

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 6, 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 Nelson to provide a land acknowledgement.

Trustee Nelson said today we acknowledge that we are gathered on Treaty 6 territory. This land has been the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene and Nakota Sioux peoples for countless generations. We recognize their deep connection to this land, a connection that mirrors the profound relationship between humanity and the Earth.

With Mother's Day on the weekend, we celebrate how mothers nurture their children and have the opportunity to thank them. We need also to honour the life-giving force of Mother Earth. Let us also honour the Treaties made with the Indigenous peoples of this territory and commit to understanding and respecting their stewardship of these lands, working together to care for our shared home.

B. O Canada**C. Roll Call: 2:09 p.m.**

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

MINUTE BOOK**D. Approval of the Agenda****MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:****“That the agenda for the May 6, 2025, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)****E. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair expressed pride in the impactful work the Division is doing to directly support students in exploring career pathways. Since the last Board meeting, she had the privilege of witnessing firsthand how the Division is bringing our strategic plan to life – specifically, the goal of 'building on outstanding learning opportunities for all students' to 'promote competencies to empower students to meet the needs of a changing society, workforce, and climate.' The recent [Campus EPSB](#) Networking Lunch was a fantastic example of this in action. High school students from across Edmonton Public Schools engaged in meaningful conversations with a variety of industry professionals over a shared meal. Students in the electrician apprenticeship program connected directly with electricians from various sectors. Board Chair Kusiek spoke with students who, through this event, gained clarity on career paths that weren't the right fit for them – a truly valuable early discovery. Others were energized by the possibilities opening up on their career journeys. The diversity of fields represented was remarkable, including community care/nursing, pipe fitting, the restaurant industry, millwrighting, bricklaying, carpentry, and more. Strong positive feedback included requests for longer sessions and a student's desire to advocate for similar experiences.

The Board Chair shared that many Trustees attended the inaugural EPSB Student AI Conference, a remarkable event that drew nearly 300 high school students. This was a genuine professional development opportunity for them, featuring an excellent keynote by Matthew Guzdial, engaging breakout sessions, and significant representation from industry and post-secondary institutions, all eager to connect with students about their evolving interests.

The Board Chair reported that the advocacy letter to the Minister of Education regarding robust engagement for an update to the Standards for Special Education has been sent and will be posted to the Division website shortly.

The Board Chair thanked the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta for a productive meeting with the Board of Trustees. Promotion and protection of public education is critically important for the success of today's students and tomorrow's thriving communities.

The Board Chair advised that beginning May 7, Trustee Sumar is on an approved absence. While he is away, Trustee Marsha Nelson is supporting Ward G.

MINUTE BOOK**F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent shared that the Division held its first Artificial Intelligence Conference last week. It was an amazing opportunity for more than 300 Grades 10-12 students from across the Division, to listen to some amazing speakers and panels, get some hands-on activities and network with professionals across the city. Superintendent Robertson thanked the TIPS team and Career Pathways for putting on such an incredible conference.

The Superintendent said that the grad season is upon us. It's one of his favourite times of year because it's an opportunity for the whole school community -- families, staff, students, friends -- a child's entire support network -- to celebrate the massive accomplishment of finishing the Kindergarten to Grade 12 journey. Superintendent Robertson thanked all the organizing committees for putting on these amazing ceremonies that celebrate our students.

The Superintendent stated that the Division Feedback Survey is now open to parents, families, staff and students. The annual survey will run until May 23. The Division is grateful to those who fill it out, helping us learn about how we're doing and what the community values in a quality education system. Superintendent Robetson thanked everyone in advance for taking the time to fill out the survey.

G. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting – April 15, 2025

MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:

**"That the minutes of the Board meeting held April 15, 2025, be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

There were no registered speakers for this item.

I. Reports

2. 2025-2026 Budget – Staff Group Presentation

Mr. Barry Benoit, President of CUPE Local 474 (Custodial Staff), presented the Local's brief.

3. Locally Developed Courses

There was a short break in the meeting to fix a technical issue at 2:38 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 2:41 p.m.

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MOVED BY Vice-Chair Sawyer:

“That the following senior high school and elementary school locally developed courses be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Senior High School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Version	Approval Period (School Years)
Academic Achievement through English Language Acquisition - Beginner 15 Academic Achievement through English Language Acquisition - Intermediate 15	LDC1481 LDC1482	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Artificial Intelligence 25 Artificial Intelligence 35	LDC2026 LDC3026	5 Credits (2025–2027)	2025–2026 to 2026–2027
Band 15 Band 25 Band 35	LDC1439 LDC2439 LDC3439	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Calculus (Advanced) 35	LDC3255	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Design Thinking for Innovation 15-25-35	LDC1131 LDC2131 LDC3131	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Film and Media Art 15 Film and Media Art 25 Film and Media Art 35	LDC1092 LDC2092 LDC3092	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Instrumental Jazz 15 Instrumental Jazz 25 Instrumental Jazz 35	LDC1431 LDC2431 LDC3431	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence 15	LDC1026	5 Credits	2025–2026 to 2026–2027

