

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #02

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 24, 2019, 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

Lisa Austin
Grace Cooke
Todd Burnstad
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

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.

A. **O Canada** 

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

MINUTE BOOK

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“That the agenda for the September 24, 2019, Board meeting be approved as printed.”

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That agenda Item L: Notices of Motion be moved on the agenda immediately following report #3 Motion re: Involuntary Confinement.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“That the agenda for the September 24, 2019, Board meeting be approved as amended.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair acknowledged the vital role that School Councils have in school communities. She thanked all those who have stepped up to play a leadership and volunteer role within their school communities.

The Board Chair congratulated teacher Winnie Yeung for receiving an Alumni Award of Excellence from the University of Alberta. She explained that Ms. Yeung along with former Edmonton Public Schools student Abu Bakr al-Rabeeah wrote the book Homes which has been nationally recognized.

The Board Chair advised that on Friday, September 27, 2019, students from across Canada will be calling on world leaders to take action on climate change. She said that climate change is an important issue and that leadership around climate change is powerful when it comes from those who will be most affected; the generations to come.

The Board Chair reported that the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) invited board chairs from across the province and the Education Minister and her staff for a meeting in Edmonton. She said that open, honest conversations are important and that she appreciates ASBA’s leadership as well as the minister’s willingness to meet with board chairs.

The Board Chair advised that the District continues to wait for a provincial budget. She is pleased that the Education Minister will be in attendance at the demolition of part of Highlands School to make way for a modernization of a new Kindergarten to Grade 9 School. The Board Chair looks forward to hosting Minister LaGrange at Highlands School and reminding her of the District’s Capital Plan.

MINUTE BOOK

The Board Chair assured families that Edmonton Public Schools has a board policy and strict administrative regulations about vaping. She stated that last spring the Board voted to support proclaiming outstanding sections of the *Tobacco Reduction Amendment Act* which if passed will ban the use of e-cigarettes and vaping in public establishments.

The Board Chair advised that September 30th is the official Orange Shirt Day. Orange shirt day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event. It grew out of a former student's account of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the mission in Williams Lake, British Columbia. She explained that the orange shirt is meant to recognize the harm done to residential school students and show a commitment that every child matters. A date in September was chosen because it is the time of year when children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. The Board Chair expressed that it is also an opportunity for First Nations, local government, schools, and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations to come.

The Board Chair was pleased to announce that a Jasper Place High School Grade 11 student, Farrah Ochiese's design has been selected as the logo for the 2019 Orange Shirt Program. Ochiese describes her artwork as *"a mother trying to keep her children safe, under her wing and within her."* Ochiese wants all Albertans to know that *"all children are precious."*

The Board Chair said that she is proud to serve on the Board of Trustees, with her colleagues and advocate for public education, an education system that supports all students. She was pleased to see that more of the people the Trustees serve understand the key role that Trustees play in public education as shown in this year's District Feedback Survey.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that October 7 – 11th is Read In Week and that schools across the District will be welcoming many special guests to help students experience the joy of reading. He thanked everyone who will be volunteering their time to share with students.

The Superintendent shared that he is always proud of the work that District staff do, and that it is wonderful when someone outside the District also acknowledges them. The Superintendent advised that Mr. Hector Pothier, principal of Kameyosek School, was recently inducted in Mike Ditka's Gridiron Greats Hall of Fame. Hector had a 12-year career with the Edmonton Eskimos, during which time they won six Grey Cups.

This recent recognition comes not only because of his football career, but also because of his work with the Eskimos' and CFL Alumni Associations to help those with physical or mental challenges.

At the Alberta Apprenticeship Awards of Excellence on September 13, 2019, two District employees were selected in the Top Apprentices category:

MINUTE BOOK

- Kyle Maksymuik in the Floorcovering Installer category, and
- Michael Nielsen in the Painter & Decorator category

The Superintendent also shared that the District recognizes outstanding student accomplishments, contributions and achievements and that there are six award categories for students who were in Grade 12 during the 2018-2019 school year. He advised that the District is celebrating 107 Grade 12 students from 19 different high schools.

The six categories are:

- Academic Excellence
- Career and Life Pathways
- Fine Arts
- Health and Wellness
- Humanities
- Math/Science/Technologies

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #01 – September 10, 2019

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #01 held September 10, 2019, be approved as printed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board Chair acknowledged that there were 11 registered speakers for this item and that the 20 minutes normally set aside for this item would not be sufficient. The Board Chair moved the following motion.

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

“That 60 minutes be allowed for comments from the public.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Trustees heard from 10 individuals regarding the use of seclusion rooms and one individual regarding climate justice.

H. Reports

2. Strategic Plan Update – Family Engagement

The Trustees received an overview of the opportunities for families to be involved in their child’s education, focusing on the redesign of SchoolZone.

MINUTE BOOK

There was a short break in the meeting.

3. Motion re: Involuntary Confinement

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

**“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 techniques, and is only used as a last resort in emergency situations endangering the physical safety of students or staff.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

“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

MOVED BY Trustee Ip that the following statement be included in the motion:

“3. Furthermore 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 on the amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adams, Dunn, Ip, Janz, Johner and Stirling

OPPOSED: Trustees Draper, Estabrooks and Gibson

(CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Draper that the following statement be included in the motion:

“Increased engagement and adequate funding for students and parents/caregivers in addressing the systemic changes required in need of specialized support. Research of evidence based best practices in districts and schools that do not use seclusion rooms.”

The Board Chair called the question on the amendment.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustees Janz left the meeting.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

MINUTE BOOK

**“That the Board of Trustees move in-camera to seek legal advice.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Ip left the meeting.

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:
“That the Board of Trustees reconvene the Board meeting.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:
“That the Board meeting proceed past 6:00 p.m.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Draper:
“That bullet #3 of the motion be a removed and treated as a separate motion.**

“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**
- **Increased engagement and adequate funding for students and parents/caregivers in addressing the systemic changes required in need of specialized support**
- **Research of evidence based best practices in district and schools that do not use seclusion rooms**

~~“3. Furthermore 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 on the amendment.
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**The Board Chair called the question on the motion as amended.
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Draper:
That the following motion be referred to the Caucus Committee for further debate:
“That the Board through a gradual phase out end the practice of seclusion rooms before the start of the 2022-23 school year.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK

L. Notices of Motion

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling on behalf of Trustee Janz:

**“1. That the Board of Trustees grant waiver of notice of motion to consider Recommendation 2 at the September 24, 2019, Board meeting.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

“2. That the Edmonton Public School Board allows students the option, with parent or guardian permission, to attend the climate action event on September 27, 2019. While the Board encourages students to stand behind causes they believe in, a walkout is not a school sanctioned event and participating in this event is not being encouraged or prevented by schools. Furthermore that we would encourage students, staff, and families to discuss the impending climate emergency in their schools and engage in their own way, such as exploring educational resources from the City of Edmonton (changeforclimate.ca).”

The Board Chair called the question on the motion.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Draper, Dunn, Estabrooks, Gibson, Johner and Stirling

OPPOSED: Trustee Adams

(CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

**“That agenda Items 4 and 5 be deferred to the October 8, 2019, Board meeting.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. 2019 Summary of the District Feedback Survey

This report was deferred to the October 8, 2019, Board meeting.

5. 2018-2019 Board Self-Evaluation Survey

This report was deferred to the October 8, 2019, Board meeting.

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 submitted the following written report:

On September 12, 2019, the Kensington School hosted the Christian Teachers Commissioning Service for new teachers, which was a wonderful event. The gymnasium was filled to capacity as

MINUTE BOOK

Assistant Superintendent Suderman, Trustees Johner and Adams joined together with a packed gymnasium of teachers to celebrate the commissioning. Trustee Adams was honoured to bring greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees and to encourage these dedicated professionals who are beginning their career with Edmonton Public Schools. Following the service, Principal de Haan gave Trustee Johner and Adams a tour through the school to see the amazing new upgrades.

On September 14, 2019, Trustee Adams attended the Ward 12 Community BBQ and thanked Councillor Banga for the invitation. There was a good community turn out and it was a special time to connect with some new people and exchange ideas.

On September 17, 2019, the Trustees met for a robust generative discussion, followed by a meeting with the Mental Health Committee to determine their work plan for the coming year.

On September 21, 2019, Trustee Adams joined in the fun with community leagues in Ward I. She enjoyed time at Knottwood Community League; hats off to this league for their amazing vision display for a new building, Mulhurst Community League, who celebrated their 40th anniversary, and Ellerslie Community League, who included special music from community youth. Each league worked hard to make Community League Day a great time for community families to come together around fun, food and festivities.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Estabrooks said that given the passage of Bill 201: *Protection of Students with Life Threatening Allergies Act* in the spring of 2019 and the fact that this Bill will come into force on January 1, 2020; she submitted the following request for information:

- How is the District preparing for the introduction of Bill 201 for January 2020?
- What are the costs associated with adherence to this Bill and what will it cost the District annually?
- What training will staff receive to support adherence to this Bill?
- How will the District communicate to parents, families about this Bill and how it may affect them?

Trustee Stirling, in light of the City of Edmonton's declaration of a climate emergency, asked that administration prepare a report on the District's climate readiness and carbon emissions reduction efforts, including policy, people, plans, and infrastructure, and what we are doing to mitigate risk from climate-related extreme weather events such as wildfire smoke, heat events, storms, or other incidents. Additionally, she asked Administration to include information on how climate change is included in the Alberta curriculum.

M. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: 7:00 p.m.

MINUTE BOOK

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations