

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #01**

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, November 7, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Sherry Adams
Michelle Draper
Shelagh Dunn

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
Kent Pharis
Darrel Robertson

Mike Suderman
Christopher Wright
Liz Yule

Board Chair: Michelle Draper

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau

Staff Group Representatives

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

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The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

B. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

**“That the agenda for the November 7, 2017, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

C. O Canada - Vimy Ridge Academy

D. Remembrance Ceremony

1. Vimy Ridge Academy Remembrance Ceremony

Vimy Ridge Academy conducted a Remembrance Ceremony.

E. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair shared that there are many things happening in November and highlighted that there will be seven school grand openings.

The Board Chair reported that she, several other Board members and the Superintendent celebrated the opening of Ivor Dent School on Monday, November 6, 2017.

The Board Chair shared that together with the District and the community, the province saw promise in a locally developed solution that consolidated three older, underutilized schools into one new build. She explained that the Board of Trustees was involved in the early meetings and discussions about what to do in this area. She explained that it was not always easy as deciding to close schools is not a decision the Board takes lightly but, together, they developed a first-of-its-kind solution for Edmonton Public Schools. The Board Chair said it is something everyone should be proud of and by walking together with the communities of Beverly Heights East and West, Lawton and Rundle; the District is building a legacy of great infrastructure, benefitting children of those communities for years to come.

The Board Chair reported that in 2017 the District opened 11 new schools and thanked everyone who worked very hard to make them ready. On behalf of the Board, the Board Chair thanked the Government of Alberta for funding the construction of these great learning environments.

F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent congratulated Cory MacTaggart, Principal of Westglen School, and Andrew Parker, a teacher at M.E. LaZerte, who were honoured in *Avenue Magazine's* annual Top 40 Under 40 list. The Superintendent explained that they were both honoured for their enthusiasm and passion for making a positive difference in the lives of kids.

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The Superintendent advised that during the next two weeks, Trustees and members of the senior administration team would be visiting several schools for annual results review discussions. The Superintendent shared that results review discussions are open to the public. He explained that results review sessions provide an opportunity to learn more about the great work that's happening in District schools and some of the challenges they face. The Superintendent thanked school staff, Administration and the Trustees for the time and thought put into the results review process.

The Superintendent congratulated the 2017 District Student Awards recipients. He explained that every year, the District recognizes outstanding student accomplishments, contributions and achievements. This year, the District has six award categories for students who were in Grade 12 during the 2016-2017 school year. The Superintendent advised that the six award categories were:

- Academic Excellence Award
- Career and Life Pathways Award
- Fine Arts Award
- Health and Wellness Award
- Humanities Award
- Math/Science/Technologies Award

The Superintendent shared that the District is celebrating 106 Grade 12 students from 20 different high schools and that certificates and congratulations letters were sent to high school principals to distribute to students. He said that the District is also profiling recipients in an online recipient guide, which has been posted on the District website and will be promoted by District social media channels starting later in the afternoon.

The Superintendent explained that the Michael A. Strembitsky Award of Excellence nominees and bronze, silver and gold recipients were recognized at the June 20, 2017, Board meeting and have their own online recipient guide. The online recipient guides can be accessed on the District website.

The Superintendent congratulated all the recipients and shared that he continues to be amazed by the accomplishments of District students. He encouraged everyone to read through the recipients' profiles and accomplishments.

The Superintendent thanked the Board of Trustees for their leadership of the District's work on infrastructure in mature communities. He shared that the opening of Ivor Dent School represented more than bricks and mortar, that it also represented robust community conversations, the creation of a vision for the children and community members of the Greater Beverly area and an investment that will leave a legacy of quality learning spaces and a tremendous community resource for years to come.

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G. Minutes

2. Organizational Board Meeting – October 24, 2017

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

**“That the minutes of the Organizational Board meeting held October 24, 2017, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

H. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

I. Reports

3. Research Findings Related to District Schools’ Participating in the Alberta Education School Nutrition Program

The Trustees received a presentation regarding the preliminary research findings related to District schools participating in the Alberta Education School Nutrition program.

Dr. Sangita Sharma, a Centennial Professor and Endowed Chair of Indigenous Health in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry from the University of Alberta, was a guest for this item.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams shared that it was a delight to read at six elementary schools and one junior high school during Read In week.

Trustee Adams reported that it was an honour to present the Governor General Award to Helen Mah at the J. Percy Page School Awards night. She explained that Helen is an extraordinary young woman and that in spite of her condition of Spinal Muscular Atrophy 2, Helen has achieved some of the highest marks ever seen at J. Percy Page School. Trustee Adams explained that Helen achieved near perfect scores in her Humanities, Second Language and Science classes, including an average of 100% in both Advanced Placement Mathematics 30 and Advanced Placement Chemistry 30.

Trustee Adams shared that she appreciated the opportunity to attend the J. Percy Page and W. P. Wagner catchments reviews. She said she found them to be very encouraging in particular the unity and collaboration that is increasingly benefitting the morale, the leadership and the efficiency of the work in schools. Trustee Adams advised that each of the catchments are taking the challenge of increasing mathematical skills for students very seriously and she looks forward to significant improvements in the coming years.

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Trustee Adams reported that she attended a parent council meeting at Crawford Plains School and shared some of the challenges the school has faced as a result of overcrowding issues. Trustee Adams stated that in the 2016-2017 school year there was an enrollment of 609 students in a school with an optimal enrollment of 435 students. She said that 65 percent of the students were English Language Learners (ELL). Trustee Adams advised that Crawford Plains School supported 325 students and families, as well as 28 surplus staff, who left Crawford Plains to transition to their new school. She said that in spite of the challenges faced by Crawford Plains School, staff demonstrated a great deal of resiliency, morale and maintained excellence in the quality of education that was provided to the students.

Trustee Dunn shared that she has enjoyed the first two weeks in her new role as Trustee for Ward C and that it was wonderful to see the passionate work being done when she attended the catchment reviews. She shared that she enjoyed seeing the work of principals in promoting student success.

Trustee Dunn reported that she was invited by Principal Leanne Moncrieff to tour Dovercourt School and took pleasure in seeing the advocacy for increasing the Mandarin program in this school.

Trustee Dunn reported that she and Trustee Estabrooks would be attending a screening of a documentary and discussion on dyslexia later in the evening being hosted by the Learning Disabilities Association of Edmonton.

Trustee Draper reported that she had the pleasure of attending the 2017 National Healthy Schools Forum and that there were many great speakers, including representatives from the District.

Trustee Draper advised that she attended sessions on supporting mental health and well-being in schools, learned about the essential conditions for the implementation of comprehensive school health of which the District is a leader, including students as change agents, school-specific autonomy, and leadership. She said that Dr. Michael Ungar was one of the keynote speakers and that he expanded the definition of resilience in that it is not simply the ability to overcome adversity, but includes the ability to navigate resources and negotiate for what one needs in culturally meaningful ways. Trustee Draper shared that he spoke about the role schools play in fostering resilience, through providing structure, fostering strong relationships, safety and support as well as a sense of belonging. She said that the forum provided an opportunity to connect with others and also demonstrated that the District is right on track in terms of ensuring the District is comprised of healthy schools.

Trustee Stirling reported that she was pleased to attend two presentations by Bill Howe and Dalyce McElhinnery at the University of Alberta, Centre for Global Citizenship Education and Research Conference regarding work being done at John D. Bracco with Abundant Communities Edmonton as well as the by the District's diversity team, led by Marlene Hanson, Regan Holt, and Lynn Farrugia. Trustee Stirling thanked the team for connecting research in schools with the

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broader academic community in education and for sharing the District's knowledge and representing the District well.

Trustee Stirling reported that she, Trustee Ip and Superintendent Robertson attended the No Stone Left Alone ceremony, which is now an international event that provides students an opportunity to connect to Remembrance Day on a personal level through learning the individual story of a Canadian who served and gave their life in conflict.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Gibson requested that Administration offer an opinion on the value of a locally developed course with the following characteristics, and if there is value, the steps to undertake such development which would:

1. Provide an opportunity for students to extend the social studies curriculum to discuss contemporary problems facing Edmonton, Alberta and Canada that affect the future of District students in support of Edmonton Public Schools District Priorities 1, 2 and 3.
2. Assists students to hone critical thinking skills and supports Ministerial Order on Student Learning 001/2013 in preparing for life beyond school in support of Edmonton Public Schools District Priority 1.
3. Offers an opportunity to engage speakers from outside the Edmonton Public Schools school community, including residents and community organizations in support of Edmonton Public Schools Priority 3.
4. Is more widely accessible than offerings through Advance Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) programs.

Trustee Gibson requested the following information in support of Career Pathways for the trades:

1. That the District summarize by catchment what course streams Edmonton Public Schools offers at the junior and senior high levels, and if the senior high courses offer dual credit with post-secondary institutions such as NAIT.
2. Describe the current offering for teaching digital design/virtual reality/augmented reality.

K. Notices of Motion - None

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 3:45 p.m.

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The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations