

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #06**

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 20, 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

Farzeen Ather

Zachary Flynn

Astrid Krueger

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

CUPE Local 3550 – Janice Kube, Administrative Assistant and Janis Zielke, 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

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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.

A. O Canada 

B. Roll Call: (2:05 p.m.)

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

**“That the agenda for the February 20, 2018, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair attended the Edmonton Chinese New Year Singing and Dancing Gala on February 18, 2018, along with Trustee Ip, the Master of Ceremonies, and Dr. Parker to mark the Lunar New Year. The Board Chair explained that the Confucius Institute plays an important role in supporting the District’s Chinese Bilingual program, which celebrated its 35th anniversary last year. She said this year holds special significance because it is the 10th anniversary of the Confucius Institute in Edmonton and that this successful program began in 1982 with a class of 33 Kindergarten students. The Board Chair remarked that it has flourished, thanks to support and hard work from Edmonton’s Chinese community, including the Confucius Institute. The Board Chair thanked the Director, Dr. Wei Li for all his great work.

The Board Chair reported that on February 15, 2018, the Metro Chairs met with the Minister of Education to discuss transportation, ways to improve the bus system for students and the importance of public consultation. She said they also discussed mental health, supports for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and early learning.

The Board Chair shared that February 15, 2018, marked the last of the District’s school opening celebrations with the opening of Shauna May Seneca School. She added that it was a wonderful testament to a strong leader whose contributions have served to make the world a better place.

The Board Chair thanked the Government of Alberta for funding of the 11 new schools the District opened this year, her colleagues on the Board of Trustees for their tireless advocacy efforts, and the staff and community of Edmonton Public Schools for all the hard work to make these amazing learning environments a reality.

The Board Chair reported that the District is engaged in ongoing discussions with the Edmonton Catholic School Board to extend the District’s shared bussing services. She said that both Administrations are working together and have identified 11-12 routes where buses can be shared

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by both jurisdictions in the 2018-2019 school year and going forward. The Board Chair advised that transportation staff from both districts, are continuing to identify additional efficiencies for September 2018 and work is ongoing.

The Board Chair advised that Pink Shirt Day is on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. She explained that Pink Shirt Day started following an anti-bullying stand of two Grade 12 Nova Scotia students in 2007. The Board Chair said that the students took action after witnessing two Grade 9 students being bullied for wearing pink to school and encouraged their schoolmates to wear pink to send a message against bullying. Since then, the Pink Shirt Day Campaign has sent a powerful message that *Bullying Stops Here*. She remarked that everyone has a role to play in promoting healthy relationships and preventing bullying in schools, homes and communities.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent shared his appreciation of the Board of Trustees for their advocacy not only pertaining to the new schools and builds that are happening within the District but their advocacy for quality learning environments for all students. He commented that there are many things to celebrate with new schools openings and that there are many challenges and opportunities in the future. The Superintendent said that it is a pleasure to serve a Board that has this kind of vision in mind for all the students in the District.

The Superintendent congratulated Kim Hung and Shauna May Seneca Schools on their grand openings. The Superintendent thanked not only the staff of Edmonton Public Schools who have worked hard to open the new buildings but also thanked the communities and parents. He said there is a lot of work happening to organize and create new parent councils, along with exciting fundraisers to support initiatives in their local communities.

The Superintendent reminded everyone that Hockey Helps Kids is still in progress and that this is the last week to vote. He encouraged everyone to go to the Hockey Helps Kids website, watch the amazing videos and to vote.

The Superintendent thanked everyone for their patience and understanding. He shared that the month of February historically is a tough month due to the long days and winter and that people's tempers can start to wear thin on occasion. The Superintendent remarked that staff in schools and in Central are doing an incredible job of showing kindness and understanding in assisting people through some difficult times.

The Superintendent highlighted a few things that are happening in the District in the month of February. He shared that school staff have come up with creative ways to handle indoor recesses during the cold days, and that Central staff continue to do an outstanding job of supporting schools and families through these times. The Superintendent shared that Riverbend School raised fund for the Canadian Cancer Society, at their invitational basketball tournament, students from L.Y. Carins and McKee Schools made Valentine's Day cookies, cards and healthy lunches for

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some of the city's less fortunate, amiskwacy Academy students read with the Grade 1 class at Lorelei School every Thursday; students from Roberta MacAdams School handed out wooden hearts to community members on Valentine's Day; and Calder School students made Valentine's Day cards for women accessing the services of local women's shelters. The Superintendent said that these are just a fraction of the acts of kindness that District schools have demonstrated in communities throughout the city during the month of February.

The Board Chair acknowledged Student Trustee Ather and members of the Student Senate that were present.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #05 – February 6, 2018

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

"That the minutes of Board Meeting #05, held February 6, 2018, be approved as amended."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board of Trustees heard from Mr. Bashir Mohamed regarding the Edmonton Public Schools School Resource Officer program.

H. Reports

2. Report # 2 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held February 6, 2018)

Information was received regarding actions taken at the February 6, 2018, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Motion re Phasing Out Public Funding of Private Schools

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

"That the Edmonton Public Schools 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."

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Dunn, Draper, Estabrooks, Gibson, Ip, Janz, Johner and Stirling

OPPOSED: Trustee Adams

The Motion was CARRIED

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Trustee Gibson suggested that next steps also include ways to engage and inspire communities and parents ensuring they are aware of the limited resources available to public schools.

Trustee Stirling left the meeting at this point.

4. Locally Developed Courses

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools:

- **Academic Achievement through English Language Development 15-25-35 (3)**
- **American Sign Language and Deaf Culture (3Y) 15-25-35**
- **Design Thinking for Innovation 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Drawing (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35**
- **Exploration of Film 7-8-9**
- **Forensic Studies 25-35 (3)**
- **Global Perspectives 25-35**
- **Learning to Lead 7-8-9**
- **Punjabi Language and Culture K-3**
- **Speech and Debate 15 (3)”**

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Ip requested that Administration explain how the Academic Achievement through English Language Development 15-25-35 locally developed course series complements and works with the District’s existing ESL offerings.

The response to this request for information will be provided to the Board of Trustees in a Transmittal Memorandum (TM).

5. Infrastructure Committee Work Plan for 2017-2018

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

“That the Board approve the Infrastructure Committee Annual Work Plan for 2017-2021.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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

6. Strategic Plan Update – First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students

An overview of the District’s First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students, along with what the District is doing to support their academic achievement was provided to the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Stirling returned to the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

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7. Student Senate 2017-2018 Work Plan

The Student Senate presented to the Board of Trustees an update of their progress towards the completion of their 2017-2018 work plan.

The Superintendent suggested that brochures being created by the Student Senate regarding Mental Health Awareness, Time Management and Workload and Transitioning to Post-secondary School be issued to principals for distribution to students throughout the District.

8. Solar Energy Strategy

In alignment with the Provincial focus on sustainable infrastructure and renewable energy, Edmonton Public Schools is proposing a strategic, achievable approach to installing roof-top solar systems on District facilities.

Trustee Dunn left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

9. Learning Disorders – Reading, Writing and Mathematics (Response to Request for Information #009)

Information was provided regarding request for information #009.

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

10. Maintenance of Schools during Extreme Weather (Response to Request for Information #011)

Information was provided regarding request for information #011.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board of Trustees received feedback from Ms Ufuoma Odebala-Fregene regarding the Strategic Plan Update – First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students and the Student Senate 2017-2018 Work Plan reports.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams reported that she had a very interesting and engaging night at the Ekota Parent Council meeting on February 7, 2018. She said that she was asked to share information about the role of a Trustee. She added that due to the keen interest to discuss the Board's policy regarding children with learning and development challenges, a joint Millwoods area information session is being planned for April 2018 with herself and Trustee Stirling. Trustee Adams advised the joint meeting will be hosted by the Ekota Parent Council.

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Trustee Adams shared that on February 9, 2018, she attended the Millwoods Early Childhood Coalition (MWECC) and that it was a great opportunity to connect with the directors and the various community organizations. She shared that the MWECC partners with the Edmonton Public School and Edmonton Catholic districts to host the “Helping Your Child Succeed in Kindergarten” workshop that was held on February 10, 2018 and was open to parents and caregivers with children entering Kindergarten in September.

Trustee Adams reported that she attended the Edmonton Chinese New Year Singing and Dancing Gala on February 18, 2018, with Trustees Dunn and Ip, Dr. Lorne Parker and a large number of dignitaries. Trustee Adams also attended the Chinese New Year Celebration at Meyonokh School. She said that Principal Patterson and staff worked very hard to present a plethora of impressive performances by students from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

Trustee Adams shared that it was a privilege to attend the special night of honour for the opening of Shauna May Seneca School as Ms Seneca was the founder of The Bent Arrow Society. She added that special honour was given to the Aboriginal community throughout the celebration. She remarked that Principal Carter and staff brought this amazing round of school openings to a close with a very fitting, energetic and passionate performance by the students titled, “We are the ones to make it happen, we are the agents of change.”

Trustee Dunn was pleased to be able to visit Spruce Avenue School and see the wonderful work being done by Principal Markwart. She mentioned that it was also a pleasure to be able to attend the Coronation Parent Council meeting, along with Minister Eggen, and discuss parent concerns about infrastructure, funding for refugee students, and the need to partner with the Health Ministry for increased mental health services for students in District schools. She remarked that it was great to see parents from the new Right at Home Housing project across the street which has seen 38 new students at the school.

Trustee Dunn was pleased to join the Westminster Parent Council at their school. She was also delighted to attend Chinese New Year celebrations at Dovercourt School and celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Chinese Bilingual Program at Bonnie Doon Mall with Trustees Adams and Ip. She was honoured to join a Pipe Ceremony and Round Dance at Prince Charles School along with many members of the community, and she was thankful to be able to bring her family to this event.

Trustee Draper reported that on February 14, 2018, she and the Chair of the School Council welcomed the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Mitchell, at Dr. Donald Massey School, where she read to the Grade 2 students and then toured a Grade 6 classroom.

Trustee Ip reported he attended the Kim Hung School opening and that the occasion was a wonderful celebration honouring the work of Kim Hung and the Chinese community. Trustee Ip thanked the hard work of District staff for putting on the event.

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Trustee Ip shared that he attended the Winter Walk Day at Nellie Carlson School on February 7, 2018. He commented that it was a day to promote active transportation at the school where parents were encouraged to walk their children to school. He remarked that the event was a big success and traffic was reduced by over 50 per cent. He congratulated the Nellie Carlson School.

Trustee Ip reported that on February 9, 2018, he and Trustee Janz met with southwest elected officials including Councilors Cartmell and Walters, MLA Dang, MP Jeneroux and Catholic Trustee Turchansky to discuss issues of importance to education and the southwest.

Trustee Ip had the opportunity to bring greetings on behalf of the Board at the Chinese New Year celebration on February 9, 2018, at Bonnie Doon Mall. He thanked the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association and the many volunteers for putting on a great event.

Trustee Ip thanked the George P. Nicholson School Council and Principal Becker for hosting him at the school for a coffee with the community on February 14, 2018. He said It was a chance to share news from the Board and discuss issues of importance to the school community.

Trustee Ip reported that on February 18, 2018, he was the Master of Ceremonies at the Chinese New Year's Gala hosted by the Confucius Institute of Edmonton. He explained that it was a celebration of Chinese traditional performing arts and many Edmonton Public School students were showcased. Trustee Ip shared that the event was attended by local dignitaries including Deputy Premier Hoffman, Chair Draper, and the Vice Consul General Xiao Jun of the Consulate of the People's Republic of China in Vancouver. Trustee Ip thanked Dr. Wei Li and his staff for all of their hard work in putting on the event.

Trustee Janz thanked the Harry Ainlay School council for hosting the "Pretzels and Root Beer" event with Trustee Janz. He said that there was great conversation and many fantastic questions to inform his work going forward.

Trustee Janz commented on a play that he recently attended and shared the following statistics that framed the play:

- The retail industry is the single largest jobs category in the country, employing 1.96 million people in 2016, according to Statistics Canada.
- Target's closure two years ago left nearly 18,000 low-income Canadian workers without jobs.
- Hudson's Bay Co. will reportedly cut 2,000 jobs by 2018.
- In April, the number of 2017 bankruptcies in the US had already equaled the bankruptcy total in all of 2016.

Trustee Janz commented that he found the play powerful, and most enjoyable, and said what stuck with him was the context for future graduates. He said for the students who are graduating in 2018 this is their new reality, but what about the students who will be graduating in 2030?

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Trustee Janz said as the reality changes and automation becomes more prevalent, aspects of education are going to have to change. He questioned if the District is prepared, not just for the changes to students but to the changes to schools and the teaching profession.

Trustee Janz shared that parents have raised these concerns with him and as we look ahead to our work readiness and career pathways conversations, these changes need to be kept in mind.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information - None

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Draper served notice that she will make a motion that the Board of Trustees submits the District's Solar Energy Strategy to the province and advocates for funding for implementation of the plan.

M. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 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