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Course Name	Course Codes	Version	Approval Period (School Years)
		(2025–2029)	
Medicine Wheel 15	LDC1172	3 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Musical Theatre Performance 15 Musical Theatre Performance 25 Musical Theatre Performance 35	LDC1858 LDC2858 LDC3858	5 Credits (2023–2026)	2025–2026
Smudging (Elder Chronicles) 15	LDC1015	3 Credits	2025–2026 to 2026–2027
Vocal Jazz 15 Vocal Jazz 25 Vocal Jazz 35	LDC1433 LDC2433 LDC3433	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029

Elementary School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Approval Period (School Years)
Creative Movement 1 Creative Movement 2 Creative Movement 3 Creative Movement 4 Creative Movement 5 Creative Movement 6	ELM1560 ELM2560 ELM3560 ELM4560 ELM5560 ELM6560	2025–2026 to 2028–2029

4. 2025-2026 Non-Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees and 2026-2027 International Student Fees

MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:

**“1. That the proposed 2025-2026 Non-Alberta Resident fees and Special Needs Sponsorship fees, as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That the proposed 2026-2027 International Student Tuition fee of \$13,500 and International Student Application fee of \$250, as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

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The meeting resumed at 3:33 p.m.

5. Transportation Fees for 2025-2026

MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:

“That transportation fees be increased in a phased approach until the 2027-2028 school year, as outlined in Option 2.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Board Chair Kusiek suggested the Board send a letter to the Minister of Education to highlight the negative impact of current transportation funding on families, specifically the resulting substantial fee increases, and the Division's surplus funds, which will be used to offset costs.

6. Board Policy HB.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct Annual Review

MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:

“That Board Policy HB.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct be read for the first time and be approved for engagement.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Advocacy re: Jordan's Principle Funding and Operating Procedures

Board Chair Kusiek raised the issue of timing for sending the letter, considering the recent federal election and potential government reorganization.

Trustee Sumar agreed on the need for timely action while also allowing for flexibility due to potential cabinet changes. The goal is to advocate for students who would be eligible for funding, even in the 2025-2026 school year.

Trustee O'Keefe suggested including new Prime Minister Carney in the communication.

Trustee Sumar supported copying the Prime Minister to ensure awareness of the program's impact.

Vice-Chair Sawyer inquired about specific examples on how Jordan's Principle has impacted the Division.

Superintendent Robertson introduced three principals who have made applications for Jordan's Principle funding:

Ms. Brenda Mulder, Principal, Mary Butterworth School

Ms. Karla Loberg-Walter, Principal, Edmonton Christian Northeast School

Ms. Karen Keats Whelan, Principal, Roberta MacAdams School

The three principals shared their own individual stories of how Jordan's Principle has impacted students.

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MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:

“That the Board of Trustees write to the Federal Minister of Indigenous Services to request a timeline as to when the remaining applications will be reviewed and any outstanding commitments will be met, and request that changes to eligibility criteria that exclude off-reserve school boards be reversed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

J. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports

Trustee Nelson shared an Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (Foundation) update. Last week was National Volunteer Week - an annual reminder to celebrate the magic that happens when people share their time, talent, and energy to strengthen our communities. The Foundation is honoured to have 10 community champions who volunteer their time on the Board. Their vision, expertise, and countless volunteer hours fuel literacy initiatives, nutrition programs, and wrap-around supports that help Edmonton students thrive. Trustee Nelson expressed thanks to those who volunteer with the Foundation.

Trustee O'Keefe, Chair of the Governance and Evaluation Committee, provided an update regarding the Trustees' Handbook. The Caucus Committee approved the following changes, which will come into effect for the May 23 Special Board meeting:

- Speakers may speak to an item that is on the meeting agenda.
- Speakers must limit their comments to their own knowledge or opinions and experiences. They may not speak on behalf of anyone else.
- A maximum of five speakers may register per agenda item. Anyone unable to register is encouraged to submit their comments prior to the Board meeting so the Board can consider their comments before they make decisions on the agenda item.
- Individuals or groups may speak at a Board meeting a maximum of four times per year, allowing a larger group of individuals to bring and share their ideas with the Board on agenda items.
- Comments from the public and staff group representatives will not be audio or videotaped.
- Individuals must still call the Board office after the meeting agenda has been posted, and by noon the business day before the Board meeting. Individuals cannot register by email.
- Each speaker will still have up to three minutes to speak.

Trustee O'Keefe noted that there are still multiple ways individuals can share their thoughts with the Board. They can email, write or call their Trustees. They can also set time to talk with them in person. Individuals may attend school council meetings, talk with staff (at their child's school), and complete Division surveys, participate in public engagement opportunities or sessions. These channels offer a chance for questions, clarification and a two-way dialog, and the Board encourages anyone who needs assistance or wants to provide ideas to contact their Trustee directly so that they can have a discussion and connect them with the appropriate resources to assist. The new changes to the Trustees' Handbook will be shared on the Division's website.

K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - None

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Board Chair Kusiek gave notice that she would be making the following motion:

That the Board of Trustees write a letter to the Minister of Education to put forth amendments to the *Education Act* that authorize the enrolment of undocumented children in Alberta school jurisdictions, and to amend the *Funding Manual for School Authorities* for the provision of educational funding to support such enrolments.

That the Edmonton Public School 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.

M. Next Special Board Meeting: Friday, May 23, 2025, at 9 p.m.**N. Adjournment: 4:38 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations