

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #16**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Trustees of the Edmonton School District No. 7 of the Province of Alberta held in McCauley Chambers in the Centre for Education on Tuesday, June 25, 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
Kent Pharis

Darrel Robertson
Mike Suderman
Liz Yule

Board Chair: Michelle Draper

Recording Secretary: Shirley Juneau

Staff Group Representatives:

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

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A. O Canada 

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Johner:

**“That the agenda for the June 25, 2019, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Recognitions

1. Homes – A Refugee Story

The Board Chair said that it was a wonderful privilege for the District to celebrate a District teacher and her student who have found fame on the national stage. She shared that Ms Winnie Yeung is a teacher at Highlands School and that Abu Bakr al Rabeeah is a teenage refugee who spent his childhood in Iraq and Syria before moving to Edmonton with his family in 2014. After learning about Abu Bakr's life, his English teacher – Ms Winnie Yeung - decided that she wanted to share his remarkable story with as many Canadians as possible.

Homes: A Refugee Story is Abu Bakr's remarkable true story of growing up in a war zone and ultimately finding safety in Edmonton. *Homes* is Ms Yeung's first book and it has received extensive critical acclaim. It was shortlisted for the 2018 Governor General's Literary Award for Nonfiction and the 2019 Writers' Trust Shaughnessy Cohen Award for Political Writing. *Homes* was also a finalist on CBC's Canada Reads 2019.

The Board Chair advised that Abu Bakr couldn't be present at the meeting, but that the District wanted to celebrate the fact that his story is continuing positively. She said he is graduating from high school this month and that she was honoured to see him cross the stage at the graduation ceremonies. The Board Chair thanked Ms. Yeung for showing such care and sensitivity to Abu Bakr and his family, and all of her students.

The Board Chair advised that she has purchased several copies of the book and that she will be donating them to the District's Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education, Central units for social studies, English Language Learners, diversity consultants and the Archives and Museum. The Board Chair wished Ms Yeung and Abu Bakr every success in the future and thanked them for bringing this story to everyone's attention.

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2. Michael A. Strembitsky Award Recipients

The Board Chair announced the following students as recipients of the Michael A. Strembitsky Award of Excellence:

- Gold Medal – Michael DeMarco from McNally School
- Silver Medal – Esther Muloki from Eastglen School
- Bronze Medal – Mehera Salah from M.E. LaZerte School

The Board Chair called a 20 minute recess to accommodate a reception for students and guests.

E. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that the Board of Trustees met with the Minister of Education. The Trustees shared their appreciation for the announcement of funding for growth as well as the District's need for additional high school space and funding for modernizations. They also discussed the District's growing enrolment, classroom complexities and commitment to collaborate. The Board Chair thanked the Minister of Education for making time to meet with the Board of Trustees.

The Board Chair stated that the June 25, 2019, Board meeting is the final meeting of the 2018-2019 school year and wished all students, staff and families a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer holiday. She thanked everyone for contributing to the District's vision of Success, one student at a time.

F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that the District held multiple stakeholder engagement sessions over the last month to inform policy creation and student accommodation. He thanked everyone who participated in these sessions. He also advised that mid-June, the District held community meetings at Svend Hansen and A. Blair McPherson Schools in the southeast and a meeting about Soraya Hafez School in the northeast to gather input on attendance areas. The Superintendent explained that the setting of attendance areas is an administrative decision, not one made by the Board of Trustees. The District views community voice a key component in making decisions. Presentations and an online survey for each attendance area are available on the District website. The surveys will be open until June 27, 2019.

The Superintendent thanked staff, students and parents for all the effort put into making 2018-19 a great year. He also thanked the Board of Trustees for their work to ensure all students have access to what they need for a great education.

The Superintendent wished everyone a safe and happy summer.

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G. Minutes

3. Board Meeting #15 – June 11, 2019

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #15, held June 11, 2019, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

H. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board of Trustees heard from Ms Jody Deckert and Ms Nancy LaFrance regarding attendance areas in The Meadows area.

I. Reports

4. Approval of the 2019-2020 Spring Budget

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

**“1. That the 2019-2020 Budget of \$1,216,360,562 be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That the budget report for the year ending August 31, 2020 be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

5. Motion re: Multi-Block Funding Model

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

**“1. That the Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees endorse a two per cent multi-year block funding model as outlined in Request for Information Report #037, and that the Board advocate for this model to the Premier of Alberta, Minister of Education and Minister of Infrastructure. “
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That the Board share the Request for Information Report #037 with the Mayor of Edmonton, Edmonton City Council and other metro school boards, and request a meeting with each party and our Board Chair and Infrastructure Committee Chair to discuss opportunities for joint advocacy.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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6. Annual Policy Review for *School Act* Compliance

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

“That the Board confirm the Policy Review Committee’s annual review of policies required to be in compliance with the *School Act*.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

7. 2018-2019 Superintendent of Schools’ Evaluation Summary

An overall summary of the 2018-2019 Superintendent of Schools’ evaluation was provided to the Board of Trustees for information.

8. Bereavement

The Vice-Chair reported on the passing of Mr. Marvin Eidelman and Mrs. Shirley Simmonds.

9. Delegation of Authority – 2019 Summer Recess

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“1. That in accordance with Sections 61(1), 65(2), 65(3) and 67(1) of the *School Act*, any special board meetings during the 2019 summer recess be at the call of the Board Chair or, in her absence, the Board Vice-Chair.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

2. That in accordance with Section 61(1) of the *School Act*, effective June 25, 2019, delegation of authority to the Superintendent of Schools to make decisions during the 2019 summer recess on behalf of the Board be approved.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“3. That a report of all such decisions be brought to the first public Board meeting in the fall of 2019.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

- J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

- K. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Adams advised that she attended the High School Collaboration Journey at Harry Ainlay School where ten high schools met and working together to share information, trust and commonalities. She thanked Assistant Superintendent, Mike Suderman, for initiating this work.

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Trustee Adams submitted the following report in writing:

On June 11, 2019, there was an Infrastructure Engagement Session to discuss The Meadows Attendance Area Redesign at Svend Hansen School. The meeting was well attended by parents, staff and students. It was very difficult for the parents to even consider a change in the Kindergarten to Grade 9 school they have come to enjoy in two short years. Unfortunately, the critical overcrowding of the school necessitates a change. Hearing from the parents will help to determine what change will be the most beneficial.

On June 12, 2019, the Dan Knott School Creative Arts and Concert event was a very special evening. The library was transformed into an amazing art gallery with some really exceptional art work. Trustee Adams was honoured to meet the artists and hear the stories behind their art. Trustee Adams thanks the teachers behind the success of both the artwork and the band concert.

On June 13, 2019, the Svend Hansen School hosted a Fine Arts Night. Trustee Adams thanks everyone for making this evening such a huge success. There were various art works and grade presentations throughout the evening. Hundreds of parents came out to support this evening and it was a great opportunity to meet and share with a number of them throughout the evening. The parent council had a steady job with their popcorn fundraiser that evening.

On June 14, 2019, Trustee Adams and Estabrooks attended the panel discussion at Victoria School regarding the practice of eugenics in Alberta, especially in respect to the coerced sterilization of Indigenous women. Relating to Canada's ideal of "joining hands in an open process of dialogue and truth-telling", a concerned student at Victoria School initiated the dialogue around the *Sexual Sterilization Act* of 1928 and the continuation of its practice today. The dialogue was weighty and brought much awareness to an alarming part of our history.

On June 14, 2019, Trustee Adams attended the Millwoods Early Childhood Coalition at Millwood's School library. There was an inspiring discussion about possible community groups that would benefit from Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) presentations and the Brain Architecture Games Workshops in the fall. Free trauma-informed training will be offered through Living Hope throughout the coming year, starting in July.

On June 14, 2019, Trustee Adams was honoured to bring congratulations to the Grade 9 graduates at the Ellerslie Campus and Michael Strembitsky Schools.

On June 17, 2019, Board Chair Draper gave an overview of the District's needs and shared its concerns at a meeting with the Minister of Education, Adrianna LaGrange. The meeting was followed by a debriefing session for the Board of Trustees.

On June 18, 2019, Trustee Adams met with Councillor Mohinder Banga and his staff regarding The Meadows redesign and reports that it was a good opportunity to share information about the critical situation the District is facing regarding this area and to clarify next steps. Parent

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feedback is essential before any decisions will be made. She appreciated the aspiration of the councillor and his staff to work together and to share consistent messaging with constituents. Councillor Banga and his staff were pleased to hear there will be another consultation meeting with the parents of Svend Hansen School.

On June 19, 2019, the second Multicultural Policy Advisory Committee meeting was held. The information gathered will be very significant in the formation of this policy.

June 20, 2019, the District Retirement Banquet was held to honour those who have served the District so reliably. Trustee Adams thanks Ms Cathy MacDonald and her team for the excellent job of planning and success of the event.

On June 21, 2019, Trustee Adams attended the year-end barbeque at Tipaskan School and reports that it was privileged to serve hot dogs with Member of Parliament Amarjeet Sohi. Trustee Adams commends the Rotary Club for volunteering and sponsoring this special event for all of the children of Tipaskan School.

Trustee Dunn submitted the following report in writing:

Trustee Dunn thanks the Trustee members of the Mental Health Committee, and the administrative staff also working on this committee for their commitment and hard work this past year. We developed and delivered advocacy messages to the Alberta Association of School Boards, to the Health and Education ministries and to parents and the public about the importance of increased collaboration between health care and education and the need for shared funding for mental health professionals serving our students in schools. Trustee Dunn is hopeful that this work will continue on a renewed committee examining mental health and well-being next year and is looking forward to working with the new provincial government on these goals.

Trustee Dunn reports that one of her favourite times of the school year is attending graduations and witnessing the end of a journey that took many hands. Congratulations to the graduates of Victoria School who held their ceremony last week, and Edmonton Christian High who will be holding their ceremony Thursday.

Trustee Dunn reports that it was a pleasure to attend a celebration of the learning happening at City Hall School and to celebrate the careers of staff who will be retiring at the end of this year.

Trustee Draper reported on the following items:

On June 12, 2019, she participated in the procession of the University of Alberta convocation for Elementary Education at the Northern Alberta Jubilee.

On June 13, 2019, Trustee Draper was pleased to participate in the 50th Celebration of Londonderry Junior High School as well as the M.E. LaZerte School Interact barbeque.

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On June 20, 2019, Trustee Draper helped celebrate District Retirees at their banquet and said that it was a lovely evening.

Trustee Estabrooks submitted the following report in writing:

She thanks the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) for hosting an information session on Bill 8 for Trustees. This is an important piece of legislation that will affect school boards in the province and she appreciates the ASBA's leadership around informing locally elected trustees about the proposed legislation.

Trustee Estabrooks had the honour of being invited to a number of events and graduations and thanked Ms Linda Hut, teacher at City Hall School for the warm welcome to City Hall along with Trustees Dunn and Ip to celebrate another year of learning about civic government with more than 600 students from Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic schools.

Trustee Estabrooks was pleased to bring greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees at an event at the Edmonton Convention Centre that features student art work as well as wish retirees the very best on the next journey of their lives at the District retirement banquet.

Trustee Estabrooks thanks Centre High School for once again hosting a fabulous graduation ceremony for their emergency responders' career pathways program graduates. The dedication by these young people for a career of serving the public is inspiring.

Trustee Estabrooks thanks and congratulates the Eastglen School students for sharing their graduation day with her and reports that there is amazing things happening at the school and she is proud to represent families and students.

Trustees Estabrooks thanks the Norwood School and staff for inviting her to their annual Roots and Shoots celebration, honouring the work of students who contribute to community and raise awareness about environmental issues.

Trustee Ip thanked everyone who helped the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation exceed their fundraising goal at the 2019 Ready for Life Fundraising Breakfast by raising more than \$75,000 in support of one full-day Kindergarten classroom.

L. Trustee and Board Requests for Information - None

M. Notices of Motion

Trustee Janz served notice that he will make a motion at the September 10, 2019, Caucus Committee meeting that Edmonton Public Schools oppose Federal government funding of separate Catholic schools by any means necessary, including legal action, and that support be immediately solicited from other school boards across Alberta.

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N. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

O. **Adjournment:** 5:45 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Michelle Draper, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations