

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #12**

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, March 10, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Sherry Adams
Michelle Draper
Trisha Estabrooks

Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip
Michael Janz

Cheryl Johner
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Grace Cooke
Todd Burnstad
Ron MacNeil
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

Staff Group Representatives

CUPE Local 3550 – Carol Thompson, President; Janice Kube, First Vice-President; Gloria Lepine, Chief Steward and Mable Long, Treasurer
Exempt Staff Group – Mr. Ian Crichton and Ms Cindy Camp

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

MINUTE BOOK

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: (2:00 p.m.)

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

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

**“That the agenda for the March 10, 2020, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair mentioned that on February 27, 2020, the provincial government tabled Budget 2020. She said that while the Division is still trying to understand the full implications of this budget, the Board of Trustees can say that the education budget as outlined is not adequate for Edmonton Public Schools. The Board Chair explained the provincial funding the Division will receive next year, although it may look like a slight increase, includes funds the Division used to receive from other sources and that funding will no longer be based per student. Instead, the amount the Division will receive will be based on previous years' enrolment and estimates of future enrolment.

The Board Chair stated this is a problem for growing school divisions like ours as it means Edmonton Public Schools will never be fully funded for the number of students in schools. The goal of Edmonton Public Schools in the coming weeks and months will continue to be to direct as many dollars as possible into classrooms. The Board Chair looks forward to meeting with Minister LaGrange and her staff in the next couple of weeks to learn more about how funding will be allocated through the new model and share with her the impact of these changes on the Division's students and classrooms. She said the Division recognizes the province is facing some serious financial challenges and the current government was elected to reduce the provincial debt, however, now is the time to be investing in public education.

The Board Chair reported that March 4, 2020, the Division celebrated its 56th annual Night of Music – *A World We Design*. She explained that music is a powerful force of expression and a tool to enrich students' learning experiences. The Board Chair thanked the performers, organizers, sponsors as well as those who attended the event.

The Board Chair reported that March 8, 2020, was International Women's Day and said the campaign theme for 2020 is *#BecauseOfYou*. She thanked the strong women that continue to

MINUTE BOOK

inspire her, including women she has the pleasure of serving with on the current Board of Trustees. The Board Chair said that it brings her a lot of hope that as a Board they continue to promote gender equity in the leadership of the Division's schools. For example, naming two schools that will open this fall after two amazing women, Ms. Thelma Chalifoux and Ms. Soraya Hafez. The Board Chair said that the Division recognizes women's achievements and recommits to empower women and girls to equally participate in economic, social and political life. She stated that helping children of all ages and all genders find inspiration and courage from diverse women role models is key to education. The Board Chair recognized all the amazing women in the Division for their achievements.

The Board Chair advised that the Alberta Teachers' Association Provincial Executive Council has proclaimed March 9th to 13th as Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week. She commented that substitute teachers play an essential role in maintaining the continuity and excellence of the learning process. The Board Chair expressed that the role of the substitute teacher carries the same daily responsibilities of instruction, marking, discipline and supervision as that of regular classroom teachers. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, she thanked all substitute teachers for the contributions they make in the life of students and teachers.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised parents of students currently enrolled at Edmonton Public Schools that they can pre-enrol on SchoolZone between March 9 and April 15, 2020. He also advised parents to contact the principal at their child's current school if they have any questions. The Superintendent advised families new to the Division to contact their preferred school to learn how to register a new Edmonton Public Schools student before April 16, 2020.

The Superintendent shared that March 9, 2020, was the High School Culinary Challenge Awards Dinner. He congratulated all students who participated in the competition and said that it is a great way to build skills and explore future career pathways. The Superintendent announced that the team from M.E. LaZerte placed second and two students from Queen Elizabeth High School were awarded full scholarships to attend the Cook Apprenticeship Program at NAIT.

The Superintendent wished all staff, students and families a safe and energizing Spring Break.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting 11 – February 25, 2020

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

"That the minutes of Board Meeting #11 held February 25, 2020, be approved as printed."

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MINUTE BOOK

G. Recognition

2. Edwin Parr Teacher Award

Ms Darcy Holliday of Athlone School was selected as the Division's honorary nominee for the 2020 Edwin Parr Teacher Award.

There was a short break in the meeting.

H. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

I. Reports

3. Staff Group Budget Presentations re 2020-2021 Budget

Mr. Ian Crichton and Ms Cindy Camp, representatives for the Exempt Staff, presented the Exempt Staffs' brief.

Ms Carol Thompson, President of CUPE LOCAL 3550 (Support Staff) presented the Local's brief.

4. Strategic Plan Update - Numeracy

The Board of Trustees received an overview of the data, strategies and initiatives used in support of high-quality teaching and learning of numeracy and mathematics.

The following information was requested:

- Additional information is required by the Board of Trustees regarding what areas of curriculum the Math Intervention Programming Instrument (MIPI) results are uncovering and where additional focus should be intended. There was no summary information about the MIPI in the report. The Superintendent advised this information would be provided to the Trustees by Transmittal Memorandum (TM)
- Anytime Help, Anywhere resource can Administration share the initial up take, trends or feedback from student and teachers with respect the support videos. This information will be provided to the Trustees through a Transmittal Memorandum (TM)
- As part of the evidence that should support decision making, the Division has an enormous investment in building staff capacity. The Board of Trustees have yet to receive information other than narrative, as how to quantify this. Some way to measure our capacity through professional development and if this isn't reasonable then provide information in Transmittal Memorandum (TM) why it's not reasonable.

MINUTE BOOK

5. **Bill 201 – Protection of Students with Life Threatening Allergies Act**
(Response to Request for Information #054)

The question was raised whether paying for and providing EPI pens falls under the mandate of public education. The Board Chair confirmed that the ASBA is collecting the amount spent by each Division and this information will be provided in the future.

A request was made that this report be provided to the ASBA for information.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams appreciated the invitation from the Covenant Health Centre now located in the former Grant MacEwan campus, to attend their Community Solutions Workshop. The workshop was attended by approximately 40 -50 professionals from the Millwoods area for the purpose of generating a discussion around what the community health centre should look like in this community. The discussion identified gaps and concerns in various areas, especially in the areas of mental health. Trustee Adams looks forward to further discussions and looking at creative solutions to perhaps partner with Edmonton Public Schools to help provide service to youth struggling with mental health.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked the school councils who have welcomed her to their meetings and for the invitation to future meetings. She remarked that there are always many questions and that despite concern over the provincial budget, there is a sense of optimism that the Division will figure out the best way forward. Trustee Estabrooks mentioned that she has heard tremendous thanks from parents to the entire Board for being transparent about the current reality that the Division is facing.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked the Queer Straight Alliance/Gay Straight Alliance (QSA/GSA) from Eastglen High School for inviting her to a recent meeting. She said there were also students from Highlands School in attendance. Trustee Estabrooks expressed that she always appreciates hearing from students about what they are thinking, feeling and experiencing in Edmonton Public Schools. She explained that these students are extremely supportive of the strong sexual orientation and gender identity policy which the Division has in place at Edmonton Public Schools to support students, staff and families.

Trustee Ip advised that the 11th Anniversary Ready for Life Fundraising Breakfast is on May 1, 2020, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at the Harry Ainlay School. He said that Trustees interested in hosting a table of guests or attending the event are asked to contact Ms Emmy Stuebing, Director of the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation.

Trustee Ip shared the results of the following fundraisers held to support full-day Kindergarten:

- In December 2019, the Michael A. Kostek School parent council hosted a Santa's Workshop and raised \$2,400.

MINUTE BOOK

- In January 2020, Ms Ann Vriend held a concert at the Eastglen Majestic Theatre, which highlighted the songs she co-wrote and performed with the from Mount Royal and Highlands schools. A profit portion of \$800 was shared with the Foundation.
- In February 2020, Foundation volunteers raised \$1,767 through the Chuck-a-Puck activity at an Edmonton Oil Kings game.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Estabrooks requested that Administration provide a detailed explanation of the impact of the Weighted Moving Average for Edmonton Public Schools. Assuming per pupil funding from last year applied to every student, what is the funding gap under the new model? In addition, that Administration provide an explanation on how Edmonton Public Schools will receive funding allocated through grants which are now based on the Weighted Moving Average and the impact of this formula on Edmonton Public Schools students.

Trustee Gibson requested that Administration clarify what proportion of the Division's Grade 10 students write the Programme for International Assessment (PISA) exams. If this is less than 100 percent explain how students are selected.

Trustee Janz

1. What are the impacts of funding to Private and Charter schools in the 2020 Budget?
2. Provide an explanation of the changes to education property taxes in the 2020 budget.

L. Notices of Motion - None

M. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: 4:11 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations