

**MINUTE BOOK****Board Meeting**

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, May 2, 2023, at 2 p.m.

**Present:****Trustees**

Trisha Estabrooks  
Dawn Hancock  
Marcia Hole

Julie Kusiek  
Marsha Nelson

Sherri O'Keefe  
Jan Sawyer  
Saadiq Sumar

**Officials**

Angela Anderson  
Todd Burnstad  
Grace Cooke  
Andrea Cooper

Karen Mills  
Kathy Muhlethaler  
Kent Pharis  
Nancy Petersen  
Cliff Richard

Darrel Robertson  
Carrie Rosa  
Ron Thompson  
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: 2:00 p.m.**

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED BY Trustee Hole:**

**“That the agenda for the May 2, 2023, Board meeting be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MINUTE BOOK****D. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair recognized and shared that May 5th is "Red Dress Day", also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People. She said too many Indigenous people have been murdered or have disappeared, including in our city and in our province and this day is a powerful reminder of that fact. In remembrance of lives lost, red dresses are hung in trees or set up to blow in the wind - as the organizer of this event, Jaime Black, has said it's as if they are floating, left empty to evoke the missing women and girls.

The Board Chair shared that May 5 is also Hats On! For Mental Health Day and a number of our schools will be participating. Hats On! For Mental Health Day is co-hosted by the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Alberta Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and Global Television. She said it is part of a week-long mental health week put on by the Canadian Mental Health Association. The Board Chair encouraged everyone to visit [cmha.ca](http://cmha.ca) to read about this year's theme of storytelling as a way to build strong communities.

The Board Chair shared that one of our school namesakes, Soraya Hafez, died on April 27. She noted that Soraya was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Soraya was also passionate about education and was Edmonton Public Schools' first Arabic bilingual program teacher. Soraya left a tremendous legacy of learning not just at Glengarry School, where she taught, but across Edmonton, through the many lives she influenced as a teacher, advocate, and community volunteer.

The Board Chair recognized that May is Asian Heritage Month. She said the Division is putting intentionality behind learning more about the many achievements and contributions of Edmontonians of Asian heritage. This month is also a reminder for all Canadians to come together to combat anti-Asian racism and discrimination.

The Board Chair also noted that May is Canadian Jewish Heritage Month. She said Canada has the fourth largest Jewish population in the world and the Jewish community has made significant contributions to the growth and cultural fabric of our country, while overcoming tremendous obstacles.

The Board Chair advised that Alberta is officially in the midst of a provincial election. She said the Board of Trustees looks forward to continuing to speak about issues related to public education with all those who are seeking elected office. The Board Chair thanked parent council members, community leagues and many others who are sharing the Division's advocacy materials in the lead up to the provincial election. She also thanked the Advocacy Committee for their leadership in developing these resources.

The Board Chair stated that they are seeing inclusive calendar promises from both the NDP and UCP. She said whichever party is elected, the Division looks forward to working with the next government on finding ways to ensure that the scheduling of diploma exams, for example, are done in a way that recognizes days of significance.

The Board Chair expressed thanks to the Edmonton Catholic Board for the warm welcome to the recent performing arts night hosted by their Division. She also thanked Trustee O'Keefe for attending the performance with her.

**MINUTE BOOK****E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent expressed gratitude to school leaders, central leaders and staff across the Division. He said this year's budget has been difficult to implement and it will have a huge impact on all 213 schools and our central units. The Division is experiencing significant growth pressures, with a number of schools having gone to random selection and lottery. The unfortunate part of the space issue is that it serves to limit choice throughout the city. As a Division that upholds choice as a founding principle of how we operate, this is challenging for us to navigate. He said the Division wants all students to be in programs that resonate with their identity, culture, tradition and in some cases, religion. The Division will continue to strive to uphold that choice. He thanked staff across the Division for navigating and making choices, organizing for instruction and preparing to welcome over 114,000 students next year.

**F. Approval of the Minutes**

1. Board Meeting – April 18, 2023

**MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting held April 18, 2023, 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. Four-Year Education Plan

**MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:**

**“That the Edmonton Public Schools’ 2022-2026 Four-Year Education Plan: Year Two be approved.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

**MINUTE BOOK**3. Student Admission and Enrolment Policy**MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:**

**“That the Board Policies HC.BP Resident Student Enrolment and HEC.BP Non-Resident Student Admission and Enrolment be read for the first time and approved for stakeholder feedback.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Kusiek was not present for the vote.

4. Digital Literacy and Cybersecurity for Staff and Students  
(Response to Request for Information #014)

Information was provided regarding the Request for Information #014.

**I. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports**5. Policy Review Committee Update

Trustee Sawyer provided a report that summarized the committee’s accomplishments over the 2022-2023 school year.

Trustee O’Keefe shared an Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (Foundation) update. The Foundation’s largest fundraising event of the year, Reading for Life Virtual Read-A-Thon, kicks off May 3. This year is even bigger, thanks to EPCOR who will be doubling every donation to Reading for a Life, up to a total of \$50,000. This means that over the next two weeks, there is an opportunity to raise \$100,000 or more to go towards levelling the playing field in our schools across the Division. The Foundation is grateful to the many schools, staff and students who are already signed up to read and support the fundraiser – and they invite everyone else to join in on the fun! Please visit [ReadingForLife.EPSB.ca](https://www.edmontonpublicschools.ca/readingforlife) to sign up or donate, and if there are any questions, please contact the team at the Foundation by emailing [foundation@epsb.ca](mailto:foundation@epsb.ca).

Trustee Kusiek thanked Trustee Jan Sawyer for organizing an opportunity for Trustees to participate in the Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) workshop all about the School Council-Trustee relationship. She thanked ASCA and all school council members who work to fulfill their legislated role, and to work alongside Trustees to fulfill ours.

Trustee Kusiek shared that the Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta (PSBAA) hosted a viewing of the excellent movie, “Backpack Full of Cash.” She thanked the PSBAA for creating an opportunity for Trustees and interested members of the public to view this important film.

Trustee Kusiek expressed appreciation for the efforts of the wider community to reach out to Trustees and provide opportunities for learning. She said it was an honour to attend the Interfaith Symposium, alongside Trustee O’Keefe and Nelson, hosted by the Amhadiyya Muslim Jama’at and to learn about the empowerment of women through their faith from Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Jewish perspectives.

**MINUTE BOOK**

Trustee Kusiek shared a story right from a Ward F School. She thanked Principal Beharry for having her out for a Riverbend School tour and visit. She got to see the fantastic renovations taking place at the school, celebrate some really cool opportunities for students, like international trips to Belize, Greece, Los Angeles and Tennessee, as well as the various sport teams. She thanked all the school staff who go above and beyond to create these and other opportunities for kids.

J. **Trustees and Board Requests for Information** - None

K. **Notices of Motions** - None

L. **Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 2 p.m.**

M. **Adjournment: 4:25 p.m.**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

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Karen Mills, Director Board and  
Superintendent Relations