

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, March 19, 2019, 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
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

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 

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

MINUTE BOOK

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“That the agenda for the March 19, 2019, Board meeting be approved as printed.”

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

**“That the agenda for the March 19, 2019, Board meeting be amended to include Report #10 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held March 19, 2019).”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“That the agenda for the March 5, 2019, Board meeting be approved as amended.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that March 21st is the annual International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the theme for 2019 is mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies. She explained that racism and intolerance can take various forms – from denying individuals the basic principles of equality to fueling ethnic hatred which can destroy lives and fracture communities. The Board Chair said the first article of the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. She advised that the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reminds every one of their responsibility for promoting and protecting this ideal.

The Board Chair was pleased to bring greetings and to attend the District’s New Curriculum Professional Development Day on March 11, 2019, along with several other Trustees and approximately 1,160 educators. She said the 65 sessions provided were designed to support teachers in the current curriculum and to prepare District staff for field testing and implementation of the new provincial Kindergarten to Grade 4 curriculum.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Board Chair extended good wishes to Abu Bakr al Rabeeah and Winnie Yeung. She shared that Abu Bakr is a high school student in the District and Winne is one of the District’s teachers. The Board Chair advised that their book, Homes, is one of the Canada Reads selections this year. She explained the book tells the story of Abu Bakr’s childhood in Syria and move to Canada. The Board Chair advised that there will be debates from March 25-29, 2019, on CBC Radio One.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

MINUTE BOOK

The Superintendent reminded parents of students currently enrolled at Edmonton Public Schools that they can pre-enrol on SchoolZone between March 11 and April 15, 2019. He suggested that families who are new to the District contact their preferred school to learn how to register as a new Edmonton Public Schools student before April 16, 2019.

The Superintendent wished District staff and students a safe and energizing Spring Break.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #10 – March 5, 2019

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #10 held March 5, 2019, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board heard from Mr. Troy Miller regarding a lack of schools and long bus rides in the Keswick area.

H. Reports

2. Report #10 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held March 19, 2019)

Trustee Stirling reported that the following recommendation was approved at the March 19, 2019, Caucus Committee meeting which was held earlier in the day:

That the Memorandum of Agreement for a three-year collective agreement with CUPE Local 3550 (Support Staff) from September 1, 2017, to August 31, 2020, be approved.

3. Process and Timeline for the 2019-2020 Budget for the Fall Review of the 2018-2019 Results and Plans for 2019-2020

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

**“1. That the Process and Timeline for the 2019-2020 Spring Budget and the 2019-2020 Fall Revised Budget be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That the Process and Timeline for Review of the 2018-2019 Results and the 2019-2020 Plans be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK

4. Value Management Study

Information was provided to the Board of Trustees signalling that similar to many school jurisdictions across Alberta, Edmonton Public Schools faces a mounting challenge in addressing building conditions of aging school building inventory. Identifying the condition and quantifying the value to address the conditions of our building inventory is an important component to developing strategies and action plans to address these challenges.

The Superintendent advised that the Value Management Study report will be provided to Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure administration and that he will share it with the Deputy Minister of Education at their next meeting.

There was a short break in the meeting.

5. District Three-Year Capital Plan 2020-2023

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

“That the proposed capital priorities for modernization and new construction identified in the *Three-Year Capital Plan 2020-2023* be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Gibson questioned whether the District is working with Edmonton Transit Services (ETS) to ensure that there is sufficient transit service as constituents have indicated that there has been a reduction in transit services west of the Anthony Henday which makes for a very long commute to the Jasper Place School. Mr. Wright confirmed that the District is having ongoing discussions with ETS about service across the City and how best to achieve services in new communities. He advised that an update will be provided to the Board of Trustees regarding any progress made during these discussions.

Trustee Ip expressed concern about the lack of Kindergarten to Grade 9 space designated for the southeast and southwest parts of the city. He questioned whether the District will be able to accommodate students in these areas of rapid growth in the coming years. Trustee Ip stated that his impression has been that the District has not assembled the ideal number of school sites in some of the new and growing areas of the city and requested that Administration provide information about the process of the assembly of school sites and to confirm whether the District does have the ideal number of sites or whether it could use more. The Superintendent requested time for Administration to do an analysis and prepare a response to for this Request for Information (RFI).

Trustee Johner referenced the Greater Rosslyn Cluster that is comprised of seven schools, and remarked that space available to students in mature communities is declining. Trustee Johner requested that Administration provide information in terms of school enrolments and trends that

MINUTE BOOK

are being observed in this area. The Superintendent requested time for Administration to do an analysis and prepare a response to for this Request for Information (RFI).

There was a short break in the meeting.

6. Motion re: New School Construction Projects

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“That the Edmonton Public School Board of Trustees affirms its support for publicly funded, publicly owned, and publicly accountable infrastructure projects and will advocate for all new school construction projects to be built as public projects, not public-private partnerships.”

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That the motion be postponed until a report can come back from the District’s Infrastructure Committee for additional research to compare traditional versus Public-Private Partnerships (P3) (provide consideration regarding the value for money and the ability for the District to control its space, accountability) and implications for Integrated Design Process (IDP) and that this report will be brought to public Board by the end of the 2018-2019 school year.”

The Board Chair called the question on the amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adam, Draper, Estabrooks, Gibson, Ip and Johner

OPPOSED: Trustees Dunn, Janz and Stirling

(CARRIED)

There was a short break in the meeting.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the March 19, 2019, Board meeting continue past the 6:00 p.m. timeline in order to complete all agenda items.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Implementation of New Curriculum
(Response to Request for Information #035)

Information was provided regarding this request for information.

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

“That the Multi-Year Block Funding Model report be deferred to the April 30, 2019, Board meeting.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MINUTE BOOK

8. Multi-Year Block Funding Model
(Response to Request for Information #037)

This report will be re-scheduled for the April 30, 2019, Board meeting.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

The following reports were submitted in writing:

Trustee Adams attended the Michael Strembitsky Parent Council on March 5, 2019, and thanks them for their candid discussion. She asked the parents to share how they and their families have personally fared in regard to the enrolment pressures the school has faced since opening five years ago. For many, their stories reflected a very difficult and frustrating journey; however, through it all, it was impressive to see a willing flexibility and great resiliency in both the parents and the council. Concern was expressed not just about high school spaces, but classroom size and the impact this has on quality education. Although it was difficult for parents to send Kindergarten and Grade 1 students off to another school, aside from the bussing, they felt positive about the experience and the education their children were receiving. The transition back to Michael Strembitsky for Grade 2 students has been positive as well. Trustee Adams reports the feedback she received was informative and enlightening and she is encouraged by the suggestions that were offered at the meeting.

Trustees Adams and Stirling were invited to a meeting with the Vaisakhi Nagar Kirtan Committee at the Millwoods Gurdwara on March 6, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to explore options to expand the Punjabi language classes in the southeast vicinity. Discussions will be ongoing.

Trustee Adams attended the Indigenous Parents and Caregivers Council meeting on March 7, 2019. The council is a partnership with Edmonton Public Schools Cultural Liaison, Jeanette Lean, Principal, John Homes, of Kate Chegwin School and Emily Milne from MacEwan University. Principals from W.P. Wagner and J. Percy Page catchments fully support this Council. The Council was created to ensure that indigenous parents, caregivers and community members are represented and involved in meaningful ways to improve schools. Assistant Superintendent, Leona Morrison, and Trustee Adams were asked to present their roles within Edmonton Public Schools. Trustee Adams reports that the meaningful and trusting relationships have been developed during the past two years within the Council. Parents shared how much they value this time and process.

Trustee Adams attended the Presidents' Council for Community Leagues following the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Council on March 7, 2019. There was representation from community leagues, community organizations and elected officials. There was a very strong emphasis from community organizations on reaching the community youth in the Millwoods area.

MINUTE BOOK

Trustee Adams reported that on March 11, 2019, the New Provincial Curriculum Learning Day that was held at the Edmonton Convention Centre was attended by many teachers and principals. Trustee Adams enjoyed participating in the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit curriculum session.

Trustee Adams attended the Crawford Plains Parent Council meeting on March 14, 2019. She had an opportunity to share information about the District's Strategic Plan and the benefits of the equity fund. The Crawford Plains Council has a good partnership with the Southwood Community League. The Southwood Community League provided a report and a desire to partner for the 40th anniversary in 2020. The Parent Council has a strong parent base that is active and supportive of the leadership and the school. The first year of the French Immersion program is going very well.

Trustee Adams attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3 general meeting on March 15, 2019. A presentation was made by Michele Jones, a wellness education and curriculum implementation consultant, on "Unpacking the New Curriculum." Nathan Freed, Education Manager, provided the Alberta Education report. An announcement was made that the budget submission deadline is extended to June 30, 2019. All Superintendents' received notification regarding the decommissioning of seclusion rooms. Anyone who wants to get a Class 1 or Class 2 driver's license must take the Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) for Bus Drivers with the deadline being extended from March 1, to July 31, 2019. In order to assist with the training deadline, Alberta Transportation will license school authorities and private contractors to do the training. Trustee Adams reports that the afternoon was spent in a generative discussion regarding the use of personal devices in schools.

Trustee Draper attended the inaugural Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care meeting, at the City of Edmonton on March 7, 2019. She also participated in the Princeton School's Council meeting on March 7, 2019.

Trustee Draper was pleased to bring greetings and attend the morning of the District's New Curriculum Professional Development Day on March 11, 2019, along with several other Trustees.

Trustee Draper, several Trustees, the Superintendent and Director of Board and Superintendent Relations took part in a strategic planning session with the University of Alberta on March 12th, 2019.

Trustee Dunn reports that it was a pleasure to be invited to Westmount and David Thomas King School Council meetings, attend a production of "In the Heights" at Victoria School and see the wonderful work at the large Curriculum Professional Development Day over the past two weeks. She also enjoyed taking part in the Public Interest Alberta Forum on Education and attending the Mental Health Foundation breakfast.

MINUTE BOOK

Trustee Estabrooks thanks the Mental Health Foundation of Alberta for hosting a breakfast and TELUS for inviting Trustees Dunn, Stirling and herself to attend the breakfast last week. The speakers that day, including a presentation by a family, spoke about the importance of integrating services, which aligns with the Board's advocacy plan pertaining to mental health.

Trustee Estabrooks attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Directors meeting and reports that there is a lot happening at the provincial level and that she would like to thank the association's new CEO, Vivian Abboud, and President, Lorrie Jess, for their leadership.

Trustee Estabrooks thanks the Riverdale School for hosting her at a Lucy Calkins writing lab and Eastglen and Highlands Schools for inviting her to their school council meetings later in the week.

Trustee Estabrooks thanks the parents who have reached out to her in last couple of weeks with their suggestions, concerns and questions about the District, enrolment and transportation. She believes parents are the best advocates for their children and she commends those parents who have reached out to her to talk about their children.

Trustee Gibson highlighted some additional evidence on the Alberta experience with P3 schools. In particular, Trustee Gibson highlighted Alberta Infrastructure Value for Money studies that were in alignment with recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General.

Highlights include:

Value for Money Assessment and Project Report on Public-Private Partnership (P3) for ASAP II September 2010:

Summary: Using a P3 for ten new schools - did it work?

By using a Public-Private Partnership (P3) to design, build, finance and maintain ten schools in Edmonton and the Calgary region, the Government of Alberta saved \$105 million (in today's dollars) over 32 years compared to a traditional approach (\$253 million instead of \$358 million, a 29 per cent savings). These schools will also be delivered up to two years earlier than with the traditional method. The government chose a P3 approach to deliver the Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement Phase 2 project, known as ASAP II. The following assessment shows that using a P3 delivered value for money and that it was the right way to procure the ten schools.

Value for Money Assessment and Project Report on Public-Private Partnership (P3) for 12 New Schools March 2013:

Summary: Using a P3 model for 12 new schools - did it work?

By using a P3 to design, build, finance and maintain 12 schools in Airdrie, Chestermere, Brooks, Cochrane, Penhold, Beaumont, Medicine Hat and Red Deer, the Alberta government saved \$43 million dollars over 32 years (in today's dollars) compared to a traditional design-bid-build approach (\$289 million instead of \$332 million, a 13 per cent savings). It will also deliver the schools at a guaranteed fixed date earlier than it could have achieved with the traditional

MINUTE BOOK

procurement approach. The following assessment shows that using a P3 model delivered value for money and that it was the correct choice to procure these 12 new schools.

Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement Follow-up:

February 2014 - the Office of the Auditor General made two recommendations in April 2010. This year, an assessment of the department's progress in implementing the recommendations to:

- improve the processes it uses to challenge and support maintenance costs and risk valuations
- publish value for money reports upon entering into P3 agreements

The department implemented the recommendations by using its historical data on school costs to support its assumptions on maintenance costs and to validate its risk valuation. The department also published value for money reports for its ASAP P3 projects.

- J. **Trustee and Board Requests for Information** - None
- K. **Notices of Motion** - None
- L. **Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.**
- M. **Adjournment: 6:15 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations