

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, September 9, 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

Kelsey Duebel
Kathy Muhlethaler
Kent Pharis
Nancy Petersen

Cliff Richard
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 Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

B. O Canada**C. Roll Call: 2:04 p.m.**

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

D. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:

**"That the agenda for the September 9, 2025, Board meeting be approved as presented."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK**E. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair thanked everyone who joined the meeting today. She noted that this was the final Board meeting of this term and how amazing it was to think of where the Board of Trustees started and where they are now.

The Board Chair said that if they could sum up their time as a Board, change had been a defining theme of their journey together. Since this Board was elected four years ago, they've navigated a great deal—from grappling with the pandemic and its impact on schools to significant government changes in curriculum, funding, and new legislation. Over the past year alone, they navigated the complexities of a strike and wished their long-time Superintendent Darrel Robertson the best in his retirement. The Board is grateful for his legacy within Edmonton Public Schools. Over the last four years, the Board welcomed thousands of new students each year. This is a testament to the incredible work Division staff do every day that makes Edmonton Public Schools the top choice for families. Chair Kusiek reflected on the collective accomplishments of the group, noting there was much to be proud of. She said, "Think of that child who feels safe and loved at school because the adults in the building care about them and their future. Or those improvements they see in school-based literacy, numeracy, PAT or diploma scores. And they know the important role that staff in central play in supporting these successes." Chair Kusiek stated that it had been an honour for all members of the Board to serve alongside people so steadfast in their commitment to public education and student success. The Board recognized that more changes will come, however the Board Chair is confident the Division is in good hands.

The Board Chair shared that last week, she sent her own children off to elementary, junior high and high school and the tone she set for them (and herself) was confidence. She's confident they'll be welcomed, supported and feel like they belong in their schools - in spite of uncertainty and change. Teachers and all school staff are working incredibly hard to ensure that students receive excellent public education. As Trustees, they repeatedly hear about the incredible dedication of Division staff—through the stories families share with them, board reports, school visits and at Results Review. The Board remains incredibly proud of the work Division staff are doing, and will continue to do, to enhance every student's path to success.

The Board Chair stated that the Board has also been preparing for the future by sharpening their governance practices, so that when the new Board of Trustees is elected in October, they will be ready to serve this Division well. As a Board, they continue to keep the focus on what matters - effective school board governance so that the Division is prepared to provide an excellent public education to students. The Board developed a strong strategic plan that is guiding the Division forward. This plan will continue to guide the Division into next year.

The Board Chair said the Board was excited to welcome Mr. Ron Thompson, the new Superintendent of Schools, to his first Board meeting, and noted that they have full confidence in his vision and leadership.

The Board Chair expressed gratitude to everyone present, those tuning in online and those in schools, "The Board of Trustees are grateful for all that you do." Chair Kusiek said, "To my fellow Trustee colleagues, it has been a privilege to witness your dedication and commitment to serving this Division."

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

The Superintendent welcomed everyone back. He thanked everyone who were present today, and to those watching online. Superintendent Thompson said he was thrilled to be there, at his first Board meeting as Superintendent of Schools. He shared a bit about himself for those who may not know him. Edmonton Public Schools has been home to him for the past 47 years. He was a graduate from Edmonton Public Schools, attended Thorncliffe, Youngstown, Britannia, Ross Shepard and graduated from Jasper Place School. He also shared that his mom was an Educational Assistant at his school when he was a kid. Superintendent Thompson joined Edmonton Public Schools as an educator in 2000, this starts his 26th year with the Division. He has had the privilege to serve as a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent of Schools and now he's humbled to serve as Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent shared that the start of the school year, always brings a sense of excitement and opportunity. This year, the Division is proud to welcome back students to our 200+ schools. He said that that our, close to 10,000, staff members have welcomed students back, helped them settle into routines and started the learning. Superintendent Thompson thanked everyone for an amazing and safe first week back.

The Superintendent stated that the Division is projecting about 125,000 students for the 2025-26 school year. The data he received yesterday showed that the Division is on track to reach that number. As of yesterday, we have welcomed back almost 123,000 students into the Division. The Division is grateful to parents and the community for putting their faith and trust in us to help their children succeed in their learning.

The Superintendent welcomed the Board of Trustees back. He noted that this was his first Board meeting and it was their last meeting as the Board. Based on his prior experience with the Board as Assistant Superintendent, he noted the Board's incredible dedication to students, staff, families and the entire community. He recognized that the Board wants what's best for all and truly embodied the vision of enhancing pathways for student success. Superintendent Thompson extended an early thanks to the Board for their tireless work in supporting public education.

G. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting – June 24, 2025
2. Special Board Meeting – July 30, 2025

MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:

**"That the minutes of the Board meeting held June 24, 2025 and the Special Board meeting held July 30, 2025, all be approved as presented."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK**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**3. Actions Taken Under the Delegation of Authority – 2025 Summer Recess**

The Superintendent reported that no actions were taken on behalf of the Board during the 2025 summer recess.

4. Process and Timeline for the Fall Review of the 2024-2025 Results and the Plan for 2025-26

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Sawyer:

**“That the process and timeline for the 2024-25 results review and the 2025-26 plans, as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Update on School Project Construction Schedules

An update was provided on the Edgemont and Rosenthal school projects. Alberta Infrastructure has notified the Division there will be extended construction timelines for both the Rosenthal and Edgemont school projects. The changes are a result of additional geotechnical work required to stabilize site conditions and to ensure that foundations and supporting infrastructure are designed to meet long-term safety and durability standards.

6. Policy Review Committee Work Plan Summary

A summary was provided of the work accomplished by the Policy Review Committee over the 2024-25 school year.

7. Strategic Plan Update: Governance and Engagement

A summary of the Strategic Plan Update Report was provided, detailing the Board of Trustees' leadership and governance throughout their four-year term, ending this fall.

8. Caucus Committee Reports

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

MINUTE BOOK9. Delegation of Authority – 2025 Election Recess**MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:**

“1. That, in accordance with Section 3 of the Board Procedures Regulation, any special Board meetings during the 2025 municipal election Board recess be at the call of the Board Chair or, in her absence, the Board Vice-Chair.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:

“2. That, in accordance with Section 52(1) of the *Education Act*, effective immediately following the September 9, 2025, Board meeting, delegation of authority to the Superintendent of Schools to make decisions during the 2025 municipal election Board recess on behalf of the Board be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:

“3. That a report of all such decisions be brought to the October 31, 2025, public Board meeting.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

J. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports - NoneK. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - NoneL. Notices of Motion - NoneM. Next Organizational Board Meeting: Friday, October 31, 2025, at 2 p.m.N. Adjournment: 3:07 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

Kelsey Duebel, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations