

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, December 12, 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: Julie Kusiek

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: 2:01 p.m.

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:

**“That the agenda for the December 12, 2023, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

The Board Chair welcomed everyone to the final Board meeting of 2023. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, she expressed heartfelt gratitude to students, staff, families, community and community partners as the winter break approaches.

The Board Chair said that Edmonton Public Schools continues to see remarkable growth in the student population. With an influx of 5,800 new students in September and an ongoing addition of 150 students weekly, the Division's total enrolment has grown by more than 1,500 students since September 30. This growth is a testament to the trust and confidence the community places on Edmonton Public Schools.

The Board Chair advised that she recently toured Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour School, led by Principal Jody Lundell. She was impressed by the creative ways the staff are maximizing the use of space and scheduling to ensure Division students are thriving, despite being at 117 per cent capacity. This is a shining example of the dedication and ingenuity happening across the Division's 213 schools, and how Division staff continue to do their best for students even when given sometimes difficult circumstances to navigate.

The Board Chair thanked all of the families who continue to choose Edmonton Public Schools and those who actively advocate for public education. She said it's an honour to be entrusted with the education of their children.

The Board Chair said she visited Vernon Barford School, guided by Principal Lon McMullen. With the Government of Alberta's emphasis on career pathways, especially in the trades, she was reminded of how Edmonton Public Schools supports diverse paths to success. Division schools offer excellent opportunities for students to explore trades through Career and Technology Foundations courses like woodworking, robotics, foods and fashion to name a few, ensuring a broad spectrum of career options for our students.

The Board Chair expressed hope that everyone takes a moment to reflect on everything that's happened this fall and she looks forward to the rest of the school year...after a well-deserved winter break. She thanked everyone again for their dedication and commitment to excellence.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent welcomed all of the staff attending the Board meeting today, including SCOPE principals who attended in person.

The Superintendent shared that we're in the middle of the last two weeks before winter break, and he knows students and staff are working hard before a bit of a rest. It's a busy time for schools, working on the last few assignments, preparing for exams and holding winter concerts.

MINUTE BOOK

The Superintendent said that the Division has received so much support from the community heading into the break. The Division is grateful to the many partners and agencies that work so hard to support our students and families throughout the year, but especially throughout December.

The Superintendent provided a quick update on illness and staffing rates in our schools. As of yesterday, 6.2 per cent of Division students were away due to illness. Presently there are 27 schools on either respiratory outbreak or gastrointestinal outbreak. In all of these cases, information from Alberta Health Services has been shared with families.

TEACHER data:

Friday: 58 unfilled; 401 sick

Monday: 100 unfilled; 405 sick

Tuesday: 63 unfilled; 425 sick

EA data:

Friday: 205 unfilled; 158 sick

Monday: 190 unfilled; 156 sick

Tuesday: 161 unfilled; 139 sick

The Superintendent expressed thanks to our countless staff, students and families for a wonderful, busy and rewarding fall. He said we are all ready for a bit of a break, to rest, relax and spend time with those who are important to us.

The Superintendent said that many Division staff work throughout the winter break and he wanted to thank them, as well, for working tirelessly to have our schools safe and ready for staff and students to return to classrooms on January 8.

The Superintendent expressed huge thanks and appreciation to the Board of Trustees for a busy fall. They have been in countless schools, meetings with school councils and with schools through Results Review. He wished them all a warm and safe break as well.

F. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting – November 28, 2023

Trustee Sumar requested that the last paragraph on page 2 of the November 28, 2023 minutes, be amended as follows:

Excerpt:

She thanked Trustees Hole, Nelson and Sumar who also attended the event.

MOVED BY Trustee Hole:

**“That the minutes of the Board meeting held November 28, 2023, be approved as amended.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

There were no registered speakers for this item.

H. Reports

2. Establishment of Business and Innovation Alternative Program

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Sawyer:

“That the Business and Innovation alternative program be approved as a Division alternative program from Grade 10 to Grade 12, effective September 2024.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

3. Student Accommodation Plan Summary for the 2023-2024 School Year

Information was provided to the Board of Trustees on the 2023-2024 Student Accommodation Plan.

There was a short break in the meeting.

4. Student Transportation Update

Administration provided an update on the improvements experienced this school year, continuing issues and initiatives to improve service delivery.

I. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports

Trustee Hole shared a Foundation update regarding Wrap ‘n’ Roll.

J. Trustees and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Sumar submitted a Request for Information regarding Division Centre Programs:

1. Please provide a brief description of the Division Centre programs offered including (if possible) actual and optimal staff resources per program and which Division Centres would typically have a seclusion room.
2. Please provide a breakdown of enrolment in specialized programs by division
 - a. Please also include the total # of requests for each program by parents during pre-enrolment by transportation zone by division
3. Please provide the number of students accessing each Division Centre program over the last ten years.

MINUTE BOOK

4. Please provide a breakdown of the Division Centres established this school year by program for each transportation zone.
 - a. What are the considerations when making decisions?
5. What is the typical ride time for students accessing Division Centres using Division organized transportation services? What is the longest one-way ride home? How have both the average and the longest ride time changed in the last five years (if the data is available)?
6. How many students could not be accommodated in their preferred Division Centre, but were provided with an alternative Division Centre?
 - a. On average, how much additional transportation time did this result in?
7. Can a student attain their high school diploma from a Division Centre or must they be in an inclusive program?
8. In the last ten years, can you provide examples of programming or spaces that have been developed and made available to students in inclusive settings to support self-regulation skills?
9. In the last ten years, have any Division Centres been converted to standard classroom spaces or alternative Division Centre programs (ex: Connections to Interactions), either based on need or lack of utilization? If so, what has been the cost to convert Division Centres to standard classroom spaces or alternative Division Centre programs?
 - a. What are the anticipated changes (additions/removals of Division Centres) broken down by Division Centre for the coming school year?

K. Notices of Motions - None

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 2 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 4:34 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations