

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #20**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, September 7, 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

Trustee Janz stated that on March 6, 2018, he served notice that he would move that the Board advocate to the provincial government that the first school built in any community or neighbourhood be a public school or shared public, separate, and francophone Board facility. He said the Board has advocated strongly for public schools and thus the motion is no longer necessary.

Trustee Janz stated that on January 26, 2021, he served notice of motion that Edmonton Public School Board initiate a renegotiation of the JUA agreement and that the Edmonton Public School Board request the City of Edmonton to refrain from any further sale of public land to private schools until the renegotiation is complete. He understands that talks are about to begin with the City, so he withdrew the motion. Instead, Trustee Janz had asked for an update and that was

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scheduled as item 10 on the agenda. Given this withdrawal, Item 8 was removed from the September 7, 2021, agenda.

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

**“That the agenda for the September 7, 2021, Board meeting be approved as amended.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair stated that schools are the hearts of our communities. Right now, students, parents, staff, and families need school communities as places of hope, inspiration and where kids and staff come together to learn. She thanked staff who have created such welcoming and inclusive places for more than 106,000 students again this September and for doing it once again during a global pandemic. The Board Chair said it is amazing what our school communities can do when they come together and think about each other and the health and safety of all. Battling COVID 19, and ensuring that our schools are as safe as possible is a shared responsibility. That means masking, cohorts, screening for illness and other measures the Division has put in place through this year's re-entry plan.

The Board Chair explained these measures worked last year in helping mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and they'll work again this year. The Board of Trustees supports the Division's plan because it puts the health and safety of students, staff and families first. The Board Chair said unfortunately, there are measures the Division can't put in place because they are outside of its jurisdiction, for example, contact tracing. She advised that this Board passed a motion in August stating clearly that testing, contact tracing, self-isolation, mandatory masking, cohorts and screening for COVID-19 are critical measures that help keep staff and students as safe as possible.

The Board Chair remarked that this is not a “normal” school year. Case numbers and hospitalizations continue to rise. She said we can expect to see cases in schools this fall and the Division’s ability to clearly communicate that to parents is hampered by AHS no longer notifying Edmonton Public Schools when there is a positive case. She said the Division is relying on parents to inform Edmonton Public Schools and then the Division will share that information with the affected school communities. Once again, the burden is on school divisions. Challenging times require strong leadership. The Board Chair is glad that that exists in Edmonton Public Schools. The Board Chair thanked everyone for creating a safe, caring welcome for students and families.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent shared that the Division is excited to welcome over 106,000 students back to classes. He said unfortunately we’re not done with COVID-19, but the Division has put solid measures in place to keep staff and students as safe as possible. The Superintendent remarked that safety is a shared responsibility and we will get through this pandemic together.

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The Superintendent thanked staff who

- worked through the summer to have our re-entry plans in place and schools stocked and ready to greet students, worked on new schools, attended Summer Institutes, and did last-minute scheduling and staffing to accommodate families' choices of online or in-person instruction

The Superintendent advised this fall, the Division will have the privilege of opening five new schools.

- Highlands School is a modernization, consolidation and new construction, all in one project. The school, which was previously a junior high, is now a K-9 school, welcoming students from Mount Royal and Montrose schools as part of the consolidation.
- Garth Worthington School is a new K-9 school to serve the Chapelle East community in south Edmonton.
- Aleda Patterson School is the first K-3 school in Edmonton. As part of the Westlawn School cluster consolidation, the school will welcome some of our youngest learners.
- Alex Janvier School is also part of the Westlawn School cluster consolidation project. It is the first Grades 4-9 school the Division has opened.
- Dr. Anne Anderson School is the first high school our Division has opened since 2009. Serving communities in the Heritage Valley area of the city, the school will open for Grade 10 and 11 students this year. Thanks to a partnership with the City fostered by Trustee Ip and Councillor Cartmel, the school shares facilities with the community recreation centre. This is a great example of the ways schools and community can work together.

The Superintendent said the Division appreciates the funding from the province for these schools. He thanked our staff in Infrastructure and the staff who are working in the new schools for making the wonderful facilities come to life.

The Superintendent shared that today is the last formal meeting in the Board's term. He said the past four years have been extremely complex, and thanked the Board for their service. The Superintendent remarked that the Board has advocated tirelessly for our students, our families and our schools. This Board has strengthened our policies on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education and Early Years Education and also introduced our Anti-racism and Equity Policy.

The Superintendent said these policies are part of the impressive legacy this Board is leaving our Division. He shared that he and the Board have learned a lot together over this term and that he appreciated the dedication shown by each Trustee. The Superintendent wished the Trustees the very best in the next stages of their careers and lives. The Superintendent said he hoped the Trustees move on with pride, knowing they have made a positive difference in the lives of children.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #18 – June 22, 2021

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:

"That the minutes of Board Meeting #18 held June 22, 2021, be approved as printed."

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2. Special Board Meeting #19 – August 13, 2021

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:

“That the minutes of Special Board Meeting #19 held August 13, 2021, be approved as printed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives****MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:**

“That the 20-minute timeframe for registered speakers be extended until all eight speakers have had three minutes each to speak.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

There were eight registered speakers for this item; each spoke in opposition to the Edmonton Public Schools’ masking protocol.

There was a short break in the meeting.

G. Reports

3. Actions Taken Under the Delegation of Authority – 2021 Summer Recess

The Board Chair called a special Board meeting for August 13, 2021, to facilitate a Board discussion of a proposed advocacy position on COVID-19 mitigation measures for school re-entry.

The Superintendent reported that he took no actions on behalf of the Board.

4. First, Second, Third and Final Reading of CHA.BP Board Delegation of Authority

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“1. That Board Policy CHA.BP Board Delegation of Authority be read for the first time.”

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

OPPOSED: Trustee Ip

(CARRIED)

“2. That Board Policy CHA.BP Board Delegation of Authority be read for a second time.”

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

OPPOSED: Trustees Ip and Janz

(CARRIED)

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“3. That Board Policy CHA.BP Board Delegation of Authority be read for a third and final time and be approved.”

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

OPPOSED: Trustee Ip

(CARRIED)

5. Second, Third and Final Reading of HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“1. That Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct be read for a second time.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“2. That Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct be read for a third, and final time and be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. Motion re: Renaming Prince Charles School

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

“Given the significance of the Awasis (Cree) language and culture program at Prince Charles School, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action regarding the commitment to Indigenous languages and action in education, the Edmonton Public School Board commits to renaming Prince Charles School and requests that Administration facilitate a consultation process with students, families and staff of Prince Charles School and relevant Elders and Knowledge Keepers in the community to gather feedback to inform the renaming process .”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Motion re: Formation of a Committee for Division-wide Review of all Edmonton Public School Names

MOVED BY Board Chair Estabrooks:

“That the Board commit to creating a renaming policy, a review of all school names and renaming schools where appropriate. That a special committee made up of students, parents, staff, community members, two Trustees and individuals involved in anti-racism work be formed to propose a process for school renaming and a process for a Division-wide review of all Edmonton Public Schools.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

There was a short break in the meeting.

8. Motion re: First School Built in New Community

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Trustee Janz withdrew this motion during the approval of the agenda.

Trustee Janz left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

9. Strategic Plan Update – Governance and Engagement

A summary of the Board of Trustees' leadership and governance throughout their four-year term was provided.

10. Update on Joint Use Agreement (JUA) Negotiations with the City of Edmonton

Information was provided regarding the Edmonton Public School Board's interest in having a clear articulation of acceptable uses for surplus school sites in the upcoming review of the JUA: Land Agreement.

11. Information Regarding Plebiscite/Referendum Questions
(Response to Request for Information #105)

Information on the Board's ability to put forward questions for a plebiscite or referendum at a municipal election period was provided.

12. 2020-2021 Board Self-Evaluation Summary

A report summarizing the results the 2020-2021 Board Self-Evaluation was provided.

13. 2020-2021 Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation Summary

A letter summarizing the results of the 2020-2021 Superintendent of Schools' evaluation was provided.

14. Delegation of Authority – 2021 Municipal Election

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:

"1. That in accordance with Section 3 of the Board Procedures Regulation, any special Board meetings during the 2021 municipal election Board recess be at the call of the Board Chair or, in her absence, the Board Vice-Chair."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Janz was not present for the vote.

"2. That in accordance with Section 52(1) of the Education Act, effective immediately following the September 7, 2021, Board meeting, delegation of authority to the Superintendent of Schools to make decisions during the 2021 municipal election Board recess on behalf of the Board be approved."

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(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Janz was not present for the vote.

"3. That a report of all such decisions be brought to the October 26, 2021, public Board meeting."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Janz was not present for the vote.

H. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Draper, Trustee Representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board reported the following:

- **Staffing Update:** The Edmonton Public Schools Foundation welcomed Kyla Amrhein in June 2021 as the new Director, joining the Division from the University of Alberta. Catherine Bay, also a new hire, started at the end of August 2021, as the Fund Development Consultant. She joins the Foundation from the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation where she was the Manager of Grant and Fund Development. They are both looking forward to bringing some fresh ideas and perspectives to the Foundation.
- **Next Campaign:** Preparation is underway for the next campaign - Chromebooks for Kids. With the pandemic, students and teachers have adapted to online learning, which has highlighted the need for technology at home. The Foundation has secured a donation from EPCOR's Heart + Soul Fund to be used as matching dollars for this campaign. Therefore, a donation of \$150 will be matched by EPCOR, and will allow the Foundation to purchase 1 Chromebook for our city's most vulnerable students. These new Chromebooks are gifted to deserving students, to keep - thereby supporting their learning in the classroom and at home. Our goal for the campaign is to raise \$50,000, resulting in the purchase of 165 Chromebooks that will be gifted to learners across the city.
- **Book Drive:** The Foundation currently has the Daytona Homes Book Drive running. Daytona Homes, in partnership with the Foundation, is hosting a book drive for five K-6 schools to help fill bookshelves at school libraries with new reading options for students. Books can be dropped off at a Daytona Homes show home location until September 26, 2021. More information is available on the Daytona Homes [webpage](#).
- **Open Board Positions:** The Foundation is pleased to begin the search for two new Board members to help guide this work. The key requirement for this position is that Board members should be passionate about the students we serve and the work that we do to level playing fields. Please contact the Foundation's Director, kyla.amrhein@epsb.ca, for more information.

Trustee Dunn expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve students, families and communities during her term as a Trustee. She shared that the pandemic has been difficult, especially for those serving students. She shared the following quote by Mr. Rogers: *"At many times throughout their lives, children will feel the world has turned topsy-turvy. It's not that ever-present smile that will help them feel secure. It's knowing that love can hold many feelings, including sadness, and that they can count on the people they love to be with them until the world turns*

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right-side-up again."

Trustee Dunn said she sees this work happening every day in schools and online and that it has been hard to show up for each other sometimes. Trustee Dunn said that when she felt lost or disappointed or angry at what was happening in the world, all she had to do was look around for the people who were showing up. She noted that at Edmonton Public Schools, you don't have to look very hard.

Trustee Dunn thanked her colleagues, everyone in the meeting, everyone working in the Division's buildings and online, and everyone supporting schools for being someone who can be counted on *"until the world turns right-side-up again."*

- I. **Trustee and Board Requests for Information** - None
- J. **Notices of Motion** - None
- K. **Organizational Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.**
- L. **Adjournment: 5:30 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations