

**MINUTE BOOK****Board Meeting #07**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

**Present:****Trustees**

Sherry Adams  
Shelagh Dunn  
Michelle Draper

Trisha Estabrooks  
Ken Gibson  
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz  
Bridget Stirling

**Officials**

Angela Anderson  
Todd Burnstad  
Grace Cooke  
Karen Mills

Leona Morrison  
Kathy Muhlethaler  
Kent Pharis  
Nancy Petersen

Darrel Robertson  
Carrie Rosa  
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.

The Board Chair acknowledged that there were two reports scheduled to be presented – a proposed minor amendment to the Division’s alcohol, tobacco and cannabis policy and an update on progress toward collecting race-based data. She advised that the reports will be deferred to January, given the number of items already slated on the December 8 agenda.

The Board Chair thanked everyone who worked to prepare the reports in time for the meeting and recognized that the Superintendent committed at the September 22, 2020, Board meeting to deliver a December update on the work to collect race-based data. The Board Chair explained that the report was ready for, and she looks forward to sharing it in January. The Board Chair shared that as part of developing a model to collect race-based data, the Superintendent has created an Equity Advisory Committee. She stated that the committee has staff, students, parents, community members and two Trustees as members and they had their first meeting on December 1, 2020.

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The Board Chair thanked the 141 people who put their name forward to serve on the committee and thanked those who are now committee members and are offering their time to help guide this important work.

### **B. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED BY Trustee Ip:**

**“That the agenda for the December 8, 2020, Board meeting be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### **C. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair thanked Division staff and Administration for their continued hard work in supporting staff, students and parents. She said this continues to be a year where we must all be flexible and creative. The Board Chair shared her gratitude to the staff who helped make the pivot to online learning for Grades 7 to 12 as smooth as possible.

The Board Chair shared that her thoughts are with many families in the Division who are dealing with the realities of COVID-19 and the impact that it is having on their children, their loved ones and their lives. She recognized the protocols and transitions are not easy for many students and parents but it is a necessary step and part of schools doing their part. The Board Chair hopes that community members also do their part — so that the Division’s students can return to in-person classes on January 11, 2021.

The Board Chair stated she believes that transparency and communication continue to be key tools in the fight against COVID-19. She said that it is unfortunate that the provincial government has not yet shared with school divisions where in-school transmission is happening. The Board Chair believes this information is essential to share with school divisions to help ensure best practices are in place. She noted that AHS has inspected all of the Division’s schools experiencing an outbreak and they are very pleased with the Division’s protocols.

The Board Chair said that despite these challenging times, she knows amazing things are still happening in the Division. She expressed that school leaders and staff are finding new ways to connect with students learning online and that she is hearing inspiring stories about partner agencies stepping up to support kids and families at this time. The Board Chair remarked that relationships are stronger and staff and students are finding strength and compassion in each other and within themselves. The Board Chair expressed that everyone is digging a little deeper, with the hope that everyone will come out stronger on the other side of this pandemic.

The Board Chair advised December 8 is the final Board meeting until the New Year, and wished all staff, as well as Superintendent Robertson, and her hard working, caring colleagues on the Board a restful and safe winter break.

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### **D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent acknowledged that this has been a very challenging school year. He said that no matter what challenges the Division faces, Edmonton Public School's first priority is doing what is best for students. The Superintendent expressed his appreciation for Division staff, families and partners who have given their all, every day, to make sure every student gets what they need to be successful. The Superintendent also expressed his appreciation for the care and advocacy the Board of Trustees have shown to ensure all Division students and staff are supported. He said that even though it will be different this season, he hopes everyone can take time over the winter break to rest and recharge. The Superintendent wished everyone a safe and happy winter break.

### **E. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #06 – November 24, 2020

**MOVED BY Vice-Chair Dunn:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #06 held November 24, 2020, be approved as printed.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### **F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

**MOVED BY Vice-Chair Dunn:**

**“That the 20-minute time allotted for registered speakers be extended to 60 minutes for this Board meeting.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There were 14 registered speakers who advocated for an interfaith calendar.

There was a short break in the meeting.

### **G. Reports**

2. Report #20 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held November 3, 2020)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the November 3, 2020, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Amendment to the 2020-21 School Year Calendar

**MOVED BY Trustee Draper:**

**“That the professional development day in the 2020-21 School Year Calendar be rescheduled from Monday, April 26 to Wednesday, April 21.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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4. Funds for the 2021-2022 Professional Improvement Program – Teacher Certificated Staff

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That an allocation of \$1,200,000 from the 2021-2022 operating budget be approved for the Professional Improvement Program – Teacher Certificated Staff for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support to teachers for the 2021-2022 school year.”**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adams, Draper, Dunn, Estabrooks, Gibson, Ip and Stirling**

**OPPOSED: Trustee Janz**

**(CARRIED)**

5. Funds for the 2021-2022 Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That an allocation of \$140,000 from the 2021-2022 operating budget be approved for the Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support to exempt staff for the 2021-2022 school year.”**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adams, Draper, Dunn, Estabrooks, Gibson, Ip and Stirling**

**OPPOSED: Trustee Janz**

**(CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“That the agenda be amended to have the last four reports in the following order:**

**Reports 7, 8, 6 and 9.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

7. Three-Year Education Plan (2020-2023)

**MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:**

**“That the Edmonton Public Schools’ Three-Year Education Plan (2020-2023) be approved.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The following feedback was given:

- there was a lack of information about Campus EPSB; include information from Career Pathways in future Plans
- there was a lack of information regarding the effectiveness of graduation coaches; provide data that measures their impact in the Division in future reports
- there is a strong focus on learning in the report but nothing specific about leadership development; provide data about leadership professional development and their growth plans
- the 2020-2023 plan outlines broad goals and strategies – how will these be measured?
- it would be helpful to see the links between the Plan and the Alberta Education Results Report

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- provide an opportunity for the Board of Trustees to provide input into the next Three-Year Education Plan

There was a short break in the meeting.

Trustee Draper left the meeting.

8. COVID-19 Update on Division Costs  
(Response to Request for Information #081)

Information was provided regarding COVID-19 Division costs.

6. Motion re: Request to Premier Kenney

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“In order to assist with contact tracing, reduce in-school transmission, keep schools open, and avoid another lockdown, the Board of Trustees write a letter to Premier Kenney requesting:**

- **Immediate access to the federal contact tracer app, "COVID Alert".**
- **Board flexibility to determine local transition to online learning for schools.**
- **Specific public metrics when to return to in-person learning, such as a zero-contact tracing backlog and a threshold of community transmission.**
- **Sharing of data on suspected incidents of in-school transmission with school divisions to inform and adapt safety measures.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**Trustee Draper was not present for this item.**

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the meeting continue past 6 p.m. in order to complete the agenda items for this meeting.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

9. Impact of Changes to the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery  
(Response to Request for Information #084)

Information was provided regarding the impact of changes to the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD).

#### **H. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**

There were no reports for this item.

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### **I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information**

Trustee Janz stated that free, fair, and transparent elections are the cornerstone of a healthy democracy and that the Edmonton Public Schools Board has advocated for reforms that can ensure a healthy local democracy. Trustee Janz asked that Administration provide the following information:

- 1) Outline the changes made regarding political action committees in Alberta (fall 2020).
- 2) As a school division, what changes could a school board require to ensure greater transparency related to political action committees?
- 3) Could the federal government, Elections Canada or the CRTC enact overriding provisions requiring transparency in political advertising (especially over social media) that could require political action committees to disclose their funders?

### **J. Notices of Motion - None**

### **K. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.**

### **L. Adjournment: 5:45 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

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Karen Mills, Director of Board and  
Superintendent Relations