

# Board Meeting Minutes

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, March 17, 2026, at 2 p.m.

## Present

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Nickela Anderson, Sarah Doll, Melanie Hoffman, Julie Kusiek, Linda Lindsay, Holly Nichol, Sherri O’Keefe, Jan Sawyer, Saadiq Sumar</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	<b>Angela Anderson, Todd Burnstad, Grace Cooke, Andrea Cooper, Kelsey Duebel, Martin Fechner, Kathy Muhlethaler, Kent Pharis, Nancy Petersen, Cliff Richard, Carrie Rosa, Ron Thompson, Liz Yule</b>		
<b>Board Chair</b>	<b>Saadiq Sumar</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Catherine Angeles</b>

### A. Land Acknowledgement

The Board Chair called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we live, work, play, and enjoy the abundance that Treaty 6 land provides. This land, known by many names, has been cared for by the Siksikaitsitapi, Denesuline, nehiyawak, Anishinaabe, Stoney Nakoda, and the Métis from the North Saskatchewan River Territory. This land has also been imprinted by the footsteps of the Inuit. As winter turns to spring, Chair Sumar was reminded that this is a time for renewal, for regeneration, and for reciprocity in relationships with different peoples and with the land.

The Board Chair said that this Friday is Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day. It symbolizes renewal and balance and honours the resilience, diversity, and vital roles of Two-Spirit and Indigenous queer/trans people across Turtle Island as sacred knowledge keepers and leaders.

The Board Chair said that this weekend also marks the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, raising awareness and encouraging global action against racism. It also reflects efforts that have led to important progress and the strengthening of global commitments to equality and non-discrimination.

### B. O Canada

The Laurier Heights School video version of O Canada was played.

### C. Roll Call

2:05 p.m. – The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

**D. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED BY Trustee Doll:**

**That the agenda for the March 17, 2026, Board meeting be approved as presented.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**E. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair highlighted the four new school projects recently announced by the Province, expressing appreciation for the government's response to the Division's ongoing advocacy. Additionally, Chair Sumar recognized the Province for inviting board chairs and senior administration leadership from across the province to participate in the announcement.

The Board Chair shared that last weekend, he and several Trustees attended the HIV Edmonton Positive Light Gala. Dr. Kristopher Wells was a guest speaker, and his remarks regarding education were well-received by those in attendance.

The Board Chair said that Trustees also attended the 2026 Provincial Budget Luncheon with Minister Nate Horner. The discussion centred on the government's budgetary vision, including specific acknowledgments of sector concerns and a commitment to increasing educational funding.

The Board Chair extended well wishes to those observing the upcoming Eid Mubarak and Easter holidays.

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

The Superintendent welcomed everyone in attendance today and those tuning in online.

The Superintendent reminded everyone that pre-enrolment closes next week on March 25. While most open houses have finished, he encouraged parents to reach out to the school principals if they have questions about what a school offers.

The Superintendent advised that the Division Feedback Survey remains open until March 25 and encouraged parents, students and staff to complete it. Higher participation ensures more detailed and accurate data.

The Superintendent welcomed the announcement of the four new school projects as part of the provincial Budget 2026. The Division received design funding for a new K-9 in the Aster and Stillwater communities. Planning funding was also received for a new K-6 in Crystallina Nera and a K-9 in River's Edge. With these four announcements, the Province has committed to a total of 16 school projects for the Division. These projects will significantly assist in accommodating more families and alleviating current capacity challenges.

## G. Approval of the Minutes

### 1. Board Meeting - March 3, 2026

Trustee Kusiek requested that the roll call be updated to acknowledge her virtual attendance at the March 3, 2026, Board meeting.

*Excerpt: The Superintendent advised that Trustee Kusiek ~~was absent~~ would join virtually once the technical issues were resolved and all other Trustees were present.*

**MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:**

**That the minutes of the Board meeting held March 3, 2026, be approved as amended.**

**(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. 2026-27 Budget - Staff Group Presentations

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

### 3. Annual Review of Board Policy HB.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct (Recommendation)

**MOVED BY Trustee Anderson:**

**That Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct remain as written based on the 2025-26 annual review.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### 4. Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2026-35 (Information)

Information was provided on the Ten-Year Facilities Plan, which included up-to-date data and the current Division operations.

Trustee Doll left the meeting at 2:59 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Trustee Nichol left the meeting at 3:16 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

There was a short break in the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 4:16 p.m.

5. Class Size Information Update  
(Information)

An update was provided on the Division’s 2025-26 class size reporting results, along with two years of historical data.

6. Municipal Trustee Election Costs  
(Response to Request for Information #001)

Information was provided in response to the Request for Information #001.

7. Caucus Committee Report  
(Information)

Information was provided regarding recommendations approved by the Caucus Committee.

**J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**

None

**K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information**

None

**L. Notices of Motion**

None

**M. Meeting Dates**

The next Board meeting is a Special Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 2 p.m.

**N. Adjournment**

5:02 p.m. – The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Saadiq Sumar, Board Chair

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Kelsey Duebel, Director Board and  
Superintendent Relations