

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, October 18, 2022, at 2 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Trisha Estabrooks
Dawn Hancock
Marcia Hole

Nathan Ip
Julie Kusiek
Marsha Nelson

Sherri O'Keefe
Jan Sawyer

Officials

Angela Anderson
Todd Burnstad
Grace Cooke
Andrea Cooper

Karen Mills
Kathy Muhlethaler
Kent Pharis
Nancy Petersen

Cliff Richard
Darrel Robertson
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 Trustee Sumar was absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Hole:

**“That the agenda for the October 18, 2022, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised last week the United Conservative Party (UCP) elected Danielle Smith as their new leader and with that decision by UCP members we now have a new Premier. She said the Board of Trustees is looking forward to learning more about the direction Premier Smith has for this province, in particular as it relates to education. Premier Smith is a former school board trustee and the Board looks forward to impressing upon her the importance of locally elected school board trustees as well as the importance of investing in Alberta's future through adequate, sustainable and predictable funding for public school boards. The Board Chair said the Board believes public dollars belong in public education and this is a message they intend to reinforce with our new Premier.

The Board Chair thanked everyone who participated in this year's Read In Week. This is the first time in two years that guests have been able to be inside schools reading to students. On behalf of her colleagues, she said it was a fabulous week connecting with kids and school communities. She learned so much from the students she read to and loved all the questions about what the job of a Trustee is.

The Board Chair shared that as we approach Diwali on October 24 it is a reminder of some of the steps, working with the community, that this Board has taken with regard to creating a more inclusive calendar. This year Diwali will be a day off for students in our Division. Diwali is the Indian festival of lights and the lighting of candles and gathering with family is a special part of this holiday. She wished everyone who celebrates a happy Diwali.

The Board Chair expressed congratulations to Victoria School Council Chair Brandi Rai for being awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee medal for her service to the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA). Ms. Rai has been a strong voice for school councils in this province and we are fortunate to have her leadership in the Division supporting parents at Victoria School.

The Board Chair encouraged school council members to sign up for training sessions being offered in partnership between the Division and ASCA. The first session is tomorrow and these sessions are a great opportunity to learn more about the important work of school councils.

The Board Chair shared that a year ago today - October 18 - was the Edmonton municipal election. She expressed her gratitude to her colleagues for their service to families and kids this past year. She said it's difficult to believe that it's only been a year working together as a Board - it speaks to all the learning they've done, their advocacy as a Board as well as their dedication to supporting each other and the Division.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised we are headed into cold and flu season. He said we are still contending with COVID-19 and since his last update at public Board four weeks ago, only one school is on outbreak status as a result of greater than 10 per cent absences with similar kinds of symptoms. Schools across the Division still continue to have enhanced ventilation, HEPA filtration in our classrooms, enhanced cleaning protocols and encouragement for lots of hand washing.

MINUTE BOOK

The Superintendent shared that last fall the Division supported the City of Edmonton's application to become members of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. He said that he and the Board Chair attended an event on October 5, hosted by Mayor Sohi, where Edmonton was celebrated as becoming a UNESCO Learning City. All three public school divisions as well as all eight post-secondary divisions in the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Public Library partnered in this application. It was an opportunity for Edmonton to connect with like-minded cities around the world and shape new opportunities for our community and for communities around the world to grow and learn.

The Superintendent thanked all the parents and community members who volunteer on school councils across the Division. They all play a vital role in supporting our students and making connections between the school, parents and the community. He also expressed his appreciation to the Board for providing membership for all of the school councils to the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA). The training sessions for school councils are one of the many great things provided by ASCA.

F. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting – September 20, 2022

MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:

**"That the minutes of Board Meeting held September 20, 2022, 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 #03 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held on October 4, 2022)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the October 4, 2022, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Governance and Evaluation Committee 2022-2023 Work Plan

MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:

**"That the Board approve the Governance and Evaluation Committee 2022-2023 Work Plan."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK4. Infrastructure Committee 2022-2023 Work Plan**MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:****“That the Board approve the Infrastructure Committee 2022-2023 Work Plan.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**5. Electing New ASBA Director**MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:****“That a Director from Edmonton Public Schools on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Provincial Executive be confirmed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The Board Chair advised that her two-year term as Director on the Alberta School Boards Association Provincial Executive was about to end. She thanked her colleagues for choosing her for that position and said it had been an honour to serve.

The Board Chair called for nominations for Director for the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Provincial Executive. Trustee O’Keefe nominated Trustee Hancock.

The Board Chair stated that seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed and declared Trustee Hancock elected by acclamation as the Board’s Director for the ASBA Provincial Executive.

The Board Chair advised that since Trustee Hancock was the ASBA Zone 2/3 Representative, she called for nominations for that position. Trustee Kusiek nominated Board Chair Estabrooks.

The Board Chair stated that seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed and declared herself, Board Chair Estabrooks, elected by acclamation as ASBA Zone 2/3 Representative.

I. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports

Trustee Nelson reported that the Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta (PSBAA), met in August where they discussed their strategic plan and trends in education. In September there was a webinar with Franklin Covey on Understanding Bias to Unleash Potential. October 12-14 was PSBAA’s Annual General Meeting and Lieutenant Governor Salma Lakhani was the guest speaker. There was a PD session on Governance and Collective Decision Making aligned to Vision, Values and Priorities. Trustee Nelson said journalist Paul McLoughlin will be the opening speaker for the upcoming November 16-18 PSBAA meeting. The meeting agenda will include a discussion on the strategic plan with Catherine Keill, a presentation by Christine Sewell on the Guide to Education, Funding Manual and Capital Funding and further discussion on trends in education.

Trustee Kusiek shared that since September 1, she visited 19 schools and been in touch with at least 12 school councils in Ward F. At Strathcona High School, she met the amazing Scona Swim Team leaders who showed up yet again to fight for the Scona Pool’s survival. The students’ passion for the Scona Swim Team

MINUTE BOOK

isn't about winning. It's about creating a place to belong. It's about character development, and it's about learning how to be part of a community and part of a family. She said it's about living the Strathcona High School motto of "as one who serves". The Scona Swim Team is a no cut team and the impact it has on students is staggering. It made her wonder what the Division and she can do to explore and better support more no cut opportunities in our schools.

Trustee Kusiek read to more than 750 students at Ward F Schools over Read In Week. She thanked the 16 schools who welcomed her and let her share her love of reading picture books with them. She said it was fun getting to see those schools in action and to answer so many great questions about the role of a Trustee.

Trustee Kusiek shared she participated, last week, in the first annual Student Action Summit at Lillian Osborne High School. She said this was a day to reflect on creating a ripple of good in the world. It struck her how keen each student was to collaborate with other student groups in the school to have maximum impact this coming year. It also struck her how top of mind it was to the Grade 12 students to ensure there was a good handoff to the Grade 10 and 11 students to continue to grow the work of students over the coming years. Three particular sentiments stood out to her. One was from a student who said they were learning to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. The second was from a student who was keen to move forward with several environmental initiatives at Lillian Osborne. The third was from a student who observed how they tend to gravitate to teachers that look like them or who come from the same cultural background. The last observation was a bit of an aha moment for other students around the table as they reflected on the teacher they felt they could go to about anything. It made Trustee Kusiek think about the important work the Division is doing on anti-racism and equity, and about the work she can continue to champion as a Trustee when it comes to enhancing diverse hiring practices that seek to reflect our students.

Trustee Kusiek went to L. Y. Cairns School and participated in their round dance. And that really reminded her about the idea of schools as community hubs. It was a really great opportunity for the wider community to come together and to celebrate in that fashion.

Trustee Kusiek held the Ward F School Council Network meeting at the beginning of October. Over a dozen school council representatives came out. She encourages anyone who is involved in their school council to come out to those meetings, as they are a great opportunity to collaborate with one another.

Trustee Kusiek shared that she would be hosting a Ward F Conversation on October 20. The agenda is set by the interests of those attending. The current topics of interest are space crunch and various topics around transportation. She invited interested individuals to RSVP via her website www.juliekusiek.ca.

Trustee O'Keefe thanked her colleagues for allowing her to serve as the Board representative on the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (Foundation). She shared that Kingsway Mall has invited the Foundation to attend their Halloween Event on October 31 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Some Foundation Board members will be on hand to help hand out candy to all the kids coming through the mall, and will also be handing out Foundation temporary tattoos and continuing to raise awareness of the Foundation.

Trustee O'Keefe shared that the Foundation is grateful to be recipients of a \$120,000 gift from the Sinatra Aldea Foundation. As per the donor's wishes, this donation will be directed toward the playground project

MINUTE BOOK

at Forest Heights School. This gift aligns with the Sinatra Aldea Foundation’s desire to help a playground project “get shovels in the ground” and to contribute to a safe, accessible playground space that will benefit the school and the greater community for years to come.

Trustee O’Keefe advised that Chromebooks referrals are now open. Through the donation-funded Chromebooks for Kids program, the Foundation’s goal is to decrease technology-based inequity amongst our most vulnerable students and families. During the 2021–2022 school year, community supporters donated more than \$100,000 to support Learning Tools and Technology programs through the Foundation. With this incredible support, the Foundation was able to provide nearly 600 students across 60 Division schools with their own device through Chromebooks for Kids. Referrals are now being accepted for the 2022–2023 school year. Principals can refer a student to receive a device by completing the online referral form available on Connect. Referrals are accepted throughout the school year until June 5, 2023. Details about referrals, criteria, additional resources and contact information is located on Connect.

J. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - None

K. Notices of Motions

Trustee Hole gave notice that she would be making the following motion: That the Board of Trustees write to the Minister of Education requesting that the government reinstate grant funding to the Alberta School Councils' Association to be used for the purposes of delivering educational workshops to school councils.

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 2 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 2:46 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations