

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, June 5, 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

Student Trustees

Astrid Krueger

Farzeen Ather

Zachary Flynn

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

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 Stirling:

**“That the agenda for the June 5, 2018, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair reported that on May 25, 2018, the Art at the Centre display was held at the Centre for Education. She explained the event showcased student artists and their 248 pieces of artwork and that the pieces of art will be featured throughout the Centre for Education in the next school year. The Board Chair advised that the 248 pieces were chosen from 1,200 submissions. She thanked all the student artists whose pieces will make a more beautiful workplace for everyone who works at or visits the Centre for Education.

The Board Chair advised that she was honoured to attend the Educational Assistant celebration on May 31, 2018. She explained that Education Assistants work alongside teachers to ensure every student in the District has the opportunity to learn, no matter what special requirements students may have. The Board Chair said the work of the Educational Assistants is vital to ensure that students receive support developing their language, motor, speech and social skills.

The Board Chair reported that she attended the Rideau Park 40th anniversary Tea and Volunteer Appreciation event on May 31, 2018. She commented that for four decades, the school has had tremendous community and volunteer support and that it is remarkable that some of the first students that attended Rideau Park School could now be parents, dropping their own children off at the school and possibly continuing a family connection to the German language.

The Board Chair shared that June 1, 2018, was Reconciliation in Education Day that reminded everyone of the important relationship and promise to be good neighbours to one another, and good stewards for children. She advised that in partnership with Edmonton Catholic Schools and the City of Edmonton there were a series of events in recognition of reconciliation in education with the hope that events such as this one will help build a greater understanding of reconciliation and stronger futures for everyone.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

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The Superintendent announced that two District teachers, Ms Linda Hut and Ms Stacey Taylor recently received national recognition with Certificates of Achievement from the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence. He explained that Ms Linda Hut teaches 600 hundred students from 25 classes in a week of hands-on, inquiry-based learning at Edmonton City Hall where students learn about municipal government and consider issues such as equality, poverty, reconciliation and the environment. The Superintendent noted that Ms Taylor is a teacher at the Victoria School with a fine arts background, and is passionate about integrating the arts into all subject areas and that she set the direction in the school for the acceptance of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) students and for providing a safe learning environment. The Superintendent congratulated both teachers and recognized the great work they do for District students.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #12 – May 22, 2018

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #12 held May 22, 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. Motion re: Review of Edmonton Public Schools Policy EM.BP Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Use

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

**“That the Board review its tobacco polices, considering the listed items in the model policy put forward by Action on Smoking on Health and the upcoming legalization of cannabis.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

3. Consideration of School Closure to Facilitate the Westlawn Consolidation Project

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

**“1. That the Board approve a motion to consider closure of Afton School.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That the Board approve a motion to consider closure of Glendale School.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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**“3. That the Board approve a motion to consider closure of Sherwood School.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“4. That the Board approve a motion to consider closure of Westlawn School.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“5. That the Board approve a motion for the Board Chair to send a letter to the Minister of Education requesting exemption from Sections 4 to 7 of the Closure of Schools Regulation (Alberta Regulation 238/97).”
IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adams, Draper, Estabrooks, Gibson, Ip, Janz, Johner and Stirling
OPPOSED: Trustee Dunn
(CARRIED)**

4. Student Senate – Summary of Work Accomplished

The Student Senate presented a summary of their 2017-2018 work to the Board of Trustees.

There was a short break in the meeting.

5. Strategic Plan Update – Building Capacity and Wellness: Supporting Staff through Their Career Journey

The Board of Trustees received an overview of efforts being taken in support of Priority 2, Goal Three: Building Capacity Through a Culture of Collaboration and Distributed Leadership with the outcome that staff who are supported through access to professional development, awareness of career opportunities and development of positive relationships and culture tend to stay with an organization, promote the benefits of working for the organization to others and are more engaged in their work and the goals of the organization.

Trustee Estabrooks left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

6. Developing Core Competencies in Technology for Students
(Response to Request for Information #017)

Information was provided that there are currently many ways that District schools are developing competencies in coding with students, both during instructional time and outside of the classroom. There are a range of courses at the junior high and senior high level that provide opportunities for students. For example, Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) and Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses are available that contain learning outcomes through which students develop computer programming, coding and or robotics skills and knowledge development. In the 2016-2017 school year, there were 8,894 successful completions of high school computer science courses in which coding was embedded as part of the learning.

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I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams submitted the following written report:

The Policy Review Committee received excellent feedback from students at three different high schools, a parent meeting at Highlands and a meeting with leaders from several different organizations that work with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples. The feedback from these meetings was very valuable and informative and will not only be very helpful in updating the Edmonton Public Schools Aboriginal Education Policy, but also provides the District a much deeper understanding of the needs and issues that must be addressed for the success for the District's First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students.

Trustee Adams was honoured to bring greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees at the Grade 9 farewell, to congratulate the graduating students and to thank the staff and the parents of Michael A. Strembitsky School for their hard work that brought them to their day of celebration. Trustee Adams shared that it was a very personal and special time together and that the Michael A. Strembitsky Orchestra was one of the highlights of the night.

Trustee Adams reported that the Vaisakhi Celebration at Meyokumin School was a wonderful success. She advised that children from every grade performed their cultural dances adorned with beautiful outfits before a full house. Trustee Adams was pleased to bring greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees and thanked Principal Brierley and the staff their work in making the celebration such a success.

Trustee Adams was pleased to attend the Reconciliation in Education event at City Hall to honour and celebrate the heart of reconciling with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. She advised that several First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students from across Edmonton attended the ceremony as well.

Trustee Adams reported that she presented the motion from Trustee Dunn at the Alberta School Boards Association Zone 2/3 meeting to advocate to the Ministries of Health, Education and Infrastructure for increased access to mental health services in schools through cross-ministerial collaboration and dedicated funding for accredited mental health professionals who work directly in schools. She advised that the motion was discussed and well received by the various boards present.

Trustee Adams advised that she and several other Trustees attended the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) meet and greet and that it was a great opportunity to talk informally and get to know teachers better and to thank them for the great work that they do. She thanked the ATA for organizing this event.

Trustee Adams attended the Westlawn Cluster public meeting May 28, 2018, to discuss the closure of the four schools within the cluster and two new builds taking place at Afton and

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Westlawn. She advised that there was good parent and community attendance with lots of helpful discussion.

Trustee Adams reported that it was at pleasure to attend the Educational Assistants Celebration that was hosted by Inclusive Learning at the Chateau Louis hotel. She commented that Educational Assistants are invaluable to the work that takes place in District schools. Trustee Adams advised that presentations were made by the Board Chair and Superintendent.

Trustees Adams advised that the CUPE Local 474 (Custodial Staff) barbeque was a great evening and that the spirit of comradery was evident as the members and guests enjoyed time together and that the members were pleased by the representation of Trustees.

Trustee Dunn submitted the following written report:

Trustee Dunn thanked Dovercourt and Grovenor Schools for inviting her to their recent School Council meetings. She advised that it is always a pleasure to have discussions with parents about the work of the Board and to consider their feedback in her work with the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Dunn thanked the Westglen School for inviting her to share in the first Traditional Pow Wow that was hosted on May 25, 2018, and that it was a wonderful day of community and culture.

Trustee Dunn attended the celebration of Educational Assistants, the Edmonton Public School Teachers' Appreciation dinner, and the CUPE 474 (Custodial Staff) annual barbeque.

Trustee Estabrooks submitted the following written report:

Trustee Estabrooks thanked the staff of Edmonton Catholic Schools, Edmonton Public Schools and the City of Edmonton for working together on the Reconciliation in Education Day. She advised that she and Trustee Stirling attended. She thanked Queen Elizabeth student Izaiah Swampy Omeasoo for his role in emceeing the event.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked the students, staff and the principals at the Alberta School for the Deaf, McNally High School and Argyll Centre for the warm welcome to the commencement ceremonies and that noted it was an honour to celebrate the achievements of the graduates.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked Principal Norma Nay and teacher Meryl Roberts from Beacon Heights School for hosting the Volunteer Appreciation Tea.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked CUPE 474 (Custodial Staff) for hosting their annual barbeque and dance and reported that it was a pleasure to share the evening with everyone in attendance.

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Trustee Stirling provided the following written report:

Trustee Stirling thanked the ATA for inviting Trustees to mingle with teachers at their meet and greet event on May 25, 2018. This was a great opportunity to hear from teachers about their work and to share the role of a Trustee. They had the opportunity to celebrate the work of ATA volunteers at the appreciation dinner on May 31, 2018.

Trustee Stirling had the opportunity last week to attend the annual conference of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education and to hear about some of the great research in education happening across Canada, including research that is being done in the District. She is proud of the role that Edmonton Public Schools plays in contributing to research and leadership regarding education, and that this is exemplified in the work being shared nationally and internationally by District researchers and research partners as well as District staff who are pursuing graduate studies.

Trustee Stirling reported that a new resource has been developed by Dr. Jason Harley from the University of Alberta, called the Edmonton Queer History App, which was created using best practices in pedagogy and educational psychology. She advised that the app is available to educators in teaching youth about LGBTQ history in Edmonton in an age-appropriate and accessible way. She explained that the app features Michael Phair and includes a photo of the Michael Phair School.

Trustee Stirling congratulated the 50th graduating class from W.P. Wagner School and commented that she was proud to see District students cross the stage and to celebrate half a century of student success.

Trustee Stirling was honoured to join several Trustees, Edmonton Catholic Schools and the City of Edmonton to mark Reconciliation in Education Day. She reported that the ceremonies and walk are always so moving and are an important part of recommitting to roles and responsibilities in reconciliation and to Treaty relationships in amiskwaciy-waskahikan.

Trustee Stirling reported that on June 2, 2018, she had the pleasure of bringing greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees at the CUPE 474 (Custodial Staff) barbecue and to celebrate the important work of the District's custodial staff in creating safe and welcoming environment in District schools.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson requested that Administration clarify whether next step actions listed in recommendation reports should be specifically included as part of the motion(s).

K. Notices of Motion - None

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L. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.

M. **Adjournment:** 5:35 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations