



AGENDA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trisha Estabrooks
Board Chair

Nathan Ip
Board Vice-Chair

Dawn Hancock
Marcia Hole
Julie Kusiek
Marsha Nelson
Sherri O'Keefe
Jan Sawyer
Saadiq Sumar

The Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division
One Kingsway
Edmonton, Alberta

Via Zoom

Tuesday, January 18, 2022
2:00 p.m.

Board Meeting #04

- A. Roll Call
- B. Approval of the Agenda
- C. Communications from the Board Chair
- D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools
- E. Minutes:
 - 1. DRAFT – Board Meeting #03 – December 14, 2021
- F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives
(NOTE: Pre-registration with the Board Office [780-429-8443] is required by noon on Monday, January 17, 2022, to speak under this item.)
- G. Reports:
 - 2. Report #04 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held December 14, 2021) (Information)
 - 3. COVID-19 Impact on the Division Update
(No enclosure)
 - 4. Advocacy for Equitable and Greater Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children ages Five to 11
(Recommendation)
- H. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports
- I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information
- J. Notice of Motion
- K. Meeting Dates
- L. Adjournment

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #03**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom 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)**

MINUTE BOOK

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)

MINUTE BOOK

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.

MINUTE BOOK**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 - None

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.

MINUTE BOOK

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



DATE: January 18, 2022

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Nathan Ip, Caucus Committee Chair

SUBJECT: Report #04 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held December 14, 2022)

ORIGINATOR: Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations

REFERENCE: [Trustees' Handbook](#) – Caucus Committee - Section 5.4

ISSUE

The Board approved the following recommendation at the March 3, 2015, Board meeting: That Section 5.4 of the Trustees' Handbook be revised to give the Caucus Committee final decision-making power on certain types of matters, and yet constrain that power so it is used only when absolutely necessary.

The following recommendation was approved at the December 14, 2021, Caucus Committee meeting:

Advocacy Committee 2021-2022 Work Plan

1. *That the Board approve the Advocacy Committee 2021-2022 Work Plan.*

BACKGROUND

The Advocacy Committee is an ad hoc committee of the Board, first affirmed at the June 23, 2020, organizational Board meeting and renewed at the October 26, 2021, organizational Board meeting. The Committee Terms of Reference were finalized on October 21, 2020.

As the work of the committee is strategic in nature, the work plan is approved at Caucus, rather than at a public Board meeting.

KM:ca

DATE: January 18, 2022

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Vice-Chair Nathan Ip

SUBJECT: Motion re: Advocacy for Equitable and Greater Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children ages Five to 11

REFERENCE: [Trustees' Handbook – Section 5.2.2 – Notices of Motion](#)

ISSUE

Vice-Chair Ip served notice of motion at the December 14, 2021, Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

On November 26, 2021, Alberta Health Services (AHS) began administering pediatric doses of Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) COVID-19 vaccinations, previously approved by Health Canada. Today, more than seven weeks later, according to AHS statistics only 39 per cent of children between the ages of five and 12 living in Alberta have received a single COVID-19 vaccination, and far fewer, only 4.4 per cent, have had both doses.

Public Health authorities including the World Health Organization, Health Canada and Alberta Health Services continue to remind parents that vaccinations are safe and effective for children and adults. According to the Center for Disease Control, vaccinations are a safe way to build protection against COVID-19 and are the most effective tool available to protect communities and loved ones.

Paediatric COVID-19 vaccinations are currently being administered at AHS Public Health Centers in Edmonton. Many families face barriers to accessing immunization services due to issues with English language fluency, limited availability to transit and the lack of paid time off work among other challenges.

RATIONALE

Given the current rates of the Omicron variant in our province, its transmissibility and airborne nature, ensuring as many Albertans as possible are fully immunized is essential to protecting core public services including the healthcare system and schools by helping prevent potential disruptions caused by the possibility of high student and staff absences.

Alberta Health Services and Edmonton Public Schools have a long history of collaborating to provide safe, convenient, in-school clinics to deliver routine childhood vaccinations to thousands of children every year. Presently, COVID-19 immunizations for children ages 5-11 are only available by appointment and in select locations. The lack of access points can create hardship for families and households that may rely on public transportation or who may have difficulty taking time off work, among other structural barriers. Increased access to COVID-19 immunizations will support the health and safety of students, families, staff and the community.

RECOMMENDATION

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 five and 11, and call on the province to expand additional access points to families wishing to be vaccinated including:

1. 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.

NEXT STEPS

A letter will be written on behalf of the Board to the Ministers of Health and Education and the Premier. This letter will be shared online using the Board's established process for the posting of correspondence.

ADDITIONAL READING**AHS stats on COVID-19**

<https://www.alberta.ca/stats/covid-19-alberta-statistics.htm>

Omicron impact on Health Care

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/omicron-testing-canada-cases-hospitalizations-po-1.6304195>

Vaccination rate for kids aged 5-11 remain low

<https://globalnews.ca/video/8502271/alberta-vaccination-rate-for-kids-aged-5-11-remain-low>

Health Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/vaccination-children/covid-19.html>

CDC: Vaccine Benefits

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>

Vaccine Efficacy and Safety for Children under 12

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/page17746.aspx>

OPTIONS

1. Approve the recommendations.
2. Provide feedback and request changes to the recommendations for approval.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of the motion, the Board Chair would 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 five and 11.

NI:ca