

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #10**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of Alberta held in the Centre for Education, McCauley Chambers on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 2 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Trisha Estabrooks
Dawn Hancock
Marcia Hole

Nathan Ip
Julie Kusiek
Marsha Nelson

Sherri O'Keefe
Saadiq Sumar

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: Catherine Angeles

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. O Canada

B. Roll Call: 2:01 p.m.

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

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Hole:

**"That the agenda for April 19, 2022, Board meeting be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair shared that the Board of Trustees wanted to share that their thoughts are with the family of the McNally student who passed away on the weekend. They're also thinking of the entire McNally school community and those who are grieving and seeking answers at this difficult time. Police are investigating and it's so tough to comprehend how something so violent could happen at one of our schools. She also noted gratitude to the staff and to many who are providing support to students and staff at the school during this difficult time.

The Board Chair noted that last week the Minister of Education released the new curriculum for Alberta students grades K-3 for English Language Arts, Math, and Physical Education and Wellness. Despite the calls from the majority of boards to delay this curriculum, the government chose to go ahead and implement a curriculum at a time when school divisions are still dealing with a pandemic and finding ways to recover.

The Board Chair said that the Board of Trustees also wants assurance the feedback given by curriculum experts in our Division and feedback from Indigenous voices have been heard. She has confidence that staff in our Division are going through the curriculum and will do the best they can to prepare teachers to teach the new curriculum in September.

The hope is that the decision on how best to spend the funding for implementation is left up to school divisions. She advised that the Division is awaiting further details on how much money it will receive to assist with implementation and what autonomy the Division will be given to spend those funds.

The Board Chair thanked the thousands of parents, many of whom are part of Edmonton Public, who have spoken up about the draft curriculum. Their advocacy is what helped pause the disastrous Social Studies curriculum and their advocacy is what led to just partial implementation of the K-6 curriculum.

The Board Chair shared that last week Sikhs celebrated Vaisakhi. She said this is an important spring festival for Sikhs. She thanked the organizers of the annual Vaisakhi Nagar Kitan or the Sikh Parade for inviting Trustees to this event, which is to be held in late May.

The Board Chair wished Happy Easter to those who celebrated this past weekend. She noted that this is a really unique time where there is an overlap of Easter, Passover and Ramadan. She said she thinks it's important to recognize this unique time and the different faiths that are recognized and also acknowledge all those celebrating at this time.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent expressed his appreciation to parents and students who participated in pre-enrolment and to the Division staff that worked very hard to support their choices. The Division looks forward to welcoming new and returning students, as they continue or start their journey with Edmonton Public

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Schools. The Superintendent believes that the Division is projecting enrolment growth in the neighbourhood of 2.7 to 2.9 per cent in the coming year again.

The Superintendent shared that Minister LaGrange is hosting a telephone town hall tomorrow evening, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. to engage with parents directly on current initiatives within Alberta's education system including the new K-6 curriculum. Pre-registration by tomorrow at noon is required to participate and registration details are available on SchoolZone and also on the government website.

The Superintendent reminded everyone there's still time to participate in the Division Feedback Survey if they have not already done so. He noted that it's important to hear from everyone. Feedback is going to help the Division serve students to the best of our ability and plan for the upcoming school year. Folks can access the survey through epsb.ca or through SchoolZone. The survey closes on April 29.

F. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting #09 – April 5, 2022

MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:

**"That the minutes of Board Meeting #09 held April 5, 2022, be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board of Trustees heard from one registered speaker for this item.

H. Reports

2. Report #06 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held on April 5, 2022)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the April 5, 2022, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. 2022-2023 Distribution of Funds

MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:

**"That the Distribution of Funds for the 2022-2023 Budget be approved."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

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**"That the position statements proposed by the Issues and Resolutions Committee be approved for consideration at the ASBA Spring and Fall General Meetings."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Motion re: Ukrainian Refugees Advocacy**MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:**

"That the Edmonton Public School Board advocate to the Province of Alberta for a per student special allocation granted immediately upon registration (retroactive to ~~February 24, 2022~~ **October 1, 2021) to support globally displaced children and refugee students being welcomed into our schools and that the Board advocate to the Government of Canada, requesting federal government funding and support for globally displaced children and refugee students in Edmonton Public Schools. Furthermore, that the requested additional funding should also include supports for mental health."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

6. Student Transportation
(Response to Request for Information #008)

Information was provided regarding the request for information RFI #008.

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:

**"That the Board of Trustees move *in camera* to speak with Superintendent Robertson."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

7. Bereavement

Vice-Chair Ip reported on the passing of Ms. Barbara Gunther.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Nelson shared that the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation's (the Foundation) largest fundraiser of the year is right around the corner. The Foundation's *Reading for Life Read-A-Thon and Fundraiser* will take place from May 18 until June 1. For two weeks, Edmonton Public Schools and the community will come together to celebrate our love of reading and to raise funds that will support our classmates across the Division. More information will follow, with the public website live on May 1.

Trustee Nelson expressed thanks for the incredible support from the community. The Foundation is thrilled to announce that they've just hit this year's fundraising goal of \$100,000 for the first-ever Chromebooks for Kids campaign. She thanked the many donors, organizations and foundations across Alberta. The

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Foundation has been able to put almost 600 devices into the hands of deserving students. Trustee Nelson expressed a special thank you to this year's primary program donors, EPCOR's Heart and Soul grant and the Edmonton Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund. The Foundation looks forward to continuing this program next year and looks forward to once again working with our generous community to decrease technological inequities across the Division.

Trustee Nelson thanked the Foundation's sub-committee members, made up of members of the Foundation's Board of Directors, who have been working steadfastly on defining the Foundation's expanded fundraising priorities. Trustee Nelson looks forward to sharing the Foundation updates with everyone in the coming weeks.

Trustee O'Keefe thanked the students and staff at Queen Elizabeth High School for the invitation to attend their Iftar celebration on Friday, April 8. She said the student program and the presentations were extremely informative and well done, followed by an opportunity to share a delicious meal together as a community. She shared with her colleagues and family that attending the celebration has definitely been one of the highlights of her new role as a Trustee. She only wished that she had an opportunity to bring additional guests with her to attend that amazing celebration. Trustee O'Keefe again thanked Queen Elizabeth students and staff and she looks forward to attending in future years.

Trustee Sumar said he had the pleasure of attending the Millwoods ~~President's~~ Presidents Council meeting a couple of weeks ago. He spoke with community members about transportation and playgrounds.

Trustee Sumar shared that he had some school visits and several parent council meetings in the last couple of weeks. He is also looking forward to several more visits over the next couple of weeks, including Herd Day with a petting zoo at Lee Ridge School.

Trustee Sumar advised that he and Trustee Hole have a meeting booked with City of Edmonton representatives to talk about anti-racism and he expressed his gratitude to Councillor Rutherford helping to organize the meeting.

Trustee Sumar stated the Trustees on the Infrastructure Committee are hosting a Transportation Forum this week. Information is available on social media outlets and SchoolZone.

Trustee Sumar attended an event to open a new exhibit at the Art Gallery of Alberta. It was his first time at the gallery and even for an art novice, he said the exhibit was phenomenal. He took a lot away from that event and highly recommended seeing the new exhibit at the Art Gallery of Alberta.

Board Chair Estabrooks thanked the Intercultural Child and Family Centre (ICFC) for the warm welcome to their child care facility located in the old McCauley school and for the tour of their organization. She said that ICFC is doing some amazing things to ensure that children in our city have access to culturally appropriate early years programming and the fact they are doing it from a former school of the Division is great for families who live in the surrounding neighbourhoods.

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Board Chair Estabrooks said she had the opportunity to talk about one of her favourite topics to members of the Gateway Rotary Club recently. They invited her to come and speak about the value of public education and the importance of investing in students now. They had a great discussion and she thanked President Elizabeth Bonkink for the kind invitation.

Board Chair Estabrooks thanked the students and staff at Virginia Park for a recent school visit. Students there are doing a really neat community project where they are recognizing “everyday super heroes,” including bus drivers, workers at the local grocery store, as well as some local politicians including perhaps their school board Trustee. She was honoured to be part of their project and she wanted to thank Virginia Park students for the way they are everyday superheroes in our communities.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Vice-Chair Ip submitted a request for information regarding rising utility costs:

Given the rising utility prices in the province, I'd like to request a brief report on the following questions:

1. Please provide a breakdown of Division utility costs (electricity and gas) on a monthly basis over the past 12 months and costs on an annual basis over the last 3 years.
2. Please provide a brief overview on how utility services are procured in the Division and whether there are current long-term contracts with service providers.
3. How is the Division funded for utility costs?
4. How are rising utility prices impacting individual schools and the Division? What are the factors that have contributed to these impacts? Have rising prices impacted classroom resourcing in any way?
5. Please outline other inflationary pressures the Division may be facing.

Board Chair Estabrooks submitted a request for information regarding overall per-student funding: Could Administration please provide an analysis of overall per-student funding in the last five years, explaining the impact of the weighted moving average on the funding that the Division receives?

K. Notices of Motion - None**L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 2 p.m.****M. Adjournment: 5:33 p.m.**

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The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations