

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #11

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, May 8, 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
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.

A. O Canada 

Ms Kaleia Simons-Cook, a Grade 11 student from Victoria School led the singing of O Canada.

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

**“That the agenda for the May 8, 2018, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Recognition

1. School Name Honourees

The Board Chair announced the following school names selected by the Board of Trustees for three new schools set to begin opening in September 2020:

- Heritage Valley - Dr. Anne Anderson School
- Larkspur - Thelma Chalifoux School
- McConachie - Sorayah Hafez School

There was a short break in the meeting.

E. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair reported that on April 30, 2018, the grand opening of the Maclab Theatre at Lillian Osborn School was attended by Trustees Adams, Janz and Ip, the Superintendent and many staff. She shared that the theatre exists because of the hard work of dedicated community partners, many businesses, community leagues, families and individuals that have donated time or money to make the theatre a reality. The Board Chair thanked the Edmonton Public School staff involved in making this happen. She also thanked Trustee Ip for the many hours he has spent working with the school and the South Edmonton Arts and Theatre Society (SEATS) ensuring there was the funding and support needed to open the theatre.

The Board Chair commented that the Maclab Theatre will be an incredible asset to students both at Lillian Osborne School and at other schools in the Riverbend-Terwillegar area and the entire community. The Board Chair thanked everyone involved, Principal Hancock, the members of the SEATS committee, the school council, staff and students.

The Board Chair reported that on May 3, 2018, Edmonton Public Schools hosted a Treaty 6 and Métis Nation flag raising ceremony in the spirit of reconciliation and healing. She explained that the flag raising ceremony recognized the District’s relationship with Treaty 6 and Métis people. The Board Chair said that respectful acknowledgement of traditional Indigenous territory is a

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major step in renewing relationships with Indigenous people. The Board Chair advised that the Board will be providing all District schools and buildings with flags to display indoors.

The Board Chair reported that on May 4, 2018, the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation hosted the 9th Annual Ready for Life fundraising breakfast and lunch in support of full-day Kindergarten programs. She advised that the events included amazing student entertainment and inspirational speakers all of which is a celebration of the great things happening in District schools as a result of Edmonton's generous community. The Board Chair thanked the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation for the great work they do in supporting full-day Kindergarten programming.

The Board Chair reported that the Canadian Mental Health Association's Mental Health Week is an annual national event that takes place in May to encourage people from all walks of life to learn, talk, reflect and engage others on all issues relating to mental health. The Board Chair shared that the theme "Getting Loud" means speaking up to stop the discrimination and the stigma that usually goes hand in hand with mental illness. She said the louder everyone gets, the bigger the difference everyone can make and there is a lot of difference to be made. The Board Chair said that this means speaking up to raise awareness and build support for someone at work, at home or for oneself.

The Board Chair reported that she attended the announcement by the provincial government that it is committing an additional \$5 million dollars to Mental Health Capacity Building in schools across the province. She said that both the Government of Alberta and Edmonton Public Schools understand the great need for mental health resources for children and adolescents and this is why the Board passed a motion on April 24, 2018, asking for increased access to mental health services in schools. She remarked that it is recognized that children and youth need to be healthy in order to do their best learning at school, and mental illness or other mental health concerns can significantly impact a student's ability to learn and succeed in school. The Board Chair said that additional funding will make a difference on the front line, providing important supports for students. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Board Chair thanked the Government of Alberta for their commitment to students across the province.

The Board Chair advised that May 17th is *International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia* and that this day belongs to no one individual; rather it is about people hoping for a prejudice-free world that can provide a place at the table for everyone regardless of their sexual orientation. She explained that May 17th is set aside to fight homophobia, transphobia and biphobia to be supported by all of those actively involved in a civil society.

F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked the Board of Trustees for their vision and the raising of the Treaty 6 and Metis flags for all District schools and buildings. He said this demonstrates the District's strong

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commitment to truth and reconciliation and that it was a proud moment for all students and staff when the flags were raised at the Centre for Education on May 3, 2018.

The Superintendent explained that the District can seem like a large complex organization. He shared that one of most consistent things the District has is the leadership of principals in schools and he encouraged students, parents and community members to reach out to them for support.

G. Minutes

2. Board Meeting #10 – April 24, 2018

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #10 held April 24, 2018, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

H. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board of Trustees heard from Mr. Dave Colburn regarding school health from a provincial perspective and Dr. Kim Kelly regarding a comprehensive school health approach.

I. Reports

3. Locally Developed Courses

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“That the following Locally Developed Courses be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools:

- **ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25**
- **ESL Introduction to Science 15**
- **Introduction to the Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway 35**
- **Mathematics (IB) 25**
- **Pre-Engineering 25-35**
- **Special Needs Educational Assistant: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35”**

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

4. Strategic Plan Update – Student Wellness and Citizenship

Information was provided that highlighted the work of schools and central services in support of building student wellness and citizenship in direct response to Priority 2 Goal One of the 2014-2018 District Strategic Plan.

5. Bereavement

The Vice-Chair reported on the passing of Ms Sudeep Jaswal.

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J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams provided a written report for inclusion in the minutes as follows:

On April 27, 2018, Trustee Adams attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 meeting in Edmonton as a Board delegate. They discussed various board motions for the upcoming ASBA Spring General meeting being held in Red Deer, Alberta on June 4, 2018.

On April 28, 2018, Trustee Adams volunteered at the Great Race for the Edmonton Federation Community Leagues fundraiser that was held at Hawrelak Park. She thanked the organizing committee for their work that contributed to another successful event in support community leagues.

On April 29, 2018, she and Trustee Gibson attended a candlelight vigil at the Millwoods sports park to honour female victims of violence, specifically, Asifa Bano from India. Trustee Adams was honoured to share words of comfort and encouragement at the vigil.

On April 30, 2018, Trustee Adams attended the professional development session at J. Percy Page School on how to differentiate between inclusion, integration, seclusion and exclusion and how to move towards the desired goal of inclusion.

On April 30, 2018, Trustee Adams attended the Mental Health Conference led by the Student Senate at Strathcona School. She indicated that there was good representation from various high schools and a variety of meaningful activities and useful resources offered. Trustee Adams said the development of three pamphlets, Your Time, Finding Time and Using Time, is a demonstration of the great work and creativity produced by District student leaders.

On April 30, 2018, Trustee Adams attended the grand opening of the Maclab Theatre at Lillian Osborne School and reported that it is an impressive example of community and school collaboration.

On May 1, 2018, Trustee Adams visited with principals from Ellerslie Campus and Michael Strembitsky School.

On May 2, 2018, Trustee Adams reported that the District Leadership meeting, led by the Superintendent, was very informative as he shared the significant work being done within the District and stressed the importance of accuracy with their school budgets.

On May 3, 2018, Trustee Adams was honoured to attend the Parent Council meeting at Michael Strembitsky School where there were discussions regarding high school accommodation for the southeast and timely intervention for special needs students.

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Trustee Dunn shared that It was a very powerful experience to witness the raising of the Treaty 6 and Metis flags last week, and is grateful for the work of the previous Board of Trustees, District staff and the many individuals from First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities who work directly with the District regarding truth and reconciliation.

Trustee Dunn commented that she enjoyed the Ready for Life fundraiser for the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation and said it is such an important cause that supports students in full-day Kindergarten.

Trustee Dunn reported that it was a highlight to attend Art in the HeArt 2018 at the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts where artwork from students at Delton, John A. McDougall, Oliver, Norwood and Spruce Avenue Schools was displayed.

Trustee Dunn shared that the Ross Sheppard School invited parents to their professional development session on two evenings. She said that she attended as a parent and heard positive feedback that it was a wonderful way to include parents of future students into the high school.

Trustee Dunn reported that the Student Mental Health conference hosted by the District's Student Senate was an important student-led event focused on mental health and the she was impressed by the leadership of the students at this event.

Trustee Estabrooks shared that she was honoured to have been part of the raising of the Treaty 6 and Métis flags ceremony and said it is an important step towards truth and reconciliation. She thanked the Elders, Enoch Cree Nation Chief, Billy Morin and President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Audrey Poitras for sharing the day with the District.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked the Oliver Community League for inviting her to their Annual General Meeting (AGM) and appreciating the value of including a School Board Trustee in community discussions.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked Principal Darrin DeGrande and the teachers at A. Blair McPherson School for the warm welcome and the she appreciated seeing the Highest Level of Achievement Testing (HLAT) test marking.

Trustee Stirling reported that on April 30, 2018, she was pleased to bring greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees at the Student Senate's Stepping Forward Together student mental health conference. She said that she is very proud of the students' leadership on mental health and wellness and how they moved beyond awareness and into action.

Trustee Stirling shared that District teachers are amazing team players and that she was impressed to see this in action at the McNally Catchment HLAT marking day at A. Blair McPherson School on April 30, 2018, along with Trustee Estabrooks. She explained that this

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event not only allows teachers to share in the work of marking exams, it also provides an important opportunity for professional development as teachers learn from and support each other. Trustee Stirling said it was also great to see the Kindergarten teachers engaged in professional learning around the Early Years Evaluation-Teacher Assessment (EYE-TA) and supporting early childhood development through play.

Trustee Stirling said that as the Board Chair and Superintendent noted, the May 3, 2018, Treaty 6 and Métis flag raising celebration was an incredibly moving day. She remarked that the flags are symbols and that symbols are powerful tools to open space for action. She said that the day marks the beginning of a new relationship and a hopeful future for reconciliation and relationship in Edmonton Public Schools. Trustee Stirling commented that this is just one piece of the bigger work the District has been doing to open space and create better relations with Indigenous people in District schools.

Trustee Stirling thanked Trustee Johner for making sure the Trustees got out to the May 4, 2018, Ready for Life breakfast and luncheon. Trustee Stirling congratulated the organizing team for pulling together such a great event.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Janz requested that Administration provide a report outlining the impact to schools, staffing and the educational experience if the District:

- was not funded for growth
- had a hiring freeze and were not permitted to staff retirements
- were faced with a three per cent decrease to the budget for the next four years
- were faced with a five per cent decrease to the budget for the next four years

L. Notices of Motion

Trustee Janz served notice that he will make a motion that the Board review tobacco policies, considering the listed items in the model policy put forward by Action on Smoking on Health and the upcoming legalization of cannabis.

Trustee Janz served notice that he will make a motion that student transportation fees be eliminated through a phased out approach over the next four years.

Trustee Stirling served notice that she will make a motion that Edmonton Public Schools school dress codes will not be gender specific and will respect the diversity of the student population. Dress codes should be focused on fostering a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self within a productive and safe learning environment and that dress codes should be focused on fostering a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self within a productive and safe learning environment.

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M. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.

N. **Adjournment:** 5:05 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations