

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #03**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held in McCauley Chambers on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Trisha Estabrooks
Dawn Hancock
Marcia Hole

Nathan Ip
Julie Kusiek
Marsha Nelson

Sherri O'Keefe
Jan Sawyer
Saadiq Sumar

Officials

Angela Anderson
Todd Burnstad
Grace Cooke
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
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 all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:

**"That the agenda for the December 14, 2021, Board meeting be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that the Division administration continues to work on its Anti-racism and Equity Action Plan, which was released publicly late last month.

The Board Chair congratulated the recipients of this year's Division Recognition Awards. Thirty-three individuals and 110 team members were honoured for their significant contributions to making our schools and Division a fabulous place to learn and work.

The Board Chair stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the importance of access to technology for all students. She advised that the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation is running a Chromebooks for Kids campaign. Currently, 47 schools have referred students who will benefit from the campaign. Students from all grades – Kindergarten through Grade 12 - are represented. The foundation has raised over \$70,000 towards their \$100,000 goal, since launching in early October and will continue to raise money for this program.

The Board Chair thanked Garneau School for inviting Superintendent Robertson and herself to the school to learn about their stuff-a-bus campaign for the Edmonton Food Bank.

The Board Chair said that winter break was only a few days away. She expressed that we are living through challenging times where kindness goes a long way, where we need to find ways to support, listen and encourage each other. She wished, on behalf of the Board, everyone a safe, restful and rejuvenating break.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent stated as the pandemic, the Division continues to offer families a choice in how their child learns. Families have until 4 p.m. on January 11, 2022, to choose in-person or online learning for the second half of the 2021-2022 school year. Details and application forms are posted on SchoolZone.

The Superintendent congratulated Cindy Davis, Manager of the Division's Archives and Museum. Cindy was presented with a 2020 Edmonton Historical Board Recognition Award.

The Superintendent acknowledged that it has been a challenging first half of the school year. He appreciated the staff, families and partners who make sure every student gets what they need to be successful. He appreciated the care that our new Board of Trustees has shown to ensure all kids and staff are supported. He wished everyone a safe and happy winter break.

MINUTE BOOK**F. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #02 – November 30, 2021

MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #02 held November 30, 2021, be approved as printed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board of Trustees heard from six registered speakers.

H. Reports

2. Report #03 of the Special Caucus Committee (From the meeting held November 30, 2021)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the November 30, 2021, Special Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Academic Enrichment Program

MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:

“That the Academic Enrichment Program be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

4. Governance and Evaluation Committee 2021-2022 Work Plan

MOVED BY Trustee O’Keefe:

“That the Board approve the Governance and Evaluation Committee 2021-2022 work plan.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Policy Review Committee 2021-2022 Work Plan

MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:

“That the Board approve the Policy Review Committee 2021-2022 work plan.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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6. Infrastructure Committee 2021-2022 Work Plan

MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:

**“That the Board approve the Infrastructure Committee 2021-2022 work plan.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

7. Funds for the 2022-2023 Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program

MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:

**“That an allocation of \$1,200,000 from the 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 school year.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

8. Funds for the 2022-2023 Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program

MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:

**“That an allocation of \$140,000 from the 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 school year.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

9. COVID-19 Impact on the Division Update

The Superintendent provided a verbal report regarding the COVID-19 impact on the Division.

10. Growth Control Model Update

An update was provided on the Growth Control model.

11. Response to Driver Shortage Inquiry
(Response to Request for Information #01)

Information was provided in response to Request for Information #01.

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I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Kusiek shared that Sweet Grass School just concluded a project called Collecting Kindness in support of the Bear Clan Patrol of YEG. The mandate of that organization is to foster community respect and awareness through caring, dignified and compassionate relationship building. They provide resources to folks on the street and those who are at risk. Sweet Grass School collected toiletries, mittens, hats and socks. The students even had an opportunity to earn items to donate by writing letters of encouragement for our frontline workers. She also noted appreciation for the speakers who made time to speak today.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Vice-Chair Ip requested information regarding yellow bussing and the Growth Control Model:

- How many students who did not get into Dr. Lila Fahlman School and went to Donald R. Getty School signed up for yellow bus transportation?
- For all other lottery schools last year (i.e., Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour and Svend Hansen), how many students who did not get into the lottery school went to the designated overflow school and required yellow bus transportation?

K. Notices of Motion

Vice-Chair Ip gave notice that he would be making the following motion:

Given that pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations are currently being administered exclusively at Public Health Centers in Edmonton, many families face barriers to accessing COVID-19 immunization services due to issues such as language barriers, limited availability to transit, the lack of paid time off work, among other challenges; I move that the Edmonton Public School Board write to the Premier, and the Ministers of Health and Education to advocate for equitable and greater access to COVID-19 vaccinations for children between the ages of 5 to 11.

Increased access to COVID-19 immunization will support the health and safety of students, families, staff and the community. Furthermore, we call on the province to expand additional access points to families wishing to be vaccinated including:

1. The implementation of mobile vaccination clinics.
2. Offering voluntary in-school COVID-19 vaccination clinics in underserved areas with the requirement of clear and documented parental consent.
3. Making pediatric COVID-19 vaccines available in pharmacies and doctors' offices in addition to Public Health Centers.

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L. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

M. **Adjournment:** 5:28 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations