

**MINUTE BOOK****Board Meeting #05**

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, February 6, 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  
Lisa Austin  
Grace Cooke  
Ron MacNeil  
Karen Mills

Leona Morrison  
Kathy Muhlethaler  
Lorne Parker  
Kent Pharis  
Madonna Proulx

Darrel Robertson  
Mike Suderman  
Liz Yule

**Board Chair:** Michelle Draper

**Recording Secretary:** Shirley Juneau

**Staff Group Representatives**

CUPE Local 3550 – Carol Chapman, President and Janice Kube, Vice-President and Gloria Lepine, Chief Steward

CUPE Local 474 – John Vradenburgh, President and Barry Benoit, Executive Director

CUPE Local 784 – James Niven, 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

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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.

### A. **O Canada**

The Board Chair advised that the Senate passed a bill to make O Canada lyrics gender neutral by replacing “in all thy sons command” with “in all of us command”. She explained that the bill has not yet received royal assent to become law, so, for now, the lyrics remain unchanged.

### 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 February 6, 2018, Board meeting be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### D. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair reported that she was proud to represent the District at the celebration of the UNESCO International Day of the Arabic Language on January 30, 2018. She shared that the District was recognized for Arabic-English bilingual programs, and also for the work that has been done with Alberta Education to develop the Arabic Language Arts K-12 curriculum. The Board Chair advised that this curriculum will be available across the province this fall.

The Board Chair explained that the Arabic bilingual program is the District's fastest growing language program, offered at seven schools with over 1300 students enrolled. She said the program means students of Arabic background can remain connected to their cultural heritage and it also provides the opportunity for students of other backgrounds to gain a new appreciation of another culture. The Board Chair remarked that learning a second language improves performance across all subject areas. She said that the District offers more than 30 alternative programming options for families, and is proud to be able to offer so many opportunities for students.

The Board Chair advised that she had the pleasure of representing the Board at the public announcement of a Research Chair in support of Child and Adolescent Mental Health in Alberta. The Chair is being established through CASA and the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Alberta.

She explained that CASA provides mental health services for infants, children, adolescents and their families within greater Edmonton and from central and northern Alberta. She said that the

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District has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with CASA, and is grateful for the expert care they offer to students and their families.

The Board Chair reported that the District is contributing \$50,000 towards the Research Chair position because it directly relates to two areas of focus in the District:

1. Providing effective supports for students facing mental health challenges, and
2. Increasing staff awareness and understanding around mental health.

The Board Chair remarked that the research will be immediately relevant in the province and in District classrooms. She said the support the District is providing demonstrates the District's commitment to the health and well-being of students and of children and youth across the province.

#### **E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent stated that the District opened the Jan Reimer and Michael Phair schools since the winter break and is looking forward to the opening of the Kim Hung School on Wednesday, February 8, 2018, and Shauna May Seneca School on February 15, 2018.

The Superintendent shared that it is open house season once again. He said that families are preparing for pre-enrolment, which will begin on March 12, 2018. He advised that schools will be opening their doors to help prospective students find the best fit for them in the fall. The Superintendent encouraged families to visit schools, meet the staff, and get a first-hand view of the facilities and options available to them. He advised that materials to help prepare students and families for open house events and pre-enrolment have been posted on the District website.

The Superintendent reported that he was able to attend the Hockey Helps Kids launch last week at Roger's Place and explained that the District has five school teams participating in the Hockey Helps kids this year and announced the schools and their team captains:

- Dan Knott School – Captain Milan Lucic. Charity of Choice: The Steadward Centre for Personal and Physical Achievement
- Dr. Donald Massey School – Captain Patrick Maroon. Charity of Choice: Edmonton Humane Society
- Mary Butterworth School – Captain Ryan Nugent-Hopkins. Charity of Choice: Dogs with Wings
- Westmount School – Captain Connor McDavid. Charity of Choice: United Way (Alberta Capital Region)
- D.S. MacKenzie School – Captain Leon Draisaitl. Charity of Choice: Mental Health Foundation

The Superintendent explained that videos were created by each of the schools and were shared at Roger's Place last week. The videos are online for perspective voters to view, pick their favorite charity and cast their votes. He encouraged everyone to go online and cast their vote. He advised that the Edmonton Oiler's Community Foundation will be donating \$25,000 to the charity that receives the most votes and that each of the other charities will receive \$10,000. On behalf of the

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District, the Superintendent thanked the Edmonton Oiler's Community Foundation for their work with students and the District.

### **F. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #04 – January 23, 2018

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #04 held January 23, 2018, 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. Report #01 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held January 23, 2018)

Information was received regarding actions taken at the January 23, 2018, Caucus Committee meeting.

The Board Chair explained that the Memorandum of Agreement for CUPE Local 784 (Maintenance Staff) achieves the broader bargaining objectives that were set out in advance of negotiations, as well as other important objectives identified during the negotiations. She remarked that the District is pleased that the agreement provides stability for maintenance employees and the District over the longer term. The Board Chair commented that the Board believes agreement is in keeping with the provincial government's expectation that all parties be responsive to the current fiscal environment, while effectively managing operations. She thanked everyone involved in the negotiation process for their time and positive approach and stated the maintenance employees are valued and integral members of the District.

3. Motion re Transportation Funding, Regulations and Walk Limits

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“That the Edmonton Public School Board write a letter to the Provincial Government requesting that any changes to transportation funding, regulations, or walk limits, should be made no later than March 1, 2018, to allow school boards time for contingency planning with parents and provide clarity and fairness.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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4. Motion re Integrated Design Approach for an Edmonton Public High School Project

**MOVED BY Trustee Ip:**

**“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 Park.**
- **A milestone schedule to complete preliminary design.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

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

Trustee Adams reported that she attended the following events:

- Board of Trustee’s Strategic Plan Review meeting on January 24 and 25, 2018
- Custodial Bargaining for Local 474 on January 25, 2018
- Jan Reimer School Grand Opening on January 31, 2018

Trustee Adams shared that she also attended the President’s Council Meeting for the Millwoods Community League which consists of 12 Community Leagues in Millwoods, Summerside, the Meadows, Edmonton Police, elected officials, Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) and partners. She said that it was a great opportunity to connect and hear what is happening in the southeast communities as well as to share some pertinent information regarding the Board of Trustees. Trustee Adams commented that a request was made for a report regarding plans for a school in the southeast and advised the group that public consultation meetings will planned in the future.

Trustee Stirling remarked that who we see in leadership shapes us as leaders and that while every school opening is wonderful, she was delighted to attend the opening of Jan Reimer School. She shared that Jan Reimer has been a lifelong inspiration for her and recalls when she was the mayor of Edmonton. She said that seeing Jan Reimer in her role as mayor of the City of Edmonton when she was a teenage girl attending Edmonton Public Schools let her know that anything was possible for her as a young woman and helped set her on the path to being a Trustee today. Trustee Stirling thanked Jan Reimer and many other courageous women leaders who have made Edmonton what it is today.

Trustee Stirling thanked Ottewell School for inviting her to join them for their Wellness Day on January 31, 2018. She said this one-day in-school conference featured partners from many organizations in the community as well as District staff who offered sessions related to physical

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and mental health and wellness as well as career pathways and offered an engaging day of learning for Ottewell students.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked the parent councils at Hardisty, Mount Royal and Gold Bar Schools for hosting her at their meetings held in the last two weeks. She said these schools have strong parent councils and she was pleased to receive so many great questions which ranged from concerns around mental health, to questions about the government's curriculum redesign.

Trustee Estabrooks reported that she had the pleasure of spending the morning talking to students and staff at Highlands School with Principal Brad Burns. She said the beautiful art work at the school included art pieces by newly elected City Councilor Aaron Paquette. Trustee Estabrooks noted that Highlands will be the site of the modernized K-9 school and that it was wonderful to see the excitement building over this project.

Trustee Estabrooks remarked that it was an honour to attend the Jan Reimer School opening. She said that Jan Reimer has been, and continues to be, an inspiration to many women in politics. Trustee Estabrooks commented that it is fitting to name the school after the city's first and only female mayor to date.

Trustee Gibson advised that he would be unavailable to attend the opening of the Kim Hong School opening on Wednesday evening and requested that Administration share his regrets.

Trustee Johner advised that the Festival of Youth Voices would be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at NAIT in the Centre for Applied Technology. She shared that students from around the world, including students from Queen Elizabeth School, will be collaborating online to develop a white paper on understanding and responding to the challenges of climate change from a global youth perspective. Trustee Johner shared that there will also be an Art for Change event on March 6, 2018, where exhibitions will showcase the art work of students and professional artists, on subjects of climate change, sustainability and the environment.

**J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information - None**

**K. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Estabrooks served notice of motion that the Board of Trustees continue its strong commitment to public education and advocate the provincial government begin phasing out public funding of private schools and reinvest that money in public classrooms.

**L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.**

**M. Adjournment: 3:05 p.m.**

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**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Michelle Draper, Board Chair

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Karen Mills, Director of Board and  
Superintendent Relations