

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, December 11, 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

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

Edmonton Public Teachers – Heather Quinn, 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 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 Johner:

**“That the agenda for the December 11, 2018, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair explained that the District Recognition Program is in its 22nd year and recognizes and celebrates the outstanding contributions that individuals and teams make to their departments, schools and communities. She said that December 4, 2018, was an opportunity for Trustees to celebrate 39 individuals and 20 teams consisting of some of the amazing people whose efforts make the District so great. The Board Chair thanked all who were nominated, attended, organized and participated in the wonderful event.

The Board Chair reported that on December 10, 2018, the Board of Trustees had the opportunity to meet with the members of the Edmonton Caucus where they shared the District’s Strategic Plan that will shape the Board of Trustees work over the next four years. They discussed that the District’s enrolment numbers are growing and are nearing almost 102,000 students. The Board Chair said that the following statics were also shared:

- The District has welcomed over 22,000 students since 2010. For the past eight years, enrolment has increased at least 3 per cent per year
- 9 per cent of students self-identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit
- 11 per cent require specialized supports
- 26 per cent are English Language Learners (which is an average – many schools have 50 per cent or more)

The Board Chair thanked the Government for their continued funding of enrolment growth, and added that the District appreciates that the government has continued to recognize this; and is grateful for the new schools opened in the last two years. She remarked that the new schools provided 19,000 seats, but that the District actually grew by 22,000 students. She stated the District’s most acute shortage is high school space and that even with the Dr. Anne Anderson High School in Heritage Valley, the District will be out of high school space by 2022.

The Board Chair further explained that the shortage of space limits options for class size initiatives, alternative program space, and decreases the District’s ability to provide space for child care services, which are greatly needed in the city. She mentioned that classrooms are complex, and

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that growth is outpacing school construction, and she added that adequate space and consistent, sustainable funding are crucial to support the growing city and the diverse needs of students.

The Board Chair shared the District's concerns in being able to address the growing mental health matters present in the District. An ideal system would offer the flexibility to provide for the needs of students and families, and different levels of supports based on need, along with additional bridging between services offered through schools, Alberta Health Services and the broader community. She stated that flexible funding allows school districts to target the areas of greatest need and stretch the dollars to their maximum potential.

The Board Chair wished everyone a happy holiday season and said that she is looking forward to a wonderful 2019 of working together with Trustee colleagues, Administration, students, families and community members towards the collective vision of Success, one student at a time.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent offered his sincere thanks and best wishes to District students who have been working incredibly hard during the past four months and wished them a happy holiday and a relaxing winter recess. He thanked parents and community members for being such amazing partners in education. The Superintendent thanked staff for their incredible work in serving children over the past four months and wished them a happy and healthy holiday season.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #05 – November 27, 2018

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #05 held November 27, 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. Grandview Heights School Presentation

The Grandview Heights School shared their career pathways school story.

3. Report #8 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held October 9, 2018)

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Information was received regarding actions taken at the October 9, 2018, Caucus Committee meeting.

4. HAA.BP First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Second Reading

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

**“That Board Policy HAA.BP First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education be read for the second time and approved for further stakeholder input.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

5. Governance and Evaluation Committee Annual Work Plan for 2018-2019

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

**“That the Board approve the Governance and Evaluation Committee Annual work plan for 2018-2019.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Gibson, Chair of the Governance and Evaluation Committee, reported that in the spirit of continuous improvement, Trustees have encouraged the Committee to review and propose a common template for committee work plans. For example, plans presented at this meeting have resource implications that could be more transparent. He advised that this work will be initiated in 2019.

6. Trustee Policy Review Committee Work Plan for 2018-2019

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

**“That the Trustee Policy Review Committee work plan 2018-2019 be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

7. Mental Health Committee Work Plan for 2018-2019

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

**“That the Board approve the Mental Health Committee work plan for 2018-2019.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

8. Infrastructure Committee Work Plan for 2018-2019

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

**“That the Board approve the Infrastructure Committee work plan for 2018-2019.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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9. Results of the 2018 District Feedback Survey

From March 12 to April 16, 2018, the 2018 District Feedback Survey was administered as five separate surveys to students (Grades 3 and 5, 8 and 11), staff, families and community and the results from all respondent groups were provided in the report.

Trustee Gibson suggested that several survey questions be extracted from the survey and re-issued to obtain additional feedback.

The Board Chair suggested offering incentives as a way to increase participation in the survey.

The Superintendent requested time for Administration to review these suggestions.

10. Strategic Plan Update – Success Beyond Schooling

The Strategic Plan Update report provided the Board of Trustees an overview of the efforts being taken in support of the District Strategic Plan, which is unified by Career Pathways. Student growth and success is fostered through meaningful and engaging learning opportunities. Flexible and responsive learning spaces support student-centered learning activities that connect curricular outcomes to the competencies and skills necessary to prepare students for their futures. The support and involvement of community partners across all divisions provides meaning and relevance to curricular learning. Through these relationships, Career Pathway plans are strengthened to support transition to the world of work or post-secondary learning.

Vice-Chair Stirling commented on the heavy academic course loads that students have and questioned whether there were opportunities to integrate career pathways into core subjects or if there other ways for students to integrate some of these pieces of their exploration. The Superintendent commented that there was a potential point of advocacy regarding the questions and concerns being raised around the density of the curriculum in Alberta, and what students perceive they need to take in the high school program of studies to keep as many doors open as possible as they transition to post-secondary. He said that this may be an opportunity to work with post-secondary institutions on their entrance requirements.

11. Bereavements

The Vice-Chair reported on the passing of Mrs. Edna McLafferty and Mr. Doug Monsma.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams submitted the following report:

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On November 28 and 29, 2019, Trustee Adams led two of the Results Review sessions for Ward I along with Assistant Superintendents Morrison and Yule. She reported that this is a very significant and encouraging time for Trustees to hear the results of each school's goals from the past year and the plans in place for the coming year. The discussions that took place were all very informative and enlightening as they each shared the data and the evidence around their work. They celebrated many highlights such as significant advances in literacy, writing and increased teacher capacity through professional development. Meeting the complex needs of each of the students and mental health were shared as areas of concern. Math continues to be an area of focus, and collaboratively principals have been working to create a new assessment for mathematics that they are hoping to implement in 2019. Trustees Adams reported that principals spoke about the significance of the Equity Fund and how it helps to address difficult situations that are challenging schools.

On November 30, 2018, Trustee Adams, Ip, Janz and Vice-Chair Stirling attended the Thought Leaders Forum on Environmental and Energy Education and Sustainability along with District representatives Dr. Parker, Assistant Superintendent of Infrastructure, Mr. Christopher Wright, Managing Director of Infrastructure and Mr. Garry Padlewski, Director of Maintenance and Operations. She reported that the forum consisted of a variety of presenters with a broad range of perspectives and that one of the purposes of the forum was to help advance student learning around energy and environment in District schools.

Trustee Adams reported that the Board of Trustees met on December 4, 2018, to discuss the Board's Advocacy Plan and reviewed committee work plans to determine how they will supplement the overall advocacy plan.

On December 4, 2018, Trustee Adams attended the District Recognition Awards which is a special time to recognize those individuals who go above and beyond to make a difference for students. She thanked the recipients who have impacted District schools in many different ways.

On December 5, 2018, Trustee Adams attended the District Leadership Meeting and thanked Board Chair Draper who brought a special message of appreciation to District principals and leaders for the momentous work done on behalf of District students. She reported that the Superintendent spoke about the amazing capacity of the District's curriculum team and the collaboration that has taken place to prepare for the implementation of the new Kindergarten to Grade 4 curriculum. The Superintendent also talked about the finalizing of the regulations that will set the context for the Individual Safe Spaces in District schools.

On December 5, 2018, Trustee Adams, Board Chair Draper, Trustees Gibson, Ip, Janz, Johner and Stirling attended the Student Senate meeting which was a special time to personally connect with the students and hear about their plans.

