

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #16**

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 25, 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
Karen Mills

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 Adams:

**“That the agenda for the May 25, 2021, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair shared that later this week, students at Edmonton Public Schools will return to in-person learning. This decision was made by the province and the Division appreciated the announcement prior to the long weekend. The Board Chair shared her concern that the Division will continue to see COVID-19 cases in its schools and knows that staff and students will continue to have to isolate when there is a positive case. She explained there is a trickle-down effect to

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every COVID-19 case in Division schools and said behind every case is a family impacted by COVID-19. She really hopes this isn't a continuation of the COVID coaster.

The Board Chair expressed that she and her colleagues continue to have many questions about in-school transmission data and the province's reluctance to share this data by school division. She advised that the decision to return to in-person classes was made by the government and the Division would like to know the metrics they considered to make this decision to ensure that students and staff are as safe as possible while attending in-person classes.

The Board Chair thanked everyone who participated in the four listening circles hosted by the Division. She explained that these meetings were set up to hear from students, staff, parents and community members on their lived experiences of racism. The Board Chair confirmed that the stories she heard were a reminder of how much work the Division has to do and how important it is to continue to acknowledge that racism exists in the Division.

The Board Chair shared that the Division will get the chance to showcase and celebrate Dr. Anne Anderson School in the Heritage Valley area of the city. She advised that this school will create space for approximately 2,000 high school students in Edmonton's southwest. On behalf of the Division, the Board Chair thanked the City of Edmonton for partnering with the Division to help create community and recreational spaces in the school. She said that while the Division celebrates the opening of this school in September 2021, it must also be noted that the infrastructure needs of a growing school division such as Edmonton Public Schools continue. The Board Chair stated it was disappointing that in the most recent provincial budget that no new schools were announced for Edmonton Public Schools.

The Board Chair congratulated and thanked everyone who participated and helped organize this year's Night of Music. She said although very different from previous years, this year's event was also a celebration of the amazing musical talents of students in the Division from their homes.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked the students, staff, community partners and families who shared their experiences with our Trustees and senior administration in listening circles last week. The Superintendent also thanked partners at the Africa Centre, Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative and the Somali Cultural Canadian Society of Edmonton for helping the Division to plan and facilitate the sessions. He said their expertise and input were invaluable. The Superintendent shared his appreciation and thanks to Division staff who helped plan and run and sessions. He acknowledged that a lot of time and thought went into the circles. The Superintendent remarked that this is such important work and that he is glad that the Division is working with community to make Edmonton Public Schools an anti-racist organization.

The Superintendent advised that many Edmonton Public School students will return to in-person learning on Thursday, May 27, 2021. He thanked them for their flexibility and patience during the

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move to online learning. The Superintendent said that as students head into the last month of the school year, the Division will continue to do everything we can to keep everyone safe and healthy.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #15 – May 11, 2021

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #15 held May 11, 2021, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There was one registered speaker who addressed the Board of Trustees about inclusive Edmonton Public Schools holidays.

G. Reports

2. 2021-2022 Non-Resident Fees and 2022-2023 International Student Fees

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

**“1. That the proposed 2021-2022 Non-Alberta Resident Fees and Special Needs Non-Resident fees be approved .”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That the proposed 2022-2023 International Student Tuition fee of \$12,500 and an International Student Application fee of \$250 be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

3. Board Policy GGAJ.BP Early Years

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

**“1. That Board Policy GGAJ.BP Early Years be read for the second time.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That Board Policy GGAJ.BP Early Years be read for the third and final time.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Approval of the 2021-2022 Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

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“1. That the 2021-2022 Budget comprised of \$1.184 billion in revenue and \$25 million in access to accumulated operating surplus funds, for a total budget of \$1.209 billion be approved.”

MOVED BY Trustee Ip that the motion be amended:

“1. That the Board allocate up to \$1 million dollars within operating surplus funds for mental health supports and programs for the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, he requests that administration report back on the use of the funds.”

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

OPPOSED: Trustee Gibson

(CARRIED)

A revised 2021-2022 Budget report will be brought to the June 11, 2021, Board meeting for deliberation.

5. Recommendations on Voting in Advance of the ASBA Spring General Meeting

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:

That the following recommendations be approved as the voting direction for the Edmonton Public School Board at the ASBA 2021 SGM:

“1. Approve the proposed ASBA 2021-2022 Budget.”

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

OPPOSED: Trustee Janz

(CARRIED)

**“2. Approve the three omnibus amendments and amendment to Bylaw 10 as presented.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

“3. Approve the proposed policy position.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Gibson was not present for this vote.

“4. Approve the emergent position statement from Edmonton Public Schools and Evergreen Catholic School Division.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Gibson was not present for this vote.

6. Motion regarding the City of Edmonton’s Corporate Climate Leaders Program

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That Board of Trustees confirm the Division’s application to the City of Edmonton’s Corporate Climate Leaders Program.”

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7. Motion re Reporting on the Use of Seclusion and Restraint

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

“That data on the use of seclusion and restraint, including seclusion rooms that are being decommissioned, are reported to the Board annually, along with work on systemic changes so that these practices are no longer needed or used.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Dunn requested that this item be referred to the Board’s Policy Review Committee to include in the reporting requirements for the policy on inclusive education.

8. Motion re: Criteria to Shift to Online Learning and Metrics Used to Return to In-person Classes

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“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.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

9. Information on the Joint Use Agreement July-August and Summer Programming (Response to Request for Information #081)

Information was provided in response to Request for Information #081.

H. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Janz reported that he has received requests from constituents that Edmonton Public Schools rename the King Edward School. He advised that he will be hosting a virtual meeting with constituents on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 7 p.m.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information - None**J. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Ip stated that at the April 13, 2021, Board meeting he gave notice that he would be moving that the Board of Trustees establish a mental health initiative fund with an allocation of \$5 million dollars each year beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, over three years to support the expansion of mental health supports, wellness initiatives and or partnerships in Division schools.

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After reflecting on the Division's financial situation and wanting to ensure it has the flexibility to respond to emergent challenges, Trustee Ip withdraw the motion.

K. **Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.**

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

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations