

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #06**

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, November 26, 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

Angela Anderson
Lisa Austin
Grace Cooke
Todd Burnstad

Ron MacNeil
Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Lorne Parker

Nancy Petersen
Darrel Robertson
Mike Suderman
Liz Yule

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.

MINUTE BOOK

A. O Canada

The singing of O Canada was performed in Spanish by students from the Escuela Mill Creek School Choir.

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

**“That the agenda for the November 26, 2019, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that the White Ribbon Campaign runs from November 25 – December 6. It has been running for 17 years, and was founded by a group of men in Canada who felt that they had to raise awareness and work towards prevention of violence against women. The wearing of a white ribbon stands for never taking part in, condoning or staying silent about violence against women. She said that the Board endorsed this campaign in 1994 and urges schools and staff to recognize this initiative. The Board Chair thanked CUPE Local 474 (Custodial Staff) for providing the Trustees and staff members with a white ribbon in acknowledgement of this important initiative.

The Board Chair reported that the playground at the McKay Avenue School, designed by Manasc Isaac, was awarded the Edmonton Urban Design Award of Excellence in the Community Projects category. She said that the Historic McKay Avenue School Playground is Edmonton’s first downtown playground and through collaboration between many local neighbourhood organizations, the playground took shape. The Board Chair thanked Ms Cindy Davis, the Archives and Museum manager, for all her work to help this playground become a reality.

The Board Chair thanked the executive of the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) and organizers for the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the association. She congratulated ASBA President, Lorrie Jess, and Vice-president, Trina Boymook, on their re-elections. She said that Alberta school boards are well served under their leadership and direction. The Board Chair expressed that it was an important time for trustees from across this province to come together and talk about the implications of the provincial budget and ways that school boards can work together.

The Board Chair thanked the Chairs of the other three metro school boards for attending a meeting with her and the Minister of Education. She said they shared their collective concerns as well as the desire to find solutions with Minister LaGrange. She explained that metro school

MINUTE BOOK

boards represent more than half of the students in the province and serve in school divisions that are growing by two to three percent each year.

The Board Chair advised that the government is currently asking Albertans what they would like to see in the *Choice in Education Act* that is due out this spring. She said that Edmonton Public Schools does not believe there is a need for more choice or more ways to divide limited resources. The Board Chair said that school divisions need adequate funding and great support for public education, the one system that is truly accessible and accountable.

The Board Chair expressed that the Board of Trustees has been looking at ways to meet the challenges presented to the Division by the shortfall from the provincial budget. She said that the Division's first priority is always doing what is best for students and that one of the ideas discussed involves the construction of the new high school in The Meadows that the government announced design funding for. The Board Chair said that the Board knows that area of the city needs the high school space now and also knows that it takes time to build a new high school. She explained that they have discussed the concept of using the same design at The Meadows that is being used for the Dr. Anne Anderson High School in Heritage Valley and that using the same design would save time, design costs and allow the Division to take knowledge obtained from the construction of one school and apply it to the second.

The Board Chair thanked the Alberta Teachers' Association for hosting her and Trustee Johner at the new teacher induction ceremony earlier in November. She congratulated teachers who have recently joined Edmonton Public Schools.

The Board Chair thanked CUPE Local 784 (Maintenance Staff) for the invitation to their annual Christmas retirement banquet. She congratulated members that recently retired.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked the Board of Trustees, staff and parents that participated in the 2019 results review meetings.

The Superintendent thanked the Board of Trustees for their focus and untiring advocacy efforts to the provincial government.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #05 – November 5, 2019

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #05 held November 5, 2019, be approved as printed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MINUTE BOOK

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board of Trustees heard from two registered speakers. The first speaker spoke about the negative impacts in classrooms in light of the 2019 provincial budget. The second speaker spoke about seclusion room statistics.

H. Reports

2. Funds for the 2020-2021 Professional Improvement Program – Teacher Certificated Staff

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That an allocation of \$1,300,000 from the 2020-2021 operating budget be approved for the Professional Improvement Program – Teacher Certificated Staff for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support to teachers for the 2020-2021 school year.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

3. Funds for the 2020-2021 Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

“That an allocation of \$150,000 from the 2019-2020 operating budget be approved for the Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program for the purpose of granting exempt staff professional improvement leaves and tuition support for the 2020-2021 school year.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

4. 2018-2019 Audited Financial Statements

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

“That the 2018-2019 audited financial statements, notes to the financial statements and unaudited schedules be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

There was a short break in the meeting.

5. Proposed Distribution of the 2018-2019 District Surplus

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

That the proposed distribution of the 2018-2019 surplus be approved as follows:

“1. That the 2019-2020 planned use of surplus funds totalling \$56.6 million, released in conjunction with the 2019-2020 fall revised budget, be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MINUTE BOOK

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“2. That the additional planned use of capital reserve funds of \$14 million for 2019-2020 be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. Fall Update to the Revised 2019-2020 Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

“That the Fall 2019 update to the 2019-2020 budget be approved.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams submitted the following report in writing:

Trustee Adams thanks the Early Childhood Coalition for the opportunity to take the training for the “Brain Game.” The Brain Game is an excellent tool for helping parents and those who work with children to understand, in a very interactive and revelatory way, how the brain of a child develops. On behalf of the Mill Woods Early Childhood Coalition, Trustee Adams has sent information about the opportunity to experience the Brain Game to the Mill Woods Presidents’ Council for possible participation by parents in their community.

Trustee Adams reports that the Edmonton Public Board of Trustees met with members from the three other metro boards from Calgary and Edmonton prior to the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Fall General Meeting (FGM). They met to re-establish the metro connection and approve the Metro School Boards Group Charter, as well discuss joint advocacy surrounding the provincial education budget that was released in October 2019. Trustee Adams reports that following the Metro Board meeting, the Edmonton Public Board of Trustees met with the Edmonton Catholic School Board. The meeting was beneficial to connect and establish a foundation to build trust in finding ways to work together in the coming year. Trustee Adams says that the school boards need to look for efficiencies together in areas such as transportation and inclusive education.

Trustee Adams attended the ASBA FGM where there was a full day of discussing several motions that came forward from a number of school boards from across the province. There were elections for the ASBA executive. Trustee Adams reports that three speakers addressed the assembly, speaking on the subjects of: Lobbying the Government, Understanding and Reconciling the History of Indigenous Peoples and Scaling Mount Everest.

MINUTE BOOK

Trustee Adams reports that it was a pleasure to come together with Trustees Dunn and Gibson at the Central Results Review. They had the privilege to review the results from Communications, the District Foundation, District Support Services and Human Resources. They were impressed by the quality and quantity of work being done collaboratively for the success of children. Trustee Adams welcomes the new Director of the District Foundation, Emmy Stuebing. Trustee Adams was pleased to have Assistant Superintendent Liz Yule join her for the Dan Knott, Kameyosek, Meyokumin and Meyonohk results review. She appreciated the open and meaningful discussion regarding each school's strengths and challenges over the past year. Collaboration continues to increase in value and practice. The respective principals also shared some of their plans going forward in light of the challenging budget ahead.

Trustee Adams reports that the Policy Review Committee has met for the third engagement session with community stakeholders for continued feedback regarding the Multicultural Educational Policy. She thanks the staff from Diversity Education, Strategic District Supports, and committee members who have given their time, expertise and valued perspectives to the continued work of developing this very important policy.

Trustee Draper congratulated Salam Seifeddine, Educational Assistant for the segregated English Language Learner (ELL) program at John D. Bracco School. She explained that on October 10, 2019, at the Research Inspired Student Enrichment (RISE) Awards, Seifeddine was awarded the Community Leadership Award that was presented by Mayor Iveson. The Community Leadership Award recognizes an immigrant who demonstrates a remarkable commitment to community engagement, with the goal of creating a more welcoming and inclusive community for all. Trustee Draper said that Principal Sheri Long notes Seifeddine works in the ELL program and has provided outstanding support to new students and their families over the last five years.

Trustee Draper reported that she has attended school council meetings at John D. Bracco, Bannerman, York and Overlander schools. She will be attending the Horse Hill school council meeting on December 2, 2019.

Trustee Dunn invited the Board of Trustees, parents and community members to attend an Education town hall meeting for Ward C, on November 28, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the amiskwacy Academy.

Trustee Dunn submitted the following report in writing:
It was a pleasure to attend many school council meetings and hear from parents about their questions on changes to public education. Trustee Dunn learned about so much of the life-changing work happening in the Division at the recent results review meetings and thanks everyone who attended.

Trustee Dunn reports that it was encouraging connecting with trustees of the Edmonton Catholic School Board and other trustees from across the province at the FGM of the ASBA.

MINUTE BOOK

Trustee Dunn is optimistic about how all school boards in Alberta are working together to support public education.

Trustee Ip advised that a special event will take place on November 28, 2019, from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Beacon Heights School. Trustee Ip invited the Board of Trustees, senior staff, catchment principals and Foundation donors to attend. He advised that the Westman Charitable Foundation and Jayman BUILT will be announcing a significant gift. Trustee Ip said that he will be speaking at the event on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Ip advised that the next Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Kindergarten Show and Tell session is on January 23, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Calder School.

Trustee Stirling provided the following report in writing:

Trustee Stirling attended several Remembrance Day ceremonies. She thanked Vimy Ridge Academy and Velma E. Baker schools for welcoming her to be part of their recognition along with guests Councillor Banga, MP Heather McPherson, and MLA Marlin Schmidt. She was honoured to represent the Division at the Butterdome Remembrance Day ceremony along with Trustee Ip.

On November 19, 2019, Trustee Stirling had the opportunity to bridge her academic and trustee lives as a guest lecturer for EDU 100 – Contexts of Education students at the University of Alberta. She reports that while her presentation was focused on her research on childhood, she was also glad to be able to talk to students about the current issues and opportunities for public school divisions in Alberta, in particular speaking about the need to be ready for complex classrooms and to be prepared especially for the new Teacher Qualifications Services (TQS) requirements for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit education and reconciliation in education.

Trustee Stirling thanked Escuela Mill Creek school council for welcoming her to their meeting, where they had some great conversations about balancing the needs of the local community and the broader Spanish language community in Edmonton in a vibrant and thriving International Spanish Academy program. Trustee Stirling expressed how much she appreciated the support of families for their teachers and staff as they face the current uncertainties and future challenges of the current budget context and their unwavering belief that we are all in it together for kids. She reports that it means so much to know families in the Division are ready to speak up in support of strong public schools in Edmonton.

On November 22, 2019, Trustee Stirling was pleased to take part in the second meeting of the City of Edmonton's Live Active Champions group, talking about how to create a culture of healthy active living across all sectors and communities in Edmonton. She thanked Councillors Cartmell and Walters for their leadership on this work.

Trustee Stirling reports that on November 21, 2019, the Policy Review Committee held their first meeting of the 2019-2020 school year with the Multiculturalism Policy Review Advisory

MINUTE BOOK

Committee. She thanks all of the members of the Multiculturalism Policy Review Advisory Committee for their collaboration through the complex and challenging conversations as a part of building a policy that supports the diversity of students, families, and staff.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Draper stated that Edmonton Public Schools is dependent on the provincial government as 94 percent of its budget comes from the government and requested the following information: What are some revenue-generating opportunities that Edmonton Public Schools could explore to expand its revenue sources and what revenue sources does it currently have?

Trustee Dunn remarked that the provincial budget announced on October 24, 2019, provided \$34.4 million dollars less than expected for this year, and the province has said funding will be frozen until 2022, despite growing enrolment numbers. Trustee Dunn said that the funding framework for Education is also currently under review by the province, adding uncertainty to an already challenging financial situation for Edmonton Public Schools.

Trustee Dunn stated that staff, Administration and the Board are problem solvers and are examining a variety of strategies to save valuable public education dollars while continuing to enhance the quality of education for students. She commented that Trustees heard clearly in results reviews that the complexity of learning needs in classrooms across the Division continues to increase and acknowledge that increased access to quality professional development is essential to continue the momentum that has been made for improved student achievement. In addition, Trustees also heard that staff is observing increased levels of anxiety among students. Although the Division has developed some excellent supports over the years to help students, all ideas will need to be examined carefully to ensure that the resources required across the Division for teaching and learning are provided.

Trustee Dunn requested that Administration provide the Board any changes that could be made in the 2020-2021 school year calendar that may bring cost savings by having fewer instructional days, while maintaining overall instructional time and the quality of student's education. Trustee Dunn requested the following information:

- What savings could be achieved
- How this might enhance professional development time for staff
- How much time would need to be added to each instructional day to meet provincial instructional time requirement
- If the opportunity to maintain alternative calendars for those schools that require them for certain programming needs could be preserved
- What engagement with families would look like

MINUTE BOOK**L. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Draper served notice of motion that Edmonton Public Schools share impacts of the Division's Reception Centres with the Federal Government and explore potential funding options with them to ensure the needs of newcomer families are being met.

Trustee Janz served notice of motion that Edmonton Public Schools continue to collect and publish class size data consistent with previous reporting requirements by the Alberta government and report on this information annually at public Board meetings.

M. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

N. Adjournment: 5:40 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations