

# 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, February 10, 2026, at 2 p.m.

## Present

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Nickela Anderson, Sarah Doll, Melanie Hoffman, Julie Kusiek, Linda Lindsay, Holly Nichol, Jan Sawyer, Saadiq Sumar</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	<b>Angela Anderson, Todd Burnstad, Grace Cooke, Andrea Cooper, Kelsey Duebel, Martin Fechner, Kent Pharis, Nancy Petersen, Cliff Richard, Carrie Rosa, Sunita Sas, 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.

Chair Sumar provided a land acknowledgement. He 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.

Although February 14th is known most for Valentine’s Day, it is also Have a Heart Day. This child and youth-led campaign was started in 2012 and promotes equitable education and health services for First Nations Children. February 21st is International Mother Language Day, a United Nations-supported initiative to advance the preservation of Indigenous languages and inclusion. Both of these days serve as a reminder that equity and inclusion are ongoing endeavours and that we must be intentional about working towards them every day.

### B. O Canada

The York School video version of O Canada was played.

### C. Roll Call

2:03 p.m. – The Superintendent advised that Trustee O’Keefe was absent and all other Trustees were present.

**D. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:**

**That the agenda for the February 10, 2026, Board meeting be approved as presented.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**E. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair noted that February marks the 30th anniversary of Black History Month and the theme is "30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations — From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries". Chair Sumar said this past weekend, he and Trustees attended the First Anniversary of the Afro Caribbean and Indigenous Food Bank, recognizing the hard work of Black leaders in Edmonton to provide culturally responsive food options to the community.

The Board Chair shared that we don't have to look outside of the Division for excellent Black leadership, like the late Rosalind Smith, who passed earlier this year. She was the first Black principal in the Division, positively impacting the lives of countless students and educators in Edmonton and across the province. In her own words, "I've left some very good leaders in the district who, to this day, ... see themselves as great stakeholders in the community for all students, no matter what their ethnicity or diversity may be." Chair Sumar said, "Thank you, Ros, for your incredible dedication to our students, staff, and community. Rest in Power."

The Board Chair noted that February also marked the Lunar New Year and is the year of the Fire Horse. Chair Sumar and Trustees attended the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association's (ECBEA) Lunar New Year celebration this past weekend. The student performances were incredible, and everyone enjoyed the Dragon parade, as it proceeded through the different corners of the Londonderry Mall. He thanked the ECBEA for hosting this incredible event and for their partnership with the Division. It is only by working together with our community that the Division has been able to develop the largest Mandarin bilingual program in the world outside of China.

The Board Chair expressed gratitude for Division staff and partners who support the All In For Youth Program in our schools. Chair Sumar and Trustee Anderson visited Delton and Eastglen alongside staff from the Ministry of Children and Family Services and folks from the United Way, the Family Centre, and BGCBigS. He praised the work in Division schools and thanked Division staff who make the program possible.

The Board Chair also expressed gratitude to Ministers Nicolaidis and Horner for approving construction funding for the replacement of Delton and Spruce Avenue. The Division appreciates that the need to provide 21st century learning spaces has been recognized.

## F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked everyone in attendance today and those tuning in online. He welcomed three principals from the Superintendent's Community of Practice in Education (SCOPE) who were also in attendance: Mike Morison from Lilian Osborne, Scott Markine from Donald R. Getty and Chad Sheppard from Michael Strembitsky.

The Superintendent noted that the pre-enrolment and registration process for returning students and new-to-the-Division students opened last week. Families have until Wednesday, March 25, to pre-enrol and register. To help families get ready to choose a school for the 2026-2027 school year, open houses will continue to run throughout February and March, giving families and students a chance to learn a little more about what a school has to offer, from alternative programming, to complementary courses, extracurricular activities, sports teams, a taste of school culture and a chance to see the space. Parents can find information about programs and when open houses are on [epsb.ca](https://epsb.ca). If parents have any additional questions, they can also contact the school directly for more information.

The Superintendent invited everyone to participate in the Division Feedback Survey. He said it is important the Division hears from staff, students and families about how the Division is doing and what they value in a quality public education system. The Division uses this feedback to measure progress toward our goals and determine how to best support students, staff, and families. The survey is open to staff, students in Grades 4-12, and families until March 25.

The Superintendent shared that at the end of the month, many of the Division's educational staff will be participating in the Teacher's Convention, which takes place February 26 and 27. While students will have a bit of a break, Division staff will be hard at work learning. He wished everyone a really great Teacher's Convention.

## G. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting - December 9, 2025

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**That the minutes of the Board meeting held December 9, 2026, be approved as presented.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The live stream of the Board meeting was suspended at 2:11 p.m. to hear from registered speakers.

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

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

After the Trustees heard from all registered speakers, the live stream resumed at 2:26 p.m.

## I. Reports

2. Governance and Evaluation Committee 2025-26 Work Plan  
(Recommendation)

**MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:**

**That the Governance and Evaluation Committee's 2025-26 work plan be approved.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

3. Policy Review Committee 2025-26 Work Plan  
(Recommendation)

**MOVED BY Trustee Anderson:**

**That the Policy Review Committee's 2025-26 work plan be approved.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 2:45 p.m.

4. Request for Information to Follow-up on Seclusion Reporting in the 2026 AERR  
(Recommendation)

**MOVED BY Trustee Doll:**

**That the response to the request for information regarding seclusion reporting from the December 9th, 2025 Board meeting be brought forward as an Information Report and placed on the agenda for discussion at the public Board meeting following the completion of the report.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. School Council Annual Report Highlights Summary  
(Information)

Information was provided on the 2024–25 annual reports submitted to Communications by school councils.

6. Phase I Evaluation Report: School Resource Officer (SRO) Program  
(Information)

Information was provided on the Phase 1 Evaluation of the SRO program.

Trustee Doll left the meeting at 3:50 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Trustee Nichol left the meeting at 4:43 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Trustee Anderson left the meeting at 4:49 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

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

None

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

None

**L. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Sawyer gave notice that she would be making the following motion:

That the response to her request for information regarding election costs, from the December 9, 2025, Board meeting, be brought forward as an information report and placed on the agenda for discussion at the public Board meeting following the completion of the report.

**M. Meeting Dates**

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 2 p.m.

**N. Adjournment**

4:57 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