

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, April 15, 2025, at 2 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Dawn Hancock
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

A. Land Acknowledgement

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 Nehiyaw, Anishinaabe, Niitsitapi, Métis Otipemisiwak, Denesųłiné, and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis Otipemisiwak, Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

B. O Canada**C. Roll Call: 2:03 p.m.**

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

D. Approval of the Agenda**MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:**

**"That after the conclusion of Agenda Item J-4 the Board moves Agenda Item K after the conclusion of Agenda Item O and that the 20-minute time allotted for registered speakers, in Agenda Item K, be extended to accommodate all registered speakers."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED).**

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MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:

“That the agenda for the April 15, 2025, Board meeting be approved as amended.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

E. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair shared that yesterday she had the privilege of attending, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Alberta School Board Association’s Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award ceremony. This award recognizes First Nations, Metis and Inuit students from across Alberta who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education paths. Several dignitaries were present and provided remarks, including Michelle Beaver, a former EPSB student and 2024 award recipient. Michelle spoke of the strength of her culture, encouraged students to stand tall and with pride, and of the importance of education, including post-secondary studies after high school.

The Board Chair announced with great pleasure, that this year, Grade 3 student Zane Mauren at Jan Reimer School was a recipient of ASBA’s 2025 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award. Zane demonstrates perseverance and a strong spirit, inspiring those around him. He possesses a strong awareness of self and identity, proudly wearing his long braid. Connected to his heritage and the teachings of his Elders and community members, Zane volunteers with the Red Deer Indigenous Dance Troupe and the Elders Lodge at the Sylvan Lake Powwow. His desire to give his all through dance is evident, as he practices diligently in a self-directed role, showcasing his mighty spirit despite his small stature. Board Chair Kusiek expressed congratulations to Zane.

F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent shared a warm welcome to everyone who were attending the meeting today, including SCOPE principals Satinder Basra and Marnie White, and those watching online.

The Superintendent also expressed congratulations to Zane Mauren on his 2025 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award. Superintendent Robertson expressed interest in hearing more about Zane’s journey with Edmonton Public Schools.

The Superintendent said that after Easter long weekend, the Division will be opening the Division Feedback Survey to parents, families, staff and students. The annual survey will run from April 22-May 23. We receive really good feedback from the survey every year, helping the Division learn about how we’re doing and what the community values in a quality education system. He thanked everyone in advance for taking the time to fill out the survey.

MINUTE BOOK**G. Recognition****1. Confirmation of Principal Designations**

The Superintendent announced that the following principals have been confirmed, effective September 1, 2025:

- Carla Babichuk, McArthur
- Alica Brownson, Lauderdale
- Kristel Busby, Kirkness
- Pina Chiarello, Hillcrest
- Brenna Cooper, Fraser
- Robyn Fagarasanu, Governor
- Ronali Ferguson, Belvedere
- Annette Hlavacek, Princeton
- Kirstin Johns-Bell, Minchau
- Kary Lavallee, Youngstown
- Michelle McColloch, Avonmore
- Rachel McOuat, Meadowlark
- Denis Mills, Belgravia
- Donna Overacker, Gold Bar
- Tim Paetkau, Keheewin
- Shauna Shore, Kensington
- Sergio Teixeira, Calder
- Jenell Thomas, Brander Greens
- Hendrik Wolmarans, Edmonton Christian West and Edmonton Christian High

There was a short break in the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 2:19 p.m.

H. Approval of the Minutes

2. Board Meeting – April 1, 2025
3. Special Board Meeting – April 9, 2025

MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:

**"That the minutes of the Board meeting held April 1, 2025, and the Special Board meeting held on April 9, 2025, be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives on Items on the Meeting Agenda

The Board of Trustees heard from five registered speakers for this item.

MINUTE BOOK**J. Reports****4. Letter regarding Standards for Special Education****MOVED BY Board Chair Kusiek:**

“That, further to the Board’s September 10, 2024 letter to the Minister of Education regarding the timelines for an update to the Standards for Special Education, the Board of Trustees write a follow-up letter to further emphasize that school boards, educators, students and families be meaningfully consulted, to inform a fulsome Provincial update to the Standards for Special Education. The letter must also emphasize:

- **That the Province provides adequate ongoing funding to fully meet the diverse range of needs for students requiring special education supports within a variety of settings.**
- **That the rate of enrolment growth for students requiring specialized learning supports is outpacing the rapid growth of overall enrolment in the Division.**
- **That services for students who require specialized learning supports must be enhanced within provincial standards and funding to facilitate students’ transition to life beyond the K-12 education system.”**

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

L. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports

Trustee Nelson shared an Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (the Foundation) update:

Celebrating 15 Years of Impact

- The Foundation is celebrating its 15 year anniversary.
- Fifteen years ago, the Foundation was established with one clear mission: to level the playing field for children coming to the classroom at a disadvantage. Since then, the Foundation has touched thousands of young lives, providing essential resources and opportunities to help students thrive.
- The Foundation would like to thank every donor, partner, and supporter who has contributed to this incredible journey so far. Your generosity has changed lives, and together, we can continue to fuel bright minds for years to come.
- Check out the Foundation website for a full article about the anniversary.
- From our hearts to yours, here’s to the next 15 years of impact.

M. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - None**N. Notices of Motion - None****O. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 2 p.m.**

There was a short break in the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

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The meeting resumed at 3:14 p.m.

K. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives on Educational Issues – 4 p.m.

The Board of Trustees heard from three registered speakers for this item.

The meeting recessed at 3:28 p.m.

Board Chair Kusiek reconvened the meeting at 4 p.m.

The Board of Trustees heard from 13 registered speakers for this item.

P. Adjournment: 4:41 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations