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Board Meeting #07

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, December 10, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams	Trisha Estabrooks	Bridget Stirling
Shelagh Dunn	Michael Janz	
Michelle Draper	Cheryl Johner	

Officials

Angela Anderson	Karen Mills	Kent Pharis
Lisa Austin	Leona Morrison	Darrel Robertson
Grace Cooke	Kathy Muhlethaler	Mike Suderman
Todd Burnstad	Lorne Parker	Liz Yule
Ron MacNeil	Nancy Petersen	

Board Chair: Trisha Estabrooks **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 Trustees Gibson and Ip were absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

"That the agenda for the December 10, 2019, Board meeting be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair congratulated all the recipients of this year's District recognition awards. She thanked the organizers as well as those who nominated an outstanding person or team to receive an award.

The Board Chair said that recently the Minister of Education announced that school boards could use a portion of Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal dollars for operational costs. She advised that while this might be a desirable option for some jurisdictions, it is not preferred for Edmonton Public Schools. The Board Chair explained that every dollar the Division receives for infrastructure and maintenance is required to keep its buildings well maintained and running smoothly.

The Board Chair thanked parents, community members and advocates of public education who took time to fill out the government's Choice in Education survey. She advised that she has heard from constituents, who felt it was important to complete the survey. The Board Chair remarked that the best choice in education is public education, a system that is proven, accessible and accountable.

The Board Chair advised that the December 10th Board meeting is the final meeting of 2019 and wished everyone a wonderful winter break and a very Merry Christmas.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent remarked that it has been an extra busy and challenging fall. He said that no matter what challenges the Division faces, at Edmonton Public Schools, doing what is best for children will always be the first priority. The Superintendent shared that he is very appreciative for the staff, families and volunteers who give their all, every day, to make sure that every student gets what they need to be successful. The Superintendent wished everyone a safe and happy winter break.

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F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #06 – November 26, 2019

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

"That the minutes of Board Meeting #06 held November 26, 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

2. Revision of Transportation Fees

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

"That the proposed Student Transportation fee schedule be approved for implementation effective February 1, 2020, as it reflects current Student Transportation regulations.
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

There was a short break in the meeting.

3. Governance and Evaluation Committee Annual Work Plan for 2019-2020

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

"That the Board approve the Governance and Evaluation Committee Annual work plan for 2019-2020." (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

4. Policy Review Committee Work Plan for 2019-2020

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

"That the Board approve the Policy and Review Committee work plan for 2019-2020."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Mental Health and Student Well Being Committee Work Plan for 2019-2020

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

"That the Board approve the Mental Health and Student Well Being Committee work plan for 2019-2020."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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6. Infrastructure Committee Work Plan for 2019-2020

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

"That the Board approve the Infrastructure Committee work plan for 2019-2020."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. Three-Year Education Plant (3YEP) and Annual Education Results Review (AERR)

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

"That the Edmonton Public Schools' Combined Three-Year Education Plan (2019-2020 to 2021-2022) and the Annual Education Results Report (2018-2019) be approved."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

There was a short break in the meeting.

8. Motion re: Seeking Federal Government Funding for English as a Second Language Supports

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

"That Edmonton Public Schools share impacts of our English as a Second Language supports with the Federal Government and explore potential funding options with them to ensure the needs of newcomer students and families are being met."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

9. Board Chair Discretionary Expense Allowance Report for 2018-2019

A report of the expenses incurred under the Board Chair's discretionary allowance for the period of September 2018 – June 2019, was provided for information.

10. Bereavements

The Vice-Chair reported on the passing of Mr. Rick Haggith, Miss Sherry Harris and Ms Halia Radiuk.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams thanked the Superintendent for his exceptional leadership. She also thanked the Assistant Superintendents for following his lead and the expertise they bring to schools throughout the Division.

Trustee Adams submitted the following report in writing:

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Following the Nov 26th Board Meeting, Trustee Adams attended two schools results reviews, the first one hosted by Shauna May Seneca School and included Michael Strembitsky, Crawford Plains, Jan Reimer and Svend Hansen schools. The second was hosted by the Bisset School and included Bisset, Kate Chegwin, Pollard Meadows and Weinlos schools. Both groups had thorough discussions regarding their challenges and successes. Each shared about the great collaboration efforts within and among their schools as well as within their catchments, making significant differences by increasing leadership capacity and classroom skills. Specifically noted were challenging situations such as interventions for special needs children. Along with the opportunity to review the work of the schools within Ward I, Trustee Adams reports that it was very satisfying to hear about items for implementation that the reviews inspired. Trustee Adams thanks each school for the great work being done and Assistant Superintendents, Ms Liz Yule and Ms Leona Morrison for joining the results review process and for the valuable work they do in schools.

On November 27 and December 3, 2019, Trustee Adams had the privilege of attending the Parent Council meetings at Kameyosek and Michael Strembitsky schools and reports that there are a good number of parents who are also active in council meetings making a difference in the life of children at their schools. At the Parent Council meetings Trustee Adams presented a snapshot of the provincial budget tabled on October 24′ 2019, and shared some of the implications for the Division. She reports that there were several questions regarding these implications, especially in classrooms and transportation. There were discussions about possible solutions and the need for parent advocacy to the government. Trustee Adams appreciates the participation of parent community in the ongoing success of schools.

On December 4, 2019, Trustee Adams attended the District Leadership Meeting (DLM) and thanked the Superintendent for his invaluable leadership during this challenging time. She reports that the Superintendent gave a compelling and realistic presentation to the principals and leaders of the Division regarding the challenges Edmonton Public Schools is about to face, inspiration to rise to the best and to fulfill the charge to keep the main thing the main thing: Success one student at a time.

On December 4, 2019, Trustee Adams attended the District Recognition Awards.

On December 5, 2019, Trustee Adams attended the band concert presented at Michael Strembitsky School and reports that it was remarkable to see the quality of the performers, some who had just picked up their instrument for the first time in September 2019, and reports the music programs in Edmonton Public Schools provide such enrichment to the lives of students. She thanks Music Instructor Ms Amber Schneider for instilling her love of music in the students in both the band and the choir.

Trustee Adams will be attending Christmas concerts at Satoo, Dan Knott, Jan Reimer and Weinlos schools, a Christmas luncheon at L.Y. Cairns School and a Parent Council meeting at Svend Hansen School in the near future.

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Trustee Stirling invited families, staff and community members to her Ward G Town Hall meeting on January 9, 2019, commencing at 6:30 p.m. at the Julia Kiniski School. The topic of discussion will be related to the challenges facing Edmonton Public School and how to move forward together to find solutions and ways to advocate for public schools.

Trustee Stirling provided the following report in writing:

On December 6, 2019, Trustee Stirling, the Board Chair and Vice-Chair attended the Alberta Federation of Labour's Memorial Brunch in support of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. This year is the 30th anniversary of the terrible attack on women at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. Trustee Stirling reports that she clearly remembers that day and how as a 12-year-old girl, it was the first time she understood that someone might want to harm her for daring to dream. She appreciates all the work Edmonton Public Schools does every day to end gender-based violence through education and supports for students, staff, and families.

On December 5, 2019, the Ottewell School Grade 7 Academic Challenge students kicked off their cross-curricular learning project, which builds throughout the year towards student participation in the "Investigate! Invent! Innovate!" competition. This year, the Grade 7 teachers decided to take a themed approach to the I3th competition, with student projects connected to the City of Edmonton's Change for Climate initiative. She was delighted to join students for their kickoff to talk about how young people can engage every day in addressing the challenges of climate change, including action to reduce emissions as well as to mitigate the effects of climate change on our communities, and how creative, cross-disciplinary thinking helps to meet big problems head on with innovative solutions.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Dunn said that given provincial budget cuts to Edmonton Public Schools that have impacted both classroom and transportation funding, the Board of Trustees has had to consider how to manage transportation fees for families. She said that fees impact families differently and can present a significant burden for low income families. She is concerned about how increased student fees may disproportionately impact low income families and requested the following information:

- What is the process for low income families to receive school fee and transportation fee support? How is this communicated to families?
- What is the percentage of students that request a fee waiver or reduced fee? How does this compare to the one in five children in Edmonton living with low income, as defined by EndPoverty Edmonton?
- Can a school principal waive or reduce fees for up to 100 per cent of students in their school if all students are living with low income?

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- What is the annual amount of fees that are waived or reduced? Does this shortfall come from operational funding or from increased fees to other families?
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- What are the costs/benefits of structuring fees based on family income?

K. Notices of Motion

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

"1. That the Board grant waiver of notice of motion to consider the proposed motion at the December 10, 2019, Board meeting."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

"2. That Administration design and implement a stakeholder engagement strategy to collect feedback on changes to Edmonton Public's busing fee schedule and transportation service to inform the Board's decisions for the 2020-2021 school year."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 5:20 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and Superintendent Relations