

**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, March 21, 2023, at 2 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  
Andrea Cooper

Karen Mills  
Kathy Muhlethaler  
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 gathered here today on Treaty 6 Territory of which Amiskwaciwâskahikan or Edmonton or Beaver Hills House Park is a part of. Today, with the sun shining and the warmer temperatures and the promise of spring, we are reminded of the words used to strengthen Treaty 6 when it was first signed – “as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the river flows” - and the promise inherent in those words, which is worthy of recognition and reflection.

**A. O Canada**

**B. Roll Call: 2:03 p.m.**

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:**

**“That the agenda for the March 21, 2023, Board meeting be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

The Board Chair expressed deepest sympathies, on behalf of the Board, to the families, friends and colleagues of the two police officers killed while working in the city last week. Their deaths have impacted the community as a whole, including students, staff and families in the Division. She said their thoughts are with the Edmonton Police Service at this difficult time.

The Board Chair shared that March 21 is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. She said it is a day to remember that while some progress has been made, Black, Indigenous, people of colour, racialized communities and religious minorities continue to face racism and discrimination daily. The Division has taken steps to address racial discrimination in our schools. She said that she is proud to be part of a Division who is making this work a priority.

The Board Chair advised that there have been a number of education funding announcements in the last couple of weeks. This funding will help Edmonton Public staff create resources to support teachers in the implementation of the new K-6 science curriculum. She said that the Board appreciates the leadership of the Superintendent and the curriculum team in collaborating with other metro divisions to create something that will benefit teachers and therefore students across Alberta.

The Board Chair expressed appreciation for the Government of Alberta's support of a pilot program to train educational assistants. She said it is an example of how, working together, we can find solutions to support students.

The Board Chair thanked Vice-Chair Ip, Trustee Hancock and Trustee Hole for attending an event hosted by the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association on the weekend. The event celebrated students who received scholarships for their academic achievements as well as recognizing students who are excelling in music, visual arts, community service and cultural activities in their schools and in their communities.

The Board Chair thanked student senators who recently met with the Board of Trustees to share their thoughts on the Division's upcoming budget deliberations. The Board appreciated the insight of students and their willingness to engage with Trustees on this important topic. She said as a Board, they are working towards finding ways to ensure they are talking to those they represent about the budget, including sharing information about the budget process at EPSB.

The Board Chair wished a belated Holi to all those who celebrated on March 8. Holi is a significant Hindu festival and is also celebrated as the Festival of Colours. She thanked the Division for recognizing this day of significance and ensuring through the interfaith calendar that all staff in the Division were aware of this day so they could discuss the day with all students and support those students celebrating Holi.

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### **E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent reminded everyone that pre-enrolment for the 2023-24 school year is now open. Families can find information about the options on SchoolZone or the Division's website and social media channels. The final day to pre-enrol is April 14.

The Superintendent shared the government announced that funding would be given to the Division for the development of an Educational Assistant training program. He said he is excited about the potential of this project and thanked the government for their support. The Division and others across the province have been having challenges recruiting Educational Assistants. The new program will train educational assistants while also giving them on-the-job training in the classroom. The Division will be working closely with Fort Vermillion Public and Fort McMurray Catholic school divisions to ensure training can be delivered remotely. The pilot will start this spring and include up to 23 educational assistants. Through a three-month program, students will learn about:

- The role of an EA
- Who requires an EA
- Child brain development
- Supporting literacy and numeracy
- Managing anxiety
- Working with students who have complex behavioural needs
- Non-violent crisis intervention

The Superintendent said that in addition to the classroom learning, EAs will spend 60 per cent of the program interning through an in-school placement, giving them on-the-job experience that allows them to earn while they learn. What the Division learns from the prototyping will inform the next steps and allow them to pilot the EA internship program in divisions across the province.

The Superintendent shared that in addition to International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, March 21 is also World Down Syndrome Day. The day calls for everyone to work *with* folks that have Down Syndrome and not just for them. This is a key aspect of this year's awareness from the Down Syndrome community, which is advocating for the rights, inclusion and well-being of people with Down Syndrome.

The Superintendent wished all staff, students and families a safe and energizing spring break. This break will be a chance for everyone to catch their breath and head into the last months of this school year with new energy.

There was a short break in the meeting to fix technical issues.

**MINUTE BOOK****F. Approval of the Minutes**

1. Board Meeting – March 7, 2023

**MOVED BY Trustee Kusiak:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting held March 7, 2023, be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

There were no registered speakers for this item.

**H. Reports**

2. Report #07 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held January 24, 2023)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the January 24, 2023, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Report #08 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held March 7, 2023)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the March 7, 2023, Caucus Committee meeting.

4. Process and Timeline for the 2023-2024 Spring-Fall Proposed Budget

**MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:**

**“That the Process and Timeline for the 2023-2024 Budget as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023-2032

**MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:**

**“That the updated Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023-2032 be approved.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

6. Three-Year Capital Plan 2024-2027

**MOVED BY Trustee Hole:**

**“That the draft Three-Year Capital Plan 2024-2027 for submission to the Provincial Government, be approved.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MINUTE BOOK****MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:**

**“That the Board meeting be extended beyond 6 p.m.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

Trustees Hancock, Ip and Kusiek all left the meeting at this point.

**7. Anti-Racism and Equity Action Plan Update**

The update provided an overview of Division efforts in support of the Anti-racism and Equity Action Plan and reflected progress in support of Priority 2 of the [2022-26 Division Strategic Plan](#), “*Advance action towards anti-racism and reconciliation*”. A short slide presentation was shared with the Board.

**I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – 5 p.m.**

There were no registered speakers for this item.

**J. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports**

Trustee Sumar shared that he was wearing some J Percy Page gear today and that’s no accident. He noticed through J Percy Page’s social media channels that they have a couple of fundraisers going on this week. One fundraiser is for Islamic Relief Canada for the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, as well as a Ramadan Food Drive, and they kicked off Hijab Awareness Week yesterday. He said keep up the great work J Percy Page!

Trustee Sumar said yesterday’s kickoff is very timely as, later this week, the month of Ramadan will begin and many of the Division’s staff and students will be observing this month. He also shared that this week marks the Persian New Year or Nawruz. For his own tradition, Eid-e-Navroz is being celebrated today and coincides with the first day of spring annually.

**K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - None****L. Notices of Motions - None****M. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 2 p.m.**

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N. **Adjournment: 7:15 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