

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, May 27, 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 and called upon Trustee O'Keefe to provide a land acknowledgement.

Trustee O'Keefe said as the warmth of spring awakens the land around the waters at the family lake lot, she acknowledged that, as a family, they gather on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground and home for many Indigenous peoples, including the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, and Nakota Sioux. She continues her commitment to personal professional development, noting most recently as a Board they had a presentation on the Seven Sacred Teachings. Trustee O'Keefe gave thanks for the sacred teachings that have been passed down through generations, as vital and life-giving as the spring thaw. She now recognizes and understands the important work of the beaver, a key animal at the lake, shaping the waterways and contributing to the health of the ecosystem for countless generations. She acknowledged the deep connection the First Nations had and continue to have with this land and its waters. As we experience the beauty of this season, she also reflected on the sacred teachings of Respect – for the land, each other, and all living things – and Wisdom – to learn from the past, understand the present, and build a better future together.

B. O Canada

MINUTE BOOK**C. Roll Call: 2:04 p.m.**

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

D. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:

**"That the agenda for the May 27, 2025, Board meeting be approved as presented."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

E. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair said that a common question they get as Trustees with Edmonton Public Schools is "How can the public effectively advocate for public education and investment in Edmonton Public Schools?" She said the Board has created a series that will dive into some of the most common advocacy questions they receive, provide accurate context and provide suggestions on how the public might consider making their input heard - both directly to their Trustee or to another elected representative with a role to play in the puzzle of great public education. Suggestions for future topics can be emailed to Trustees. Currently, two topics in this series have been released and she said to look for more on Trustee social media accounts and SchoolZone postings.

The Board Chair thanked Trustee Sumar for presenting an opportunity for Trustees to discuss the value of Jordan's Principle funding for Division students. She reported that their letter to the federal government for Jordan's Principle funding has been sent and will be posted to epsb.ca.

The Board Chair shared that she, Vice-Chair Sawyer and Trustee Hancock, attended the State of Our City event put on by the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce last week. Events like this are a valuable opportunity for Trustees to connect with the movers and shakers of Edmonton to promote the importance of public education. She shared a few things from the panelists that stood out:

- Edmonton is awesome and we shouldn't be too humble about saying so
- Visitors love coming to Edmonton
- Edmonton's business community is here to keep growing our city and supporting a great place to live
- There's been a lot of progress over the past decade
- Working together and "how can I help" are powerful frames of mind
- Glass of the Sask, tap water by EPCOR, is top notch
- Extra shoutout to Kalen Anderson with BILD for acknowledging the need for schools alongside all the other infrastructure that's needed to keep pace with a growing city
- Hunter adds a lot of fun to an event. Go Oilers Go!

The Board Chair said that Edmonton Public Schools will be welcoming 125,000 students through our doors next year. It takes a village to raise a child and a community of diverse organizations - from

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government, not-for-profit, industry, business, the arts, public education and more - to support student success towards becoming the doers and leaders that will build on a thriving Edmonton into the future.

The Board Chair said the recent Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 event honoured first-year teacher nominees for the Edwin Parr Award. Chair Kusiek congratulated Edmonton Public School's recipient Breanna Tran-Ly and the entire Weinlos School staff. She thanked the ASBA Zone 2/3 organizing committee and ASBA President Marilyn Dennis for the Edwin Parr Awards and for continuing to draw attention to the importance of celebrating first-year teachers in public education.

The Board Chair thanked Katherine O'Neil and the team at the YWCA for hosting and moderating an exciting panel on Trusteeship. She said it was an honour to participate in this panel alongside Dr. Vivian Abboud from ASBA and Edmonton Catholic Schools Board Chair Sandra Palazzo. They focused on the important role of trustees in connecting with the local community, the governance role and a few tips for anyone thinking about running in the upcoming election.

The Board Chair said that celebrations and grads have already begun. She encouraged everyone to enjoy this special time reflecting on the friendships made, the challenges overcome and the learning achieved.

F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked everyone who was in attendance today, including SCOPE principals Scott Markine and Dan Vandermeer, and those watching online.

The Superintendent shared that last week, the Division was excited to receive confirmation from Alberta Education that we would receive funding for the Skilled Trades and Technology Collegiate. The Skilled Trades and Technology Collegiate will help students establish more robust career pathways to existing and future Division trade and technology offerings. Starting in fall 2025, students in Grades 9 to 12 who are interested in the trades will have one more route to pursue their interests. The Skilled Trades and Technology Collegiate will offer specialized programming, hands-on, work-integrated learning experiences and provide students in Grades 9 to 12 with clear pathways into apprenticeships, post-secondary education and careers in the trades. Through the Collegiate the Division will be able to combine existing offerings, including [Campus EPSB](#) and [dual credit](#) courses, with new and expanded programming. This is an amazing model for our students who will still remain enrolled at the Division school they regularly attend. Students will have an opportunity to access programming at their home school, other Division high schools, industry locations and post-secondary institutions. More information about how students can get involved will be shared soon.

The Superintendent thanked everyone for filling out the Division Feedback Survey this year. There was a great response rate of 63,056 responses, which included students, staff and families. The Division deeply appreciates the feedback from everyone to help us continue to build an even better system.

The Superintendent said that recently he received a letter from the Terry Fox Foundation about what an outstanding year schools around the Division had. Schools from across the Division raised \$242,194.01. A few of our schools reached "top fundraising" status in Alberta, including:

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- Avalon
- Dr. Donald Massey
- Crestwood
- Laurier Heights
- Johnny Bright
- Earl Buxton
- Donnan, and
- Meadowlark

Superintendent Robertson congratulated everyone who participated and raised funds for cancer research.

The Superintendent shared that the Division remains focused and committed to students and their learning, helping them to be successful in their learning journey as we enter in June. There's always a lot going on at this time of year like final exams, Provincial Achievement Tests, Diploma Exams, concerts, field trips, etc., but the entire Edmonton Public Schools team is committed to keeping the main thing the main thing: that's the success of students.

G. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting – May 6, 2025

MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:

**"That the minutes of the Board meeting held May 6, 2025, be approved as presented."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

H. Recognition

2. Michael A. Strembitsky Award of Excellence Presentations

The Board Chair announced the following students as recipients of the Michael A. Strembitsky Award of Excellence:

- Gold Medal – Brielle Huang, Lillian Osborne School
- Silver Medal – Kade Campbell, Ross Sheppard School
- Bronze Medal – Ameena Taher, Old Scona School

There was a short break in the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 2:46 p.m. The livestream and recording of the meeting did not resume at this point.

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

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

There was a short break in the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

The meeting, livestream and recording resumed at 3:18 p.m.

J. Reports**3. First, Second, Third and Final Reading of Board Policy DK.BP Division Technology**

MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:

“That the Board Policy DK.BP Technology be read for the first, second, third and final time and be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

4. Advocacy for the Education of Undocumented Children

MOVED BY Board Chair Kusiek:

“1. That the Board of Trustees request that the Minister of Education and Childcare put forth amendments to the *Education Act* that authorize the enrolment of undocumented children in Alberta school jurisdictions, and amend the Funding Manual for School Authorities to provide full funding to support such enrolments.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“2. That the Board of Trustees works alongside our partner organizations and other school boards to further promote this advocacy for Provincial authorization for enrolment and funding of undocumented students.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Strategic Plan Update: Priority 1 Literacy and Numeracy

An update was provided on the progress towards Priority 1 of the 2022–26 Strategic Plan, “*Build on outstanding learning opportunities for all students*”, highlighting work and results for Goal 2 “*Focus on literacy and numeracy so students demonstrate growth and achieve learning outcomes*”.

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Items 6 and 7 were incorporated into an information omnibus.

6. Seclusion and Physical Restraint Update

Information was provided regarding the use of seclusion and physical restraint. Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, reporting on seclusion rooms will be incorporated into the Annual Education Results Review (AERR).

7. Caucus Committee Reports

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the Caucus Committee meetings.

K. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports - None

L. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - None

M. Notices of Motion - None

N. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 2 p.m.

O. Adjournment: 4:34 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations