

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #13

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Trustees of the Edmonton School District No. 7 of the Province of Alberta held in McCauley Chambers in the Centre for Education on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Nathan Ip
Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner

Ray Martin
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Lisa Austin
Todd Burnstad
Grace Cooke

Ron MacNeil
Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler

Lorne Parker
Kent Pharis
Darrel Robertson
Mike Suderman

Board Chair: Michelle Draper

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Nels Olsen, President

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.

The Board Chair advised that the fire alarm system at the Centre for Education is a Two Stage alarm system. Stage One is a single repeating alarm tone indicating a warning only and that evacuation is not required. Stage Two is a triple repeating alarm tone indicating that evacuation is required.

A. **O Canada** 

B. **Roll Call:** (2:00 p.m.)

The Superintendent advised that Trustee Gibson was absent. All other Trustees were present.

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C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

**“That the agenda for the April 25, 2017, board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that Support Staff Appreciation Week is April 22nd to 28th with April 26th, designated as Support Staff Appreciation Day in the District.

She stated that schools and central service decision units have the opportunity to recognize the important contributions of all support staff for the excellent work that they do in supporting the success of all students and staff.

The Board Chair advised that April 28th is the National Day of Mourning for workers injured or killed at the workplace. In recognition of the men and women of the Province and of the District who are part of those statistics, the Edmonton Public School Board on April 27, 1998, proclaimed every April 28th as an annual ‘Day of Mourning’ in recognition of workers killed, injured or disabled on the job.

The Board Chair said that the Board encourages everyone to do their part to ensure that Edmonton Public Schools’ work and learning environments are as healthy and safe for staff, students and community as possible throughout the year.

The Board Chair reported that on April 12, 2017, she and the Minister of Education visited a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) school club and engaged in discussion with students and staff about the importance of these clubs in the lives of students and overall school culture. GSAs offer various opportunities, including support, safe spaces, increased visibility and awareness and educational and social change.

The Board Chair shared that they heard from the students that GSAs activities help to create a welcoming, caring, respectful, safe and inclusive environment for all students. She explained that through research, experience and what the students share, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) students are more likely to feel safe and more comfortable being open about their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression in schools with GSAs because they provide a sense of belonging.

The Board Chair thanked the District’s schools for supporting these safe and welcoming venues for students.

The Board Chair reported that on April 22, 2017, she was a presenter for Equal Voice School Board 101 “A day in the Life of a School Board Trustee.” The purpose of the event was to encourage more women to run in the upcoming municipal election. She shared that she was pleased to do this as gender representation has been a significant issue in Canadian politics.

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The Board Chair explained that while the Alberta government has maintained at least 50 per cent female representation in its cabinet, only 26 per cent of Canada's members of Parliament are women and that just one Edmonton city councilor is a woman. She stated the importance of having close to equal gender representation on local school boards.

The Board Chair said that one of the reasons women are underrepresented is that they do not equally run for political office in the first place. Some suggest women are less likely than men to be encouraged by parents, teachers or other leaders to run and they are also less likely to run without being encouraged by others to do so.

As such, the Board Chair urged everyone to invite women who they believe would make a strong elected representative to run in the upcoming municipal or future provincial and federal elections and continue to talk to girls about the importance of their voice being reflected in leadership roles.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent welcomed eight new principals to the meeting. He advised that the new principal evaluation process involves coaching and feedback from the Assistant Superintendents about the principal performance standards and principal roles and responsibilities, peer learning groups, written reflections, informal mentoring by experienced principals, and membership in the 1st and 2nd year principals group – a facilitated, collaborative network.

The Superintendent explained that new principals are confirmed based on the results of the two-year evaluation period, a recommendation by the Assistant Superintendents and a decision by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent introduced the following principals who have been confirmed, effective September 1, 2017:

- Letitia Carter, Coronation
- Kelly Davis, Oliver
- Arief Ebrahim, Glendale
- Shannon McMorran, Horse Hill
- Krista Mulder, Edmonton Christian Northeast
- Beverly Oldford, R.J. Scott
- Larry Payne, D.S. MacKenzie
- Jana Pedersen, Virginia Park

The Superintendent provided an update regarding pre-enrolment

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #12 – April 11, 2017

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

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**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #12 held April 11, 2017, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

H. Reports

2. Strategic Plan Update: Priority 2 Goal 3 – Supports for the Whole Child

The Trustees received a strategic plan update regarding supports for the whole child.

There was a short break in the meeting.

3. Distribution of Funds

MOVED BY Trustee Martin:

**“That Distribution of Funds for the 2017-2018 budget be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Three-Year Capital Plan 2018-2021

The Trustees received a presentation on the three-year capital plan 2018-2021.

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

**“That the proposed capital priorities for modernizations and new construction identified amended in the *Three-Year Capital Plan 2018-2021* be approved.”
(Defeated)**

MOVED BY Trustee Chubb:

**“That the proposed capital priorities for modernizations and new construction identified in the *Three-Year Capital Plan 2018-2021* be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting at this point.

5. Motion re: Sexual Health Education in Provincial Curriculum

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“That the Board of Trustees write to the Minister of Education in support of ensuring evidence-based, age-appropriate, medically accurate, comprehensive, consent-based, and inclusive sexual health education in the provincial curriculum.”

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(CARRIED)

6. Motion re: Funding for the Design of Two High Schools

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

“That the Board of Trustees write to the Minister of Education and Minister of Infrastructure requesting that funding be awarded for the design of two high schools this year, in advance of the next round of capital announcements.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. First Reading, Board Policy ACB.BP National Anthem and Flag

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“1. That Board policy ACB.BP National Anthem and Flag be introduced.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“2. That Board policy ACB.BP National Anthem and Flag be read for the first time and approved for posting on the District website for stakeholder input.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

8. First Reading, Policy FBD.BP Designated Holidays

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“1. That Board policy FBD.BP Designated Holidays be introduced.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“2. That Board policy FBD.BP Designated Holidays be read for the first time and approved for posting on the District website for stakeholder input.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

9. Catholic Faith Alternative Program
Response to Request for Information #205)

The report was provided in response to a Trustee request for information.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams reported that she had the opportunity to visit and experience Thursday Flex Day at T D Baker School. She explained that Thursday Flex Day was initiated last September by

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Principal Fenton. Trustee Adams said that she was aware that flex classes are in place in schools across the District; however, she thinks this is the only school at this time with a full flex day.

Trustee Adams shared that Thursday Flex Day at T. D. Baker school allows the students an opportunity to choose different classes of their interest every week and that there is a variety of classes offered as well as time to work on upgrading core class work where needed. She said that when going from class to class, she witnessed many students excited and engaged in their work. Principal Fenton explained to Trustee Adams that the weekly Thursday Flex Day has been beneficial in a number of ways such as increased student attendance, increased engagement between teachers and students not only within their grade but other grades as well and ongoing excitement among the student body as they anticipate Thursday Flex Day each week. Trustee Adams indicated that parents have shared with Principal Fenton that communication with their children has improved as they are eager to share what they did that day.

Trustee Adams reported that she found the experience to be very enlightening and commended Principal Fenton and the teachers for their hard work to create a very dynamic program that quite possibly could have great potential for other schools in the District.

Trustee Draper reported on the following events:

- April 20, 2017, she attended the Steele Heights' wonderful performance of the Lion King.
- April 21, 2017, she enjoyed the Taste of LaZerte event and commented on the amazing display of culture, pride and student engagement.
- April 22, 2017, she and Trustee Stirling participated in the Alberta Council of Environmental Education's Earth Day event where student presented their displays and ideas on 150 ways schools show climate leadership.

Trustee Draper attended school council meetings at Bannerman, Sifton and York schools and said that attending these meetings is an opportunity to engage in communication with parents about their child's education, the school's activities and the work of the District.

Trustee Martin reported that on April 20 and 21, 2017, the Eastglen School held its first annual 24 hour bike-a-thon. He shared that there were 150 students and 30 staff members that participated in the event. Trustee Martin explained that that the Student Advisory Council and organizing committee have chosen to give the donations to cancer research. Some of the teams fundraised for ovarian cancer, some for brain cancer and that one team chose to raise money for Adam's Army. He advised that the bike-a-thon raised over \$11,000.00 and

Trustee Martin advised that he would not be running in the 2017 Municipal Election.

Trustee Stirling reported on the following events:

- April 11, 2017, she attended the production of Theatre Company the Maggie Tree's Theatre Company production 9 Parts of Desire, a play about the experiences of women during the war in Iraq. This evening was a special event, with tickets donated to immigrant-serving

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agencies to share with their immigrant and refugee clients as well as stakeholders. Trustee Stirling was pleased to speak before the play to talk about the importance of education in supporting newcomers and the value of sharing our stories with each other as part of learning together.

- April 13, 2017, she was pleased to serve again this year as a judge for the Vimy Ridge Academy Heritage Fair. She explained that it is similar in format to a science fair and that this event allows Grade 7 students to undertake an independent research project on Canadian history and culture and to share their learning through displays and presentations of their work.
- April 18, 2017, she attended the Julia Kiniski school council meeting and that it was great to hear about parents' support for diversity in their school, the reconciliation initiatives underway, and the concerns of parents around high school space and their confidence in the Board's efforts to manage these issues.
- April 21, 2017, Trustee Stirling congratulated the participants in W.P. Wagner's Wagathon event for raising \$116,900 for the Children's Heart Society to support children and families facing pediatric heart disease. She expressed that it was also great to see students from Weinlos and Kate Chegwin donating in support. She thanked teacher David Tran for his work to support leadership students in making this event happen.
- April 21, 2017, Trustee Stirling congratulated Avonmore School on celebrating their 60th anniversary and was pleased to have been invited to the celebration.
- April 22, 2017, Trustee Stirling was delighted to attend the 150 Ways Schools Show Climate Leadership event as part of Earth Day.
- April 22, 2017, along with Vice-Chair Martin, she was pleased to attend the Jim Shewchuk Awards to celebrate the contribution of the District's staff unions to this year's United Way campaign.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Draper asked that, given the recent passing of Bill 1, that the Administration provide the Board of Trustees with an implementation plan for both instructional and transportation fees as well as highlight any potential issues.

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Janz served notice of motion that the Edmonton Public School Board advocate to the province of Alberta to:

1. infuse financial literacy into new curriculum development, in an age-appropriate way at all grade levels,
2. ensure that consumer rights education is incorporated, and
3. implement pilot projects or support locally developed courses on these topics.

Trustee Janz served notice of motion that the Edmonton Public School Board advocate to the Provincial government to repeal the *Alberta School Boards Association act.*"

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Trustee Johner served notice of motion that Edmonton Public Schools share the findings from Dr. Sharma's evaluation with Alberta Education, and advocate to Alberta Education to include a robust evaluation component in Phase 2 of the provincial nutrition pilot. Findings from this evaluation would inform future provincial funding of school nutrition programming, and could inform new curriculum development.

Trustee Stirling served notice of motion that the Board of Trustees purchase Treaty 6 flags to be provided as a gift to all District schools and other District sites to display in recognition of the District's relationship with Treaty people.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment (6:10 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations