

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #15**

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 11, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Sherry Adams
Shelagh Dunn
Michelle Draper

Trisha Estabrooks
Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner

Student Trustees

Hussain Alhussainy

Michael Chen

Cindy Liu

Officials

Angela Anderson
Lisa Austin
Grace Cooke
Todd Burnstad
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler
Lorne Parker
Nancy Petersen

Kent Pharis
Darrel Robertson
Mike Suderman
Liz Yule

Board Chair: Michelle Draper

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau

Staff Group Representatives

CUPE Local 3550 – Carol Chapman, President and Gloria Lepine, Chief Steward

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

MINUTE BOOK

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 and Recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day

Ms Sheila Williams, a District Consultant with the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit unit, sang O Canada in Cree.

The Montrose and Westmount School fiddlers played a variety of songs that have attachments to traditional, Métis and Atlantic East Coast music. Mr. Lee accompanied on guitar.

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

The Superintendent advised that Trustee Stirling was absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

**“That the agenda for the June 11, 2019, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair remarked that volunteers, donors and community stakeholders are vital to helping the District and students succeed and thanked everyone for all that they do. She advised that last week, the Board of Trustees, in partnership with the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation, hosted two volunteer appreciation nights at the Royal Alberta Museum and said that it was a tremendous success.

The Board Chair said that the District is relieved to hear about the Government of Alberta’s reassurance they will fund for enrolment growth next school year. She explained that the District is in the middle of its budgeting cycle, so this news comes at a welcome time. The District grows by over 3,000 students every year, including 2019-2020 school year. The Board Chair said that the District appreciates that the Government has heard the needs and will continue to fund growth. The Board Chair explained that the District’s needs continue to be great and that it is facing a high school space crunch in the looming future and hopes the fall budget includes new school and modernization announcements, especially a high school for southeast Edmonton.

The Board Chair said that it is that time of year where the District celebrates students’ success, but also staff’s contributions to Edmonton Public Schools. She advised that this year the District will have over 200 retirees. The Board Chair said she enjoyed celebrating those retiring from CUPE Local 3550 (Support Staff) on June 7, 2019, along with their Executive and the Superintendent. The

MINUTE BOOK

Board Chair advised that the District's Retirement banquet is scheduled for June 20, 2019. She wished staff that will be retiring all the best and thanked them for their many years of service to the District.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent explained that one of his responsibilities is to set attendance areas for schools and that consultation meetings are happening in various communities. The Superintendent expressed his appreciation to parents and community members for their feedback and collaboration in establishing attendance areas. He thanked staff for organizing and facilitating the public sessions.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #14 – May 28, 2019

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #14 held May 28, 2019, 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

The Board Chair stated that the Board was honoured to have Elder Francis Whiskeyjack present at the meeting. She shared the following information about Elder Whiskeyjack:

- He is an Elder from Saddle Lake First Nations, who has devoted his life to teaching traditional Indigenous values to foster understanding and reconciliation.
- He has worked with the District for 17 years as a cultural leader at amiskwaciy Academy.
- He works closely with students, supports professional learning throughout the District and conducts Traditional Sweats and Pipe Ceremonies for both the school and the District.

Elder Whiskeyjack thanked the Board Chair and offered an invocation.

2. Board Policy HAA.BP – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Third and Final Reading

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

**“That Board Policy HAA.BP – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education be considered for the third and final and be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK

There was a short break in the meeting.

3. Student Senate – Summary of Work Accomplished

The Student Senate presented a summary of their 2018-2019 work to the Board of Trustees and showcased their newly created Student Senate website.

The Board of Trustees commended the Student Trustees for everything they have accomplished and shared how proud they were of the Student Trustees and Student Senate.

4. Locally Developed Courses

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the following Locally Developed Courses be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 23, 2023:

- **Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Braided Journeys 15-25-35 (3)**
- **Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **ESL Accelerated English 7-8-9**
- **ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25 (5)**
- **ESL Introduction to Science 15-25 (5)**
- **ESL Introduction to Science 7-8-9**
- **ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-8-9**
- **Inquiry Option 7-8-9**
- **Journalism 15-25-35 (5)**
- **Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 (5)**
- **Performing Arts 15-25-35 (5)**
- **Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)**
- **Yoga 15-25-35 (3 and 5).”**

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. Bereavement

The Board Chair reported on the passing of Mrs. Nicole Carew.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams submitted a written report as follows:

On May 28, 2019, Trustee Adams attended the last Parent Council meeting for the year at Shauna May Seneca. They have been very engaged building their council and enhancing their involvement with the life of the school. Trustee Adams commends them for improving the

MINUTE BOOK

parking and pedestrian situation around the school during peak drop-off and pick-up times. The council also had a discussion regarding the District Strategic Plan.

On May 29, 2019, the Policy Review committee had an opportunity to have conversations with community partners and agencies at the Early Years Engagement Session held at the Center for Education. This consultation is part of several review processes that will take place in the review of the Early Years Policy.

On May 30, 2019, Trustee Adams was honoured to represent the Board of Trustees at the Edmonton Public Teachers Local 37 Annual Appreciation Dinner. Trustee Adams had an interesting discussion with guests at her table regarding teacher's classroom preparations and presentation style, as well as the various ways collaboration is being implemented.

On May 31, 2019, Trustee Adams had the privilege of meeting a number of wonderful volunteers who attended one of two Volunteer Appreciation Nights at the Royal Alberta Museum. This time was intended to be a special night out for District volunteers to enjoy with their families and an opportunity for Trustees to personally express their heartfelt appreciation for the invaluable work of our volunteers for the success of kids.

On June 3, 2019, Trustee Adams attended the Alberta School Boards Association Spring General Meeting in Red Deer along with the Superintendent, Board Chair Draper and Trustee Johner.

On June 4, 2019, Trustee Adams had the privilege of co-facilitating one of the youth sessions at the Headstrong Conference in Red Deer with students from all over Alberta. The presentations and discussions that followed were very significant, both for the students and the feedback provided to the leaders.

On June 5, 2019, Trustee Adams was pleased to attend the last District Leadership Meeting of the year. Following the presentation by the Superintendent, there was an opportunity to connect with principals at the informal gathering in the Atrium and to personally thank them for their commitment and diligence to serve staff and students throughout the year. Principals are significant to the continuing work that takes place in District schools to provide great education for students.

On June 6, 2019, Trustee Adams was honoured to congratulate the Grade 9 graduates at the Dan Knott School farewell ceremony. The graduation committee deserves a huge commendation for the exceptional work that was done in the preparation and planning for this special occasion. They transformed the gym into a beautiful graduation venue that was amazing.

On June 6, 2019, Trustee Adams reports there were many parents who came out to A. Blair McPherson School to share their concerns and perspectives at the Infrastructure Engagement

MINUTE BOOK

Session regarding the Meadows Attendance Area Redesign. Each of the responses were heard and information was transcribed for feedback that will be needed in the days ahead in determining the future redesign.

Trustee Draper attended the Alberta School Boards Association Spring General Meeting on June 3, 2019.

Trustee Draper attended the REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities Mayor's lunch on June 6, 2019.

Trustee Draper thanked the community members who participated in the attendance area discussion for Soraya Hafez School on June 6, 2019.

Trustee Draper was pleased to present at the Cappies awards on June 9, 2019, at the Citadel Theatre. She said students from across Edmonton and beyond gathered on the weekend to celebrate their favourite cast and crew in the Cappies season. Trustee Draper explained that Cappies is an international program that mentors young writers as critics and celebrates theatre arts in high schools.

Trustee Dunn shared that it was an honour to witness the culmination of hard work at graduation ceremonies for Ross Sheppard School, amiskwacy Academy and the Hospital Campus program. She congratulated all the graduates and their supporters, and thanked the Kindergarten to Grade 12 teachers and staff who support students all the way through school.

Trustee Dunn thanked the volunteers and supporters of District schools and the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation. She said it was lovely to meet Ms Sarah Chan and Ms Jackie Whitson with Apricity (a collective of Edmonton-based community change makers passionate about amplifying local causes) who have been supporting the Foundation, as well as the many other contributors and volunteers who came out to the District's volunteer appreciation event at the Royal Alberta Museum.

Trustee Dunn was thankful to attend the Reconciliation in Education Day and very much appreciated how the Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic school boards worked together on this event.

Trustee Dunn attended the last meeting of the year of the City's Child Friendly YEG committee and is looking forward to next year's initiatives as there are many instances where their work overlaps with the work of the Edmonton Public School Board.

Trustee Estabrooks shared that it was an honour to bring greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees to the Reconciliation in Education Day on June 7, 2019, and said the Board committed the gift of policy, through a draft of the District's First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy to the reconciliation box. She explained that the policy is an important first step towards building better

MINUTE BOOK

relationships and said that it has been a humbling experience to be part of this journey with parents, students, community members and staff.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked staff, students and parents who have welcomed her to graduation ceremonies this year at Vimy Ridge, Braemar, McNally, Argyll Centre, Centre High and Eastglen Schools. She said it was truly inspiring to bear witness to the graduation experience.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked Riverdale and Virginia Park Schools for hosting her at recent school events. She said it again reminds her of the important role that volunteers play in District school communities.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked parents, community organizations and District staff who participated in the Policy Review Committee's meeting regarding the Early Years Board policy. She explained that it is an important policy and that she looks forward to seeing the first draft of the policy at some point in the fall.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked CUPE 474 (Custodial Staff) for once again hosting a fabulous spring barbeque. She expressed that custodians are an important part of the school communities and she appreciates the opportunity to recognize their hard work.

Trustee Johner submitted a written report as follows:

Trustee Johner attended the Spring General Meetings for the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) and the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) from May 28-June 4, 2019, in Red Deer, Alberta.

Highlights from the PSBBA meeting were:

- Education Minister LaGrange spent time with the 50 students attending Student Voice to answer their questions.
- The Education Minister addressed the membership and spoke to the fact that she would be meeting with all 61 school boards over the course of the summer.
- "Choice in Education Act" will be coming in the fall.
- David King, a Canadian politician and public education policy activist, shared his perspective on what "choice" in education really means and how it can fragment communities.
- Mr. Brian Woodland, from the National School Public Relations Association, gave a presentation on "Who is your Educational Superhero?"
- Northlands School Division attended in spite of the fact that their communities were being evacuated due to forest fires. The following schools made presentations:
 - Grande Prairie Public School: The Maverick Movement
 - Fort McMurray Public School: Becoming Green
 - Wolf Creek Public School: EcoVision
- Red Deer College presented information on their dual credit collaboration with four jurisdictions and shared the benefits that students and communities are having.

MINUTE BOOK

- A panel discussion where student spokespersons from Student Voice spoke and asked questions regarding funding, Gay Straight Alliances (GSAs) and mental health.
- The PSBAA will celebrate its 30 year anniversary at the Fall General Meeting.

Highlights from the ASBA meeting were:

- The recommendations submitted by the Edmonton Public School Board were presented and voted on.
- The Student Mental Health Summit was well attended and very successful.

Trustee Johner attended several Grade 9 farewells and Grade 12 graduations. She also attended the Reconciliation in Education Day in collaboration with Edmonton Catholic Schools and the City of Edmonton.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information - None

There was a short break in the meeting.

K. Notices of Motion

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

**“1. That the Board of Trustees grant waiver of notice of motion to consider Recommendation 2 at the June 11, 2019, Board meeting.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. Be it resolved that: the Edmonton Public School Board communicate to the Minister of Education regarding #Bill 8 Education Act appreciation of our suggested changes and identify our additional concerns. Further, following consultation with the Minister we will provide our feedback in the further development of Regulations.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustees Estabrooks and Ip were not present to vote on Recommendation 2.

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 5:20 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations