

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #17

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 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

Student Trustees

Josh Karathra

Johanna Lau

Tristin Odnokon

Officials

Angela Anderson
Grace Cooke
Todd Burnstad
Ron MacNeil
Karen Mills

Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler
Lorne Parker
Nancy Petersen
Kent Pharis

Darrel Robertson
Carrie Rosa
Mike Suderman
Liz Yule

Board Chair: Trisha Estabrooks

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.

A. O Canada 

Ms Sheila Williams, a teacher from Avalon School, sang O Canada in Cree.

Mr. Terris Mah, the cultural lead, and several drummers from amiskwaciy Academy performed a traditional song in Cree in recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day.

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

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Trustee Draper advised that she would be withdrawing her report (Motion re: Edmonton Public Schools Survey Design) from the agenda.

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

**“That the agenda for the June 9, 2020, Board meeting be approved as amended.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair acknowledged that June 1-5, 2020, was Pride week at Edmonton Public Schools. She explained that this was the second year for the Division to celebrate Pride Week after the current Board of Trustees voted unanimously in 2019 to declare the first week of June, Pride Week. On behalf of the Board of Trustees she thanked staff, students, parents and community members who celebrated Pride Week last week and those that will continue to celebrate throughout the month of June.

The Board Chair referenced the protests happening in the United States and Canada that have brought to the forefront the deep harm done by racism and discrimination. She stated that as a public school division, we are committed to being a place where every student and staff member feels they belong. That commitment compels Edmonton Public Schools to do the work of promoting anti-racism and inclusion.

The Board Chair explained that in collaboration with community members and students, the Edmonton Public Schools Policy Review Committee has been working to update the Division’s Multicultural Education policy with the goal to bring the Division’s commitment to anti-racist education and practice into a formal Board policy. She said the Division acknowledges that racism and discrimination exist within Edmonton Public Schools, apologized and acknowledged that there is still work to be done. The Board Chair stated that as a publicly elected Board of Trustees, they are committed to learning, and that means they must also be open to learning too. The Division must continue to listen, learn and collaborate, so that Edmonton Public Schools are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe places for all students, staff and families.

The Board Chair thanked the more than 74,000 parents, students and staff who completed the Division’s re-entry survey. She shared that the Board values everyone’s feedback and will keep it in mind as they continue having conversations with the provincial government and health experts as plans are made for September 2020.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked staff, students and parents for their continued efforts to adapt to distance learning. He also thanked them for their patience as the Division plans for what school will look like in September. The Superintendent explained that the Division has a re-entry committee comprised of school and central staff who are planning for three scenarios:

- In-school classes resume (near normal operations with health measures)

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- In-school classes partially resume with additional health measures
- At home learning continues (in-school classes are cancelled)

The Superintendent said that while the Division doesn't yet know which scenario it will be in in September because it doesn't know what the COVID-19 situation will look like, the Division does know this for sure:

- The safety and health of students and staff is our priority,
- The Division will follow the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer of Health,
- The Division will be ready for whatever scenario we face, and
- The Division will welcome children back with excitement, care and the supports they need to be successful.

The Superintendent reminded everyone about the power of kindness. He said it's one of the most powerful currencies we have, is available in an endless supply, it costs nothing, and when it's spent, it creates more of itself. He shared that kindness is at the heart of how we do our work and is the foundation upon which relationships are built. The Superintendent recommended that even fierce conversations should come from a place of kindness and care and that nothing is ever lost by showing kindness. He added that kindness only makes our lives richer.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #16 – May 26, 2020

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #16 held May 26, 2020, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives - None

H. Reports

2. Student Senate–Summary of Work Accomplished and Proposed Revisions to Model

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

**“That as a means to continue promoting the active engagement and enhanced student voice in the democratic process, the Student Senate Model proposed herein be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Johner provided feedback that it is cumbersome to find the Student Senate website on the Division's website. The Superintendent advised that this would be reviewed.

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3. Strategic Plan Update – Student Leadership and Citizenship

The Board of Trustees were provided comprehensive information regarding areas of the Division's efforts in support of Student Leadership and Citizenship.

4. Locally Developed Courses

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

"That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 31, 2024:

- Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9
- Biology (Advanced) 35 (3)
- Creative Writing 7-8-9
- Islamic Studies 15-25-35 (5)
- Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9

That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 31, 2021:

- Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9
- Band 15-25-35 (3 and 5)
- Extended Essay (IB) 35 (3)
- Forensic Science Studies 35 (5)
- Forensic Studies 25-35 (3)
- Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 (3 and 5)
- Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility (3 and 5)
- Musical Theatre 15-25-35 (5)
- Vocal Jazz 15-25-35 (3 and 5)."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

There was a short break in the meeting.

5. Approval of the 2020-2021 Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

"1. That the 2020-2021 Budget of \$1,195,961,600 be approved."

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adams, Draper, Dunn, Estabrooks, Gibson, Ip, Johner and Stirling.

OPPOSED: Trustee Janz

(CARRIED)

"2. That the budget report for the year ending August 31, 2021, be approved."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

There was a short break in the meeting.

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(CARRIED)**7. Motion re: Request for information from the Ministry of Education – Program Unit Funding (PUF)**MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:****“That the Edmonton Public School Board request more information from the Ministry of Education about plans for early intervention in Alberta, given reductions to Program Unit Funding (PUF), including:**

- **Potential changes to the number of children able to access early intervention.**
- **Provincial plans for the provision of early intervention for children who will no longer be able to access early intervention through PUF programs.**
- **Plans to address the type and level of intervention needed for students who cannot access early intervention as they enter the school system, in order to maintain long-term student achievement and well-being.”**

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The following feedback was provided for consideration:

- Consult with other school divisions to request supporting evidence and or data that demonstrates the additional educational supports required later in a child’s school life due to lack of access to early intervention
- That this request for information be sent to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Children’s Services and the Ministry of Community and Social Services

8. Motion re: Edmonton Public Schools Survey Design

Trustee Draper withdrew this report.

9. Impacts of Funding to Private and Charter Schools
(Response to Request for Information #066)

Information was provided regarding the impacts to funding to private and charter schools in the 2020 Budget. An explanation of the changes to education property taxes in the 2020 budget was also provided.

The Board Chair referenced the report to confirm that funding is higher for students attending private schools as well as for students who are learning remotely. She requested confirmation

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from the Administration that private schools are actually receiving higher funding or does it just appear to be higher funding due to a reallocation of grant money. Mr. Burnstad advised that this information would be provided through a Transmittal Memorandum (TM).

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports - None

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Stirling requested the following information regarding the School Resource Officer program:

Funding and Governance:

- What is the full annual cost to Edmonton Public Schools for the School Resource Officer (SROs) program, and what is the total cost of the program (Edmonton Public Schools and Edmonton Police Service total)?
- What are the intended outcomes of the program, and how are these outcomes measured and reported?
- What are the criteria for schools to be designated as having an SRO, and are there any programs or services that are interrelated or contingent on SROs being present in schools?
- What training or background is required for an officer to become an SRO, and what additional training do they receive to be prepared to work in schools? Beyond criminal record checks, what is Edmonton Public Schools practice in examining disciplinary records for SROs before and during their time working in schools?

Search and Investigations:

- What are the processes and protocols for searches of students, lockers, and student property conducted by or in the company of SROs?
- What are the processes and protocols around the unlocking, accessing, and search of students' cell phones by or in the company of SROs?
- What are the processes and protocols regarding entry and search of bathrooms, locker rooms, and other similar areas?
- Are bait phones still being used in Edmonton Public Schools? What is the purpose of this practice? Are other similar practices used in schools?

Data Collection:

- In cases where SROs are engaged in investigations of students, what are the nature of these investigations, how many are criminal versus non-criminal in nature, and how many result in arrests, charges, and prosecutions? How many fines are issued to students, and what is the total dollar amount of those fines annually?
- What is the demographic breakdown for students disciplined or arrested in relation to SRO investigations? Include data around race, socioeconomic status, gender, First Nation, Métis and Inuit identification, English Language Learners, immigration status, disability, and mental health status.
- Are SROs armed on school property? If so, how often are firearms drawn in a year, and do we keep records of the use of other weapons such as batons, pepper spray, tasers or other forms of force or restraint?

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- Have any research studies or evaluations been conducted on the SRO program in Edmonton Public Schools? If so, what were the findings?

K. Notices of Motion – None

Trustee Janz served notice of motion that the Edmonton Public School Board advocate for anti-racism to be included in the curriculum redesign by the provincial Ministry of Education to ensure consistent outcomes across Alberta towards the elimination of racism. Furthermore, that the Edmonton Public School Board advocate for funding from the province for professional development for staff and coursework for pre-service teacher training in post-secondary institutions to support the implementation of these outcomes in Alberta's curriculum.

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**M. Adjournment: 5:55 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations