

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #04**

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, January 23, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Sherry Adams
Shelagh Dunn
Michelle Draper

Trisha Estabrooks
Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Grace Cooke
Todd Burnstad
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler
Lorne Parker

Kent Pharis
Darrel Robertson
Mike Suderman
Liz Yule

Board Chair: Michelle Draper

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau

Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Heather Quinn, President
CUPE Local 3550 – Carol Chapman, President and Gloria Lepine and Janis Zielke
CUPE Local 784 – James Niven, Vice-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.

The Board Chair advised those attending the meeting in person that the floor area is restricted to the Board of Trustees, Superintendent, Director of Board and Superintendent Relations and Recording staff, with an area reserved for media. She advised that she would signify to any other staff or registered speakers to come down to the floor at the designated time on the agenda. The Board Chair thanked everyone for their cooperation.

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A. O Canada 

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

**“That the agenda for the January 23, 2018, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair commented that this is the first Board meeting of the New Year, and wished District students, staff, families and partners a wonderful 2018.

She said the cold snap during the holidays proved to be a challenge on some District buildings and thanked the staff who worked tirelessly to address the flooding issues in several schools. She also thanked those involved in the handling of the Minchau flooding situation and remarked that the quick actions and concern for students was admirable. The Board Chair shared that the Board of Trustees appreciates the efforts of all involved to ensure not only that students' learning was not disrupted, but that they had a smooth transition to their temporary home at Jan Reimer School.

The Board Chair advised that on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, the District honoured 200 maintenance employees and CUPE Local 784 for helping to ensure students and staff have great places to learn and work. She said that to show the District's appreciation for their contributions in helping to make sure schools and offices are safe, healthy and secure, the District created a Maintenance Employees' Appreciation Day video highlighting the wide range of work they do for our District. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, she thanked all maintenance employees and CUPE Local 784 for their hard work and dedication to supporting staff and students.

The Board Chair reported on the official opening of the Michael Phair School that was held on Monday, January 22, 2018, and noted that was a wonderful event. She said that each school opening is unique and this one reflected Mr. Phair's energy and enthusiasm. The Board Chair shared that the gymnasium was full of so many people who were inspired and ignited by Mr. Phair's personality. She shared that there were many elected officials from all levels of government, community leaders and friends present to share in the excitement of officially opening this amazing junior high. The Board Chair congratulated Principal Mamchur and staff and thanked everyone involved in making the event a success.

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E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent wished staff, students, community members and families across the District a Happy New Year and said that the District is looking forward to serving the needs of the 100,000 students in the coming months to ensure that they are successful.

The Superintendent advised that the District Support Team and Inclusive Learning staff have had a long- term visioning conversation regarding mental health within Edmonton Public Schools. He shared that continual work is being done to support the District's priority to provide safe and welcoming learning environments and that mental health is a key component of the priority. The Superintendent thanked the Board of Trustees for their ongoing work with respect to mental health in the District. He advised that the provincial government collaborated with many stakeholders including staff from Edmonton Public Schools and produced a document titled, *Working Together to Support Mental Health in Alberta Schools*. He explained that the document provides common language pertaining to mental health that is used throughout the province and that it profiles the significance of policy that is rooted in human rights legislation that supports diversity and inclusiveness in school districts. The Superintendent said that he is very proud of the work of the Board ensuring that District policies have set the parameters and the conditions for the District to move forward in an effective manner to support the mental health of students.

The Superintendent shared that diploma exams are being written at this time and that the province has made changes in terms of providing students double the time originally allotted to complete their exams. The Superintendent has heard from students and principals that many students took advantage of the extra time to complete their exams and that students seemed to be less anxious about their exams.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #03 – December 19, 2017

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #03 held December 19, 2017, be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board of Trustees heard from Mr. Keith Pudwill, Director of Programs for the Junior Achievement of Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories. An information package was provided to the Trustees.

H. Reports

2. Third Party Panel Study of Operational Services of School Jurisdictions

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Information was provided regarding efficiencies initiated during the 2016-2017 school year; efficiencies/opportunities currently being investigated; as well as future planned initiatives/opportunities.

Several of the Trustees thanked Administration for the information provided and requested that ongoing updates be provided. The Superintendent advised that an update would be provided to the Board in January 2019 and that an annual report will be provided for the remaining of the 2017-2021 term.

3. Edmonton Student Transportation Authority (ESTA)

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the Edmonton Public School Board authorizes administration to conclude ESTA negotiations with Edmonton Catholic Schools, with the intent to finalize the agreements and implement as much of Phase 1 as possible for the 2018-2019 school year.”

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling that the motion be amended:

“That the Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees send a letter to the Edmonton Catholic School District Board of Trustees outlining our support for and the benefits of Edmonton Student Transportation Authority (ESTA) and request that they finalize their decision by March 15, 2018, in order to ensure that our districts can begin with Phase One of the joint busing initiative at the start of the 2018-2019 school year.”

**The Board Chair called the vote on the amendment.
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**The Board Chair called the vote on the motion as amended.
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

4. Policy Review Committee Annual Work Plan for 2017-2018

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

**“That the Policy Review Committee Work Plan for 2017-2018 be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Governance and Evaluation Committee Annual Work Plan for 2017-2018

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the Board approve the Governance and Evaluation Committee Annual Work Plan for 2017-2018.”

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(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. Possible Locally Developed Course
(Response to Request for Information #004)

Trustee Gibson thanked Administration for the comprehensive report and stated that it satisfied the request for information.

7. Career Pathways
(Response to Request for Information #005)

Trustee Gibson thanked Administration for the report and looks forward to further discussions about preparing students for life beyond school.

8. French Immersion Programming
(Response to Request for Information #007)

Information was provided regarding the request for information.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams thanked Principal Jan Sawyer and staff of Jan Reimer School for hosting the Shauna May Seneca School during the delay of their school opening. She also thanked them for opening their doors again to welcome 300 students and staff of the Minchau School who were displaced due to the severe flooding of their school. Trustee Adams commended District staff for providing immediate accommodations for the Minchau staff and students. Trustee Adams also thanked the Maintenance and Custodial staff who worked very hard to deal with the flooding, not only in Minchau, but in 10 other schools as well.

Trustee Adams thanked Trustees Estabrooks and Ip for welcoming government officials during a tour of the Jan Reimer School in her absence.

Trustee Dunn thanked schools in Ward C for inviting her to community events in their schools. She said that in the past month she has attended the Youngstown School's Christmas Concert and Westmount School's Winter Feast.

Trustee Dunn shared that she was grateful to be invited to attend events in District schools sharing indigenous culture with students, family and community partners such as Wichitowin Night that was co-hosted by Inglewood School, Athlone School and Bent Arrow, and Family Culture Night at Victoria School.

Trustee Dunn said that it has been a great experience to start attending parent advisory council meetings and to learn more about school communities and issues important to parents. She

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thanked the parent groups and principals of Belmead and Inglewood Schools for the invitations.

Trustee Dunn shared that it was a joy to meet and share in a supper with the Student Senators and that she found the conversations interesting and is excited to know that there are so many engaged students in District high schools.

Trustee Dunn reported that she attended a two-day session of professional development hosted by the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) and has been thinking a great deal about the work of the Indigenous Advisory Circle.

Trustee Dunn shared that it was an honour to celebrate the opening of Michael Phair Junior High School in Lewis Estates.

Trustee Estabrooks reported that she had the pleasure of visiting Jan Reimer School last week with Trustee Ip and witnessed how the Jan Reimer and Minchau Schools worked so well together in the face of unexpected freezing pipe problems. Trustee Estabrooks thanked Principals Cindy MacDonald and Jan Sawyer for the tour of the school and thanked Minister Christina Gray for joining them. Trustee Estabrooks said that she got the sense that staff and students from Minchau School feel truly fortunate to have a place where they can still be together as a school community.

Trustee Estabrooks shared that she had the chance to attend a number of school council meetings in January. She thanked Eastglen School and Virginia Park School parent councils for the invitations and for giving her a few moments to speak. Trustee Estabrooks is looking forward to attending Mount Royal School's council meeting later this evening.

Trustee Janz shared that his next community office hours will be on January 28, 2018, from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Riverbend Square Second Cup. He invited everyone to stop by and said this will be a great time to ask him questions, share concerns, and give him advice. Trustee Janz asked that those planning to attend send him notification to ensure there is sufficient space at this location.

Trustee Janz invited everyone to the Root Beer and Pretzels event on February 7, 2018, at the Harry Ainlay School Library from 7-9:00 p.m. Trustee Janz shared that there will be a presentation about emergent education issues, work undertaken by the Board of Trustees and a question and answer period.

Trustee Johner reported that on January 19, 2018, she attended the ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting and noted the following:

- ASBA is actively recruiting and has estimated a forty per cent increase to their current staff body. Trustee Johner expressed concern given the fiscal climate at this time and the direction given by the Minister for fiscal restraint for associations.

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- ASBA commissioned a Health and Wellness report card last year that has yet to be released. Trustee Johner has requested the information but has not received it to date.

Trustee Johner reported on the following Edmonton Public Schools Foundation activities:

- The Kingsway Mall Christmas Wrap and Roll event raised \$15,049.
- The sale of the Mother Earth holiday gift sets raised \$1,200.
- The Curriculum and Resource Support Staff sold handmade creations at the Centre for Education craft fair and raised \$650.

Trustee Stirling reported that she had the opportunity to attend a City of Edmonton Strategic Plan Consultation meeting on behalf of the Board, which offered an important opportunity to speak to one of the District's most important partners about the shared work to build a great city. She thanked Edmonton City Council for inviting the Board of Trustees and looks forward to continuing a great collaborative relationship with the City of Edmonton over the next four years.

Trustee Stirling thanked school councils at Avonmore and Vimy Ridge Academy for inviting her to join them and speak to them about the work of the Board. She said that she enjoys the opportunity to hear from school council members about the issues that matter to their school communities and to answer questions about the work of the Trustees. Trustee Stirling thanked parents, family members, and community members for giving their time as school council volunteers and being great partners in education.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Janz requested that the Administration provide a brief summary of the steps being taken to ensure District schools are protected in future cold spells or extreme weather episodes.

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Ip gave notice that he will make the following motion:

That Edmonton Public Schools Administration work with the City of Edmonton to determine the following and report the findings at a future Board meeting:

- The appropriate level of engagement and funding from the City of Edmonton required to enable an integrated design approach to the recently announced Edmonton Public High School Project with the Heritage Valley Recreation Centre and the Heritage Valley District.
- A milestone schedule to complete preliminary design.

Trustee Janz gave notice that he will make the following motion:

That the Edmonton Public School Board write a letter to the Provincial Government requesting that any changes to transportation funding, regulations, or walk limits, be made no later

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than March 1st, 2018, to allow school boards time for contingency planning with parents and provide clarity and fairness.

L. **Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.**

M. **Adjournment: 4:05 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations