

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #10**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held in McCauley Chambers in the Centre for Education on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Sherry Adams
Shelagh Dunn
Trisha Estabrooks

Ken Gibson
Michael Janz
Cheryl Johner

Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Lisa Austin
Grace Cooke
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Nancy Petersen
Kent Pharis

Mike Suderman
Liz Yule

Board Chair: Trisha Estabrooks

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau


Staff Group Representatives

Edmonton Public Teachers – Heather Quinn, President
CUPE Local 3550 – Carol Thompson, 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 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 

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

Assistant Superintendent Morrison advised that Trustees Draper and Ip were absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

**“That the agenda for the February 11, 2020, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

On behalf of the Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees and Administration, the Board Chair offered sincere condolences to the Board of Trustees, staff and families of Edmonton Catholic Schools on the passing of their Superintendent, Ms Joan Carr. She said that as the Superintendent for the last 14 years and a teacher and principal for 30 years before that, Ms Carr touched the lives of many and her passionate leadership will long be remembered.

The Board Chair advised that the Education Minister recently announced the recommendations of the curriculum review panel. She highlighted the hard work of Edmonton Public Schools staff and their significant and important contributions to the current draft of the curriculum. The Board Chair said that Minister LaGrange has remarked that much of the curriculum work done to date is solid and encouraging. The Board Chair stated that it is encouraging because School Divisions need to get this new curriculum into the hands of teachers and students in classrooms. She looks forward to hearing from the Education Minister on what the next steps will be.

The Board Chair shared that the 2020-2021 provincial budget will be tabled on February 27, 2020.

The Board Chair thanked parents and families who have reached out to ask questions and provide feedback on the school calendar survey. She appreciates everyone who took the time to write, call and complete the survey. She said that from the conversations she has had with parents most understand the difficult financial situation the Division is in.

The Board Chair thanked parents, families and community members who have taken the time to contact their Trustee, share their concerns, or attend a school council or town hall meeting. She said the Board of Trustees values transparency about next year’s budget shortfall. The Board Chair stated that the Division appreciates parents sharing their concerns and questions.

The Board Chair thanked that the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues for the opportunity to connect with some of their members at their recent Annual General Meeting. The Board Chair said that she has a great respect for the work that community league volunteers give to the city and was

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happy to hear from so many of the people that she spoke with about the correlation between strong neighbourhood schools equalling strong communities.

The Board Chair acknowledged that February 10th, marked the ten-year anniversary launch of the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation. She shared that over the past decade, over \$4 million has been raised to sustain six full-day Kindergarten classes. The Board Chair stated that to mark this anniversary year, the Foundation is planning enhanced communications including more stories from students, and extra-special Ready for Life event on May 1, 2020, as well as a new Donor Celebration event this autumn.

E. Communications from the Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Assistant Superintendent Morrison advised that there were no communications on behalf of Superintendent Robertson.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #09 – January 28, 2020

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #09 held January 28, 2020, 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. Strategic Plan Update - Literacy

The Trustees received an overview of the data, strategies and initiatives used in support of literacy learning, highlighting the collaborative efforts of the Instructional Supports unit as they work with schools in support of high-quality teaching and learning in the area of literacy.

Trustee Gibson stated that investments in the suite of student interventions, more specifically the tool kit, should not be eliminated due to budget cuts.

Trustee Dunn requested the percentage of students that are reading at or below grade level. Ms Petersen will provide this information to Trustee Dunn.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

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Trustee Adams reported that during the past two weeks she has had the privilege of attending a Parent Expo at Crawford Plains School that was very well attended by the community parents. She also attended school council meetings at Ellerslie, Ekota and Meyokumin schools where she had the opportunity to engage with parents around the budget restraints Edmonton Public Schools is facing and to discuss opportunities for advocacy.

Trustee Adams reports that she had a good meeting with MLA Christina Gray, and was very honoured to greet Lieutenant Governor, Lois E. Mitchell on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Adams mentions that Ms Mitchell was very interested in the Ann Frank Museum display being presented at the Edmonton Public Schools Archives and Museum. Ms Michener was especially engaging with the wonderful tour guides, students from Harry Ainlay School. Trustee Adams reports that the students did an amazing job presenting a spontaneous abbreviated tour due to the schedule of the Lieutenant Governor.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked the students at Nellie McClung School for hosting another successful Power of Women event. This is the third year for this event and that she is always honoured to attend and speak to students about her time in journalism as well as what it means to serve as a School Board Trustee.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked everyone that attended a recent Ward B and Ward D town hall meeting hosted by her and Trustee Draper. She reported that 125 people were in attendance and that she was reminded of how much Edmontonians care about public education. Trustee Estabrooks thanked a number of parent councils who have hosted her at recent meetings and for invitations to future meetings. She stated that she always appreciates the opportunities to connect with parents.

Trustee Dunn thanked all of the constituents who have taken the time to write and call about the work of the Board of Trustees, ask about the Division's budget situation, potential calendar changes and upcoming Board reports.

Trustee Dunn reports that it was a pleasure to attend a Community Connectors event hosted by City Councillor, Andrew Knack and hear Police Chief, Dale McFee speak about the importance of education to the city.

Trustee Janz invited everyone to a town hall meeting he will be hosting on February 12, 2020, at Strathcona School commencing at 7 p.m.

Trustee Stirling thanked W.P. Wagner catchment emerging leaders' group for inviting her to participate in their leadership speed dating exercise on January 29, 2020. She said it was great to hear from teachers aspiring to leadership about their learning and share what it means to her to be a leader in Edmonton Public Schools.

Trustee Stirling had the opportunity on February 4, 2020, to share her story of creating schools where everyone belongs at the Stories of Hope event during the University of Alberta's International Week.

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She enjoyed being able to share how the work of creating safer and more inclusive schools connects to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Trustee Stirling thanked the Grade 5/6 class from Holyrood School for a warm welcome during their time last week at City Hall School. Trustee Stirling reports she always enjoys hearing about all the fascinating visitors and exciting explorations that students experience during their week. She said the City of Edmonton really is an amazing classroom, and she wanted to recognize the hard work and leadership of teacher Linda Hut in making Students' Week in the program an unforgettable experience in learning about citizenship and community.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Dunn said the Board of Trustees has expressed concerns with a freeze to operational funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 education, while enrolment growth has been steadily increasing. In order to ensure that the Board of Trustees can advocate for adequate operational funding, please provide the following information specific to Edmonton Public Schools for the past twenty years:

The operational revenue Edmonton Public Schools has received from the Alberta Government, the Division's student enrolment, the total revenue received divided per student, enrolment growth, and a measure of inflation.

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Gibson served notice of motion that Edmonton Public School Division seek permission from the Minister of Education, prior to September 1, 2020, to reduce the Board of Trustees to a maximum of seven Trustees, exclusive of any future appointments permitted under the *Education Act*, and that Governance and Evaluation Committee be assigned the task to propose changes to trustee roles as necessary.

Trustee Janz served notice of motion that Edmonton Public School Division seek permission from the Minister of Education, to increase the number of trustees to align with Edmonton City Council and their wards.

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.

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The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations