

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of Alberta held in Centre for Education McCauley Chambers on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 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
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. Roll Call: 2:01 p.m.

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

B. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:

**“That the agenda for the November 1, 2022, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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Vimy Ridge Academy conducted a Remembrance Ceremony.

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair said that last week, Trustees were invited to listen in on catchment conversations in the Division. These were conversations with principals who shared successes and challenges of the past year as well as how they plan to address the priorities and goals in the new Strategic Plan. She said the discussions were inspiring - the dedication of leaders in the Division to support kids is truly amazing. The Board Chair stated that the appreciation of and commitment to the new Strategic Plan were affirming. She heard consistently that the new Strategic Plan, in particular, Priorities 2 and 3 around anti-racism and reconciliation as well as promoting a comprehensive approach to student and staff mental health and well-being, resonated with principals and staff in the Division. She heard that these priorities were visionary, that staff could see themselves reflected in this plan and that, most importantly, this plan is what is needed for students in the Division.

The Board Chair shared that the Board of Trustees is committed to their own journey of better understanding Truth and Reconciliation as well as anti-racism. They have, as a Board, taken part in valuable professional development on the *Indian Act*. Later this fall they will also be participating in anti-racism training so that they can better understand their own biases.

The Board Chair thanked Administration and school leaders in the Division who are working with students and their families in the administration of the Division's new extended student demographic survey. By responding, students are providing valuable information about the diversity within EPSB. She said this data will help lead to action to help all students feel safe, experience success and have a sense of belonging in our schools. The decision to collect this data began a couple of years ago with a Board motion requesting that a model be developed to support the collection of student race-based data. She said it is encouraging to see where the Division is today and she looks forward to hearing about this work going forward.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked the Board on behalf of the Administration, for attending the catchment conversations and for listening to the amazing work that is happening in the classrooms across the Division.

The Superintendent congratulated Jorgianne Talbot, who is this year's recipient of the Alberta Kodály Association's Teacher Recognition Award. Jorgianne is an elementary and choral music specialist. She served as a consultant for the Division and is currently seconded to Alberta Education.

The Superintendent advised that since October 19, the Division has six additional schools on outbreak, as determined by Alberta Health Services, for respiratory illness. The Division continues to ensure that there are practices in place such as hand sanitizing and making sure that we're encouraging students and staff to

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stay home when they are sick. There are increased runtimes with the ventilation systems, as well as the HEPA filters in classrooms. Optional masking continues and we certainly want to respect everyone's right to wear a mask and help keep each other safe.

F. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting – October 18, 2022

MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:

**"That the minutes of the Board meeting held October 18, 2022, be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The one speaker registered did not attend the meeting.

H. Reports

2. Student Senate 2022-2023 Work Plan

Student Trustees Akhalya Arulmozhi, Abinash Saravanan and Tia Dobbernack presented the 2022-2023 Student Senate Work Plan.

3. Report #02 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held September 20, 2022)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the September 20, 2022, Caucus Committee meeting.

4. Recommendation on Voting in Advance of the ASBA Fall General Meeting

MOVED BY Board Chair Estabrooks:

**"1a. That Edmonton Public Schools propose that Position Statement 1 be amended to read: BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Alberta Education (with new funds) fully fund full-time (950 hours) Kindergarten for all Kindergarten students of Alberta *who are living in low socio-economic circumstances and those with the highest need* to ensure they develop the important language, social, motor, literacy, and numeracy skills that create a foundation of success for their future learning."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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**“2. That Edmonton Public Schools Trustees vote in favour of Position Statement 2.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“3. That Edmonton Public Schools propose that Position Statement 3 be amended to read: BE IT RESOLVED THAT, ASBA advocate to the Minister of Education to bring together education partners and associated child-centered ministries, agencies, and organizations to focus engagement for a review of the Standards for Special Education *and that ASBA advocate for a clear timeline for implementation.*”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“4. That Edmonton Public Schools Trustees vote in favour of Position Statement 4.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“5. That Edmonton Public Schools Trustees vote in favour of Position Statement 5.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“6. That the Board put forward the following emergent position statement:
Given the critical role public education plays in providing accessible and high-quality education for Alberta students and given:**

- the strength of Alberta’s world-renowned public education system that already promotes choice;
- that a voucher system has not shown improved educational outcomes for students;
- evidence showing a voucher system erodes public education;
- and that a voucher system promotes inequity among students and fragments communities;

**Be it resolved, that ASBA oppose a voucher system for Alberta students.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“7. That the Board withdraw the following position statement: That the ASBA advocate to the Province for school boards to submit a disaggregated Three-Year Capital Plan, with one list for modernization/replacements and one for new construction projects.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

5. Policy Review Committee 2022-2023 Work Plan

MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:

**“That the Policy Review Committee 2022-2023 Work Plan be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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"That the Edmonton Public School Board of Trustees write to the Minister of Education requesting that the provincial government **reinstate return to the practice of approving grant funding to the Alberta School Councils' Association to be used for the purposes of delivering educational workshops to school councils, **as it has been from 2004 through to 2019.**"**
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Board Chair Discretionary Expense Allowance Report for 2021-2022

Information was provided regarding the Board Chair discretionary expense allowance for 2021-2022.

8. Bereavement

Vice-Chair Ip reported on the passing of Ms. Hafsa Ali and Mrs. Heather Hay.

I. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports

Trustee O'Keefe shared an Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (Foundation) update. She thanked the Foundation community partner, Kingsway Mall, who hosted the Foundation as one of two community groups at last night's Halloween festivities. In addition to setting up the Foundation at a candy station in the mall, they hosted a large photo backdrop for families as they came around trick or treating. The evening was busy and an awesome opportunity to highlight the work the Foundation does to support students across the Division. She thanked Kingsway Mall for their incredible support of the Foundation.

Trustee O'Keefe invited everyone to learn more about the work being done to support students across the Division. The Foundation's team will be in the CFE atrium on Wednesday, November 2, between 10-3, and can share how you and your teams may wish to become involved.

Trustee Nelson shared a Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) update. The PSBAA has their fall professional learning and council meeting on November 16-18. There will be a dinner and lecture from Paul McLoughlin, a long-time journalist and political commentator. Professional learning includes Christine Sewell who will share her expertise on the Guide to Education, Funding Manual and capital funding. A final review of the PSBAA Strategic Planning process with their external consultant, Catherine Keill, will complete the meeting. The PSBAA has also asked to meet with the entire board of trustees of every member board to discuss emergent issues to help with direction setting of the association.

Trustee Kusiek reflected on the touching Remembrance Day ceremony at the beginning of today's Board meeting and about the power of storytelling. She took a moment to reflect on the Strathcona High School motto "as one who serves." She shared that when you walk into the building, on one side is the motto. On the opposite wall are the names of Strathcona students who fought in WWI and WWII and a quote from the former principal, Mr. G.W. Robertson. A small bit of this quote reads, "When we look at the names of the

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boys who will not come back, we have both a feeling of pride and of great sorrow. I knew these boys and I loved them." Trustee Kusiek said she will have those former students in her mind this November 11.

Trustee Kusiek also spoke about the historical archives of Edmonton Public Schools at McKay School. In this space is another story of the Flying Aces who shot down the German Red Baron during WWI. She said this storytelling is so important. She will also be thinking of those students on Remembrance Day, and she thanked all who continue to tell those stories.

Trustee Kusiek shared a story from her recent visit to Richard Secord School. Principal Ramsey gave her a tour and introduced her to Etta, a super cute chocolate brown service dog. Etta works with the school's Wellness Coach, Danielle Beeson. Together, they help to serve students at Richard Secord who may be experiencing anxiety or would otherwise find the calming personality of Etta helpful to getting them feeling regulated and ready for learning. For Trustee Kusiek, this spoke to one of the many creative ways that Edmonton Public Schools supports pathways to student success.

J. Trustees and Board Requests for Information

Board Chair Estabrooks submitted a Request for Information regarding operational efficiencies:

Could Administration please provide an update to the Board of Trustees on operational efficiencies undertaken in the past year as well as other operational efficiencies being considered as a way to direct as many dollars as possible directly to the classroom? If this information could be provided prior to budget discussions, that would be appreciated.

K. Notices of Motions - None**L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 2 p.m.****M. Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations