

**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, May 11, 2021, 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  
Ron McNeil

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.

**B. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED BY Trustee Draper:**

**“That the agenda for the May 11, 2021, Board meeting be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair thanked staff, parents and students for their patience as everyone navigates the latest and significant shift to at-home learning within Edmonton Public Schools. She remarked that COVID-19 continues to test everyone and while the decision to move all grades online was tough, it was absolutely the right decision for the safety of students and staff. The Board Chair said that

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she was very encouraged to hear that children age 12 years and older are now eligible to be vaccinated.

The Board Chair advised that there would be a discussion on the Strategic Plan Update: COVID-19 Re-Entry Strategy later in the meeting. She stated that in reading the report, it became clear just how much work has gone into making this year as smooth and safe for staff and students as possible, and in keeping the focus on learning. The Board Chair thanked Superintendent Robertson for his incredible hard work and leadership during this challenging year.

The Board Chair explained that Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the four metro school boards meet regularly. These meetings are important opportunities to share what's happening within large school divisions and also to find ways to work collaboratively. She was pleased that the four metro boards were able to advocate together for all school-based staff to be vaccinated.

The Board Chair shared that May is Asian Heritage Month and a time to celebrate the contributions that Canadians of Asian descent have made in our school division, city and country. She said that although it is a time to celebrate, it is also time to reflect that racism against people of Asian heritage persists. The Board Chair thanked people in Edmonton who are working hard to raise awareness and actively stop anti-Asian hate - including work that's happening within the Division. She expressed that although there are small groups of people doing this work, it is incumbent on everyone to do their part to end racism and become anti-racist in their words and actions.

The Board Chair advised that Canada Mental Health Week was observed from May 3-9, 2021. She explained that Mental Health Week is a Canadian tradition, with communities, schools and workplaces rallying to celebrate, protect and promote mental health. The theme of this year's Mental Health Week was understanding our emotions. The Board Chair remarked that COVID-19 has created unprecedented levels of stress and anxiety that have challenged the mental health of much of the population. Naming, expressing and dealing with emotions, even when they're uncomfortable, are part of protecting and promoting good mental health. The Board Chair said now more than ever it is important to be kind and be compassionate, to yourself and others.

The Board Chair advised that May 17 is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. She explained that this day belongs to no one individual, rather it's about people hoping for a prejudice-free world that can provide a place at the table for everyone regardless of their sexual orientation. The Board Chair remarked that May 17 is set aside to fight homophobia, transphobia and biphobia and needs to be appropriated by all of those actively involved in civil society: gay and lesbian community organizations, those organizations focusing on other types of sexual diversity, unions, employers, private businesses, governments, public administration, professional associations, and all individuals seeking equality.

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

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The Superintendent thanked everyone who had a hand in making the Reading for Life online fundraiser on May 7 a success. He explained the event raises funds for the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation in support of full-day Kindergarten.

The Superintendent thanked parents, students and staff for their incredible efforts and successful school year in spite of the numerous challenges caused by the pandemic.

### **E. Minutes**

#### **1. Board Meeting #14 – April 27, 2021**

Trustee Adams requested that the April 27, 2021, minutes be amended as follows:

*Excerpt:*

1. Given that collecting race-based data is one necessary step in working to dismantle systemic racism and racial discrimination, we ask that ASBA formally request on behalf of all school boards that Alberta Education develop a model for the collection of race-based data for staff and students across Alberta, in consultation with communities impacted by racism.”

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #14 held April 27, 2021, be approved as amended.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

There were three registered speakers for this item who addressed the Board regarding expanding the French Immersion program at Oliver School.

### **G. Reports**

#### **2. Locally Developed Courses**

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 31, 2025:**

- Academic Achievement through English Language Development 15-25-35 (3 and 5)
- Band 15-25-35 (3 and 5)
- Theory of Knowledge 25-35 (3)
- Vocal Jazz 15-25-35 (5)
- Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 (5)

**That the following LDC be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 31, 2022:**

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- **Chemistry (Advanced) 35 (3).”**  
**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

3. COVID-19 Impact on the Division from March 31 to April 27, 2021

Information was provided regarding the COVID-19 impact on the Division from March 31 to April 27, 2021.

There was a short break in the meeting.

4. Strategic Plan Update: COVID-19 Re-Entry Strategy

The Board of Trustees received the following information:

- A comprehensive summary of the Division’s journey in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A high-level overview of the 2020-2021 school year through the perspective of COVID-19 strategies and practices, including details, data and reflections on the impact of these strategies and practices.
- A summary of lessons learned over this past year and how some of these learnings will inform the work of the Division.

There was a short break in the meeting.

5. Anti-Racism and Equity

The Division acknowledged that racism exists in its schools and workplace and is committed to taking intentional and meaningful action towards the elimination of racism across the Division. This action will include the development of a model to support the collection of raced-based data and focusing on actions that promote a culture of respect and equity for all students, staff and families.

6. Responses to Trustee Janz’ Questions from the April 13, 2021 Board Meeting  
(Response to Request for Information #100)

Information was provided regarding Request for Information #100.

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

Trustee Adams announced that she would not be running in the next municipal election. She thanked her colleagues and Superintendent Robertson for the past eight years of dedication in supporting students, families and the Division. Trustee Adams invited interested members of the public that may be considering running for the position of Trustee to contact her.

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I. **Trustee and Board Requests for Information** - None

J. **Notices of Motion**

Trustee Draper served notice of motion that the Board of Trustees moves that Edmonton Public Schools participate in the City of Edmonton's Corporate Climate Leaders Program in order to reduce the Division's greenhouse gas emissions and increase its climate resiliency.

Trustee Dunn served notice of motion that data on the use of seclusion and restraint are reported to the Board annually, along with work on systemic changes so that these practices are no longer needed or used.

Trustee Stirling served notice of motion that the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health requesting clarification on the criteria necessary to request a shift to online learning and the metrics used to determine when it is safe for students to return to in-person classes.

K. **Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.**

L. **Adjournment: 5:20 p.m.**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

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Karen Mills, Director, Board and  
Superintendent Relations