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On December 5, 2018, Trustees Adams and Ip attended the Dr. Anne Anderson School feedback session at the Dr. Lila Fahlman School. They had the privilege of attending the presentation of the new high school for parents and community in the southeast as well as meet the partners in the Dr. Anne Anderson, 21st century high school build. She thanked Ms Kim Holowatuk, Supervisor of Infrastructure Stakeholder Engagement and Support and Mr. Christopher Wright, Managing Director of Infrastructure for their representation.

Trustee Adams reported that on December 10, 2018, Minister Eggen and MLAs met with the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent where Board Chair Draper shared the District's Strategic Plan, targeted funding needed for mental health, and emphasized the space shortage, specifically the critical need for a high school in the southeast.

Trustee Draper reported that on November 30, 2018, she was pleased to attend the M.E. LaZerte Interact Club's meeting along with the Rotary Club of northeast Edmonton. She thanked Ms Brenda Tyson and Leadership Teacher Daniel Card for all the great work they do to support this Club.

Trustee Dunn reported that she was delighted to see a large group of parents attend a Ward Council meeting at Ross Sheppard High School on November 27, 2018. She said that parents and community members raised important issues such as student supports, inclusion, professional development, and provincial systems and structures and that they will be working with interested parents and community to set up further events.

Trustee Dunn advised that she attended the opening ceremony at the Reading Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education.

Trustee Dunn shared that she was happy to attend a School Council meeting at Westglen School, to attend results reviews, and witness the inspiring work of staff, schools and community at the District Recognition Awards.

Trustee Dunn wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked the students of Norwood School for bringing the holiday spirit to the Centre for Education earlier in the day and said that Norwood School is within her ward and that she really appreciated the effort that the students and staff made to sing during the Trustee's coffee party.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked District staff as well as parents and community members for attending last week's unveiling of the plans for Highlands Kindergarten to Grade 9 School. She advised that information sessions were held at both Mount Royal and Highlands Schools and included a virtual tour of the modernized building.

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Trustee Estabrooks reported that she had the pleasure of speaking to Grade 12 students at McNally School recently, along with MLA Marlin Schmidt. She remarked that students really appreciate the District's new vision statement and offered valuable feedback on the Career Pathways program and how the District can support them as they make the transition to life after high school.

Trustee Ip reported that on November 28, 2018, he was invited to speak at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities event at King's University College, organized by Inclusion Alberta. He said that he did a joint presentation with Ms Teresa Pinkoski, a former student of the Inclusive Post-Secondary Initiative, about the benefits of inclusion at the university level. Trustee Ip thanked Inclusion Alberta for the invitation and for their work in promoting inclusion across a lifespan.

On November 30, 2018, Trustee Ip participated in a Thought Leaders Forum on environmental education. He reported that it was a gathering of various educational and industry stakeholders to explore the future of environmental education and that the Minister of Education, David Eggen, spoke at the event along with several presenters from education and industry.

On December 2, 2018, Trustee Ip, along with Trustees Estabrooks and Stirling attended the Commemorative Brunch organized by the Alberta Federation of Labour to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

On December 7, 2018, Trustee Ip welcomed parents, students and community members for a first look at the concept design for the Dr. Anne Anderson School. He said that the community also had the opportunity to provide feedback and submit design ideas for the new southwest high school. Trustee Ip thanked the many community members who participated in the consultation.

Trustee Ip congratulated the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation for being chosen by Apricity as the 2019 Partner Charity of Choice. He explained that Apricity is a collective of community change makers who use their skills, talents, and networks to help amplify local causes. Trustee Ip shared that the organization is chaired by Ms Sarah Chan, a local advocate.

Trustee Ip reported that the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation received a \$20,000 donation from a local family foundation and a \$31,000 grant from EPCOR as part of their community investment initiatives.

Trustee Ip advised that the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation annual Wrap and Roll at Kingsway Mall is ongoing throughout the month of December and that the Foundation anticipates raising approximately \$15,000 through this activity. Trustee Ip invited the Trustees to sign up and volunteer for this very worthwhile cause by contacting Ms Alva Shewchuk at the Foundation.

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Trustee Ip left the meeting at this point.

Trustee Stirling represented the Board of Trustees at the November 27, 2018, celebration of Eid Al-Adha at the Alberta Legislature. She explained the event celebrates the spirit of giving and the important contributions of members from Alberta's Muslim community. The event brings people together to connect and also to share in a delicious meal.

On November 28, 2018, Trustee Stirling was invited to join in watching a performance of Shrek Junior that was presented by the students from Mill Woods Christian School for the students at Lee Ridge School.

Trustee Stirling thanked Grace Martin School for a warm welcome at the November 30, 2018, Step into Sakinah Night with families from the Sakinah Circle program. She commented that the evening offered a chance to watch student performances, learn more about the roots of the program, and tour the welcoming learning environment created to support student learning.

On December 2, 2018, Trustee Stirling along with Trustees Dunn, Estabrooks and Ip had the opportunity to attend the Alberta Federation of Labour Memorial Brunch on December 6, 2018. She explained that the event raises funds in support of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and reminds everyone that it takes everyone to end gender-based violence in the community.

The Hazeldean Breakfast Club invited Trustee Stirling to join them on December 3, 2018, where she witnessed their giving hearts and hands at work preparing food for their students. She advised that the program was started by educational assistants at the school who saw a need to make sure every child has the nutrition they need for learning. Trustee Stirling thanked Cobbs Bread for their donations in support of the program.

Trustee Stirling thanked all the staff whose hard work made the December 4, 2018, District Recognition Night run so smoothly and remarked that it was wonderful to get to celebrate the work of District students, staff, and community supporters.

Trustee Stirling said that the December 5, 2018, Student Senate dinner was a great opportunity to connect with this year's group of senators and to learn more about their ongoing committee work. She enjoyed getting to see their governance thinking in action during their debates over how best to organize senate meetings and reporting this year.

Trustee Stirling reported that the December 6, 2018, memorial at the University of Alberta was an important reminder of the need to ensure that District schools are safe and inclusive spaces for girls and women. She said that people can honour the memory of the 14 women killed in Montreal by ensuring that girls have equitable access to opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) or any other pathway where their dreams may take them.

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Trustee Stirling reported that the December 6, 2018, Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services (iSMSS) mixer was a fun evening of connecting with people who are working to support sexual and gender minority youth in the community. She looks forward to continued positive relationships with the staff at iSMSS and their new Executive Director, Dr. Glynnis Lieb.

Trustee Stirling remarked that the December 10, 2018, meeting with the Edmonton Caucus and MLAs was a good chance to share the District's important work and hopes for the future for public education in Alberta. She thanked Board Chair Draper for her leadership in setting up the meeting and in sharing the Board of Trustee's messages with the MLAs.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Janz spoke on behalf Trustee Ip and said that in pursuit of fairness and equity for public school students, staff, and families and in pursuit of predictable sustainable funding to create quality learning environments for all District students, and requested that a brief report be provided regarding the benefits and challenges of a multi-year block funding model for school infrastructure for Edmonton Public Schools which is tied to measurable factors such as student enrolment, age of school buildings, deferred maintenance, projected student growth and need for new schools among other relevant factors. He noted that school infrastructure funding is received from the provincial government.

- How would such a model impact the District's current capital planning process as required by the province?
- Would the District realize financial savings if it were able to access infrastructure funding in flexible multi-year blocks?
- Are there examples of other jurisdictions using a similar block model to fund school infrastructure?
- What are the financial implications of such a funding model for the Government of Alberta?
- What are the potential consequences for student learning if the District is not able to address the deferred maintenance of its aging buildings and growth in new and developing neighbourhoods in a timely manner because of the lack of predictable, sustainable funding?

It was confirmed that the response to this request for information will be provided at the January 22, 2019, Board meeting.

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Janz served notice that he will make a motion that the Edmonton Public School Board advocate to the provincial government that new schools be net zero.

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 5:05 p.m.

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The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations