

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #18**

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, September 12, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Sherry Adams
Orville Chubb
Michelle Draper

Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip
Michael Janz

Cheryl Johner
Ray Martin
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Lisa Austin
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

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 

Ms Jordyn Scharle, a Grade 12 student from Victoria School, led the singing of O Canada.

MINUTE BOOK

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“That the agenda for the September 12, 2017, board meeting be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair reported that on September 11, 2017, the Equali-Tea was held at the Edmonton Public Schools Archives and Museum. She explained that it was an opportunity to promote engaged and active citizenship and to ensure female students have an important and worthy voice that can make a difference. The Board Chair thanked Trustees Johner and Stirling for joining her.

The Board Chair indicated that the September 12, 2017, board meeting would be the last board meeting of the Board of Trustees' term. She thanked the Board of Trustees and said that together they have kept the best interests of students first and foremost in their decision making. The Board Chair highlighted the following accomplishments:

- opened 14 new schools, saw the completion of four modernizations with two more in progress
- included student voice in decision making. Edmonton Public Schools introduced Alberta's first ever Student Trustee in 2014, and established a multi-member Student Senate in 2015-2016 and will continue for the 2017-2018 school year
- expanded the District's pre-Kindergarten programming and opened three full-day Kindergarten programs in areas of high social vulnerability, through the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation
- increased English as a second language resources and staff, along with supports for newcomers to welcome and support a rapidly increasing population
- introduced a District-wide focus on reading to support literacy instruction, assessment and interventions across all grades and subjects
- witnessed an increase in high school completion rates
- introduced Career Pathways across all grades and subjects to help students think about, explore and plan what their life might look like beyond school
- established an Equity Fund to help all schools access the supports students need to be successful, regardless of the size of school they attend

The Board Chair clarified that these accomplishments were not achieved alone and that the Trustees valued the great working relationships with the Superintendent and Administration. She

MINUTE BOOK

thanked the Superintendent and Administration, both in Central and District schools for everything they do.

The Board Chair referenced the municipal election and encouraged the public to research and to talk with candidates. She acknowledged that Trustee Martin would not be running in the 2017 municipal election and thanked him for all he has done to serve Edmonton Public Schools.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent welcomed everyone back and expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone that worked on the new schools and modernizations during the summer in preparation for the students. He stated that a number of staff attended summer institutes.

The Superintendent indicated that Bill 1 has helped to reduce school fees for students. He encouraged families to contact their principals or to visit the District website for information on how transportation fees are calculated and who is eligible for reduced fees. He thanked staff within the District who fielded thousands of calls in the past week.

The Superintendent congratulated Principal Brad Burns who will receive the University of Alberta Alumni Honour Award on September 25, 2017.

The Superintendent congratulated Principal Fred Hines who will be inducted into the St. Francis Xavier Hall of Honour on September 20, 2017.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #17 – June 20, 2017

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #17 held June 20, 2017, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were 13 registered speakers for this item. Twelve of the 13 registered speakers were present. One speaker spoke to the amendment to the three-year capital plan 2018-2021, one speaker spoke to gender inclusiveness and 10 speakers spoke to the confidentiality of sexual and gender minority students.

There was a short break in the meeting.

H. Reports

MINUTE BOOK

2. Report #7 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meetings Held June 6 and June 20, 2017)

Information was received regarding actions taken at the June 6 and 20, 2017, Caucus Committee meetings.

3. Actions Taken Under Delegation of Authority – 2017 Summer Recess

Ms Mills reported that no actions were taken during the 2017 summer recess.

4. Amendment to the Three-Year Capital Plan 2018-2021

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the proposed amendment to the Three -Year Capital Plan 2018-2021 as follows, be approved: amend Priority 3 in Year 1 to read “Westlawn Cluster: Concept 2” and the cost to \$40 million; amend Priority 8 in Year 2 to read “Britannia Cluster” and the cost to range between \$34 million to \$37 million; and amend Priority 12 in Year 2 to read “Rosslyn Cluster” and the cost to range between \$62 million to \$73 million.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Stirling requested that information be provided to the Trustees as to how many students live in high density tower-type buildings.

5. Second, and Third and Final Reading – Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“1. That Board policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct be read for the second time.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“2. That Board policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct be read for the third time and approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. Highlands School Consultation Project – Closure of Montrose and Mount Royal Schools

MOVED BY Trustee Chubb:

“1. That the Board approve a motion to close Montrose School, effective on the last operational day prior to the opening of the newly modernized K-9 Highlands School.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MINUTE BOOK

**“2. That the Board approve a motion to close Mount Royal School, effective on the last operational day prior to the opening of the newly modernized K-9 Highlands School.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

7. Shared Approach to Curriculum Implementation to Alberta Education – Next Steps
(Response to Request for Information #218)

Next steps were provided to the Trustees regarding the shared approach to curriculum implementation to Alberta Education.

There was a short break in the meeting.

8. District Energy and Environment Strategy 2016–2019

The Trustees received a presentation providing an overview of the 2016-2019 District energy and environment strategy.

9. 2016-2017 Board Self-Evaluation

An overview of the 2016-2017 Board self-evaluation was provided by Trustee Gibson, Chair of the Governance and Evaluation committee.

10. Results of the 2017 District Feedback Survey

From April 3 to April 30, 2017, the 2017 District Feedback Survey was administered to students, staff, parents and community. The results from the surveys were compiled into a District summary report to the Trustees that provided the results for all respondent groups (students Grades 3 and 5; students Grades 8 and 11; staff, parents, and community).

11. Strategic Plan Update: Priority 3, Goal Three – Governance and Engagement

The Trustees were provided an update of the District’s Strategic Plan for Priority 3, Goal Three – Governance and Engagement. The update provided an overview of the District’s governance efforts, a summary of 2017 District Feedback Survey data relating to governance efforts and identified opportunities for next steps.

12. Bereavements

The Vice-Chair reported the passing of Ms Megan Campbell, Ms Carla Josephs and Ms Cheryl Yaremchuk.

13. Delegation of Authority – 2017 Municipal Election Board Recess

MINUTE BOOK

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

“1. That in accordance with Sections 67(1), 65(2) and 65(3) of the *School Act*, any special board meetings during the 2017 municipal election Board recess be at the call of the Board Chair or, in her absence, the Board Vice-Chair.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“2. That, in accordance with Section 61(1) of the *School Act*, effective September 12, 2017, delegation of authority to the Superintendent of Schools to make decisions during the 2017 municipal election Board recess on behalf of the Board be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“3. That a report of all such decisions be brought to the October 24, 2017, public board meeting.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Draper announced that September 29, 2017, is Orange Shirt Day. She encouraged everyone to wear an orange shirt on September 29th as a commitment to the principle that in schools and communities ‘every child matters’. She also shared that at noon on September 29, 2017, at City Hall, there will be an opportunity to learn about how a story from a residential school is inspiring reconciliation, inclusion and creating awareness across Edmonton.

Trustee Martin thanked the principals and staff in Ward D for everything they did for him during his term as Trustee. Trustee Martin also thanked the Superintendent for his four years of exceptional service and the members of the Infrastructure committee for their diligence and great accomplishments.

Trustee Martin thanked his colleagues for all that has been accomplished during the 2013-2017 term and stated that he appreciated the cohesive and collaborative approach of the Board as a whole.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson referenced the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Board Policy and requested that Administration develop a report indicating the legal requirements the District is obliged to follow, the safeguards embedded in District practices, the engagement process the District used several years ago in the development of the policy, and District experience since the policy was introduced.

K. Notices of Motion

MINUTE BOOK

Trustee Johner served notice of motion that the Board of Trustees research and create a policy setting out the conditions under which a school would be renamed and the process for doing so.

Trustee Stirling served notice of motion that the Board of Trustees affirms our commitment to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of sexual and gender minority students as stated in HFA.BP and HFA.AR, including students' participation in gay-straight alliances (GSAs) and queer-straight alliances (QSAs), and will not disclose information about students' participation in these groups to any person without the student's consent. District staff will not refer students to programs or services that attempt to change or repair a student's sexual orientation or gender identity, such as reparative or conversion therapy and that the board of trustees will write a welcome letter to all Edmonton Public Schools GSAs and QSAs including this affirmation of our support.

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

"That notice of motion be waived."

IN FAVOUR: Trustees, Draper, Ip, Janz, Johner, Martin and Stirling

OPPOSED: Trustees Adams, Chubb and Gibson

(DEFEATED)

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 6:00 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations