Trustee Gibson recommended consulting with End Poverty Edmonton as well.

5. Bereavements

The Vice-Chair reported on the passing of Mr. Talvinder Jasser, Mr. Dave Kowalchuk, Mrs. Ana Letelier, Mrs. Kathy Peterson, Mrs. Martina Plumb, Mr. Christopher Postle and Mr. Jeffrey Wade Sim.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports – None

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Janz requested information on what the implications would be for public education with regards to the “fight back strategy/ albertainquiry.ca” into District classroom teaching and learning?

1. What protections are available for students or staff who would like to form or participate in student clubs, or fundraise?

MINUTE BOOK

2. How can the District continue to educate students about the impending climate emergency while safeguarding freedom of speech and inquiry of our students, staff, and families?

Trustee Dunn requested the following information regarding seclusion and time-out rooms:

1. Does the District distinguish between seclusion and time-out rooms?
2. Why are seclusion rooms and/or dedicated time-out rooms needed in our schools?
3. What does the research say about the effectiveness of seclusion rooms at keeping students and staff safe compared to other strategies?
4. How many seclusion rooms exist in the District? How does this compare to the number of seclusion rooms in the three other Metro Districts?
5. How many times are seclusion rooms and time-out rooms used in a year?
6. What are the requirements for parental notification and consent in the use of seclusion rooms and/or dedicated time-out rooms?
7. What training and professional development do staff receive in the use of seclusion rooms, physical restraint and in the practice of time-out?
8. How is the district working to prevent the use of seclusion rooms and/or dedicated time-out rooms? What are the other alternatives to using these rooms?
9. What are the steps to decommission these rooms?

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Dunn served notice of motion that:

1. That the Edmonton Public School Board advocate to the Minister of Education that involuntary confinement (seclusion rooms and time-out rooms) is not used as a punishment or behavior management technique, and is only used as a last resort in emergency situations endangering the physical safety of students or staff.
2. That the Edmonton Public School Board advocate to the Minister of Education for the systemic changes needed to work towards a system where these rooms are no longer needed or used, through:
 - Increased cross-ministry collaboration to serve students with disabilities and mental health concerns
 - Increased and adequate funding for students in need of specialized support
 - Increased funding for staff training in positive behavior supports and increased funding for regulated specialists to work with teachers and educational assistants

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 3:05 p.m.

MINUTE BOOK

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations