

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #08**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Sherry Adams
Shelagh Dunn
Michelle Draper

Trisha Estabrooks
Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz
Bridget Stirling

Officials

Angela Anderson
Todd Burnstad
Grace Cooke
Ron McNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler
Kent Pharis

Nancy Petersen
Darrel Robertson
Carrie Rosa
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. Roll Call: (2:00 p.m.)

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

B. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

**“That the agenda for the January 12, 2021, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year and hoped that staff, administration and the Board of Trustees were able to find some much needed time to rest, relax and rejuvenate. The Board Chair stated there is a need to continue to work hard, lean on each other and continue to advocate for what the Division needs in the coming months.

MINUTE BOOK

The Board Chair said that as of yesterday, all students who chose in-person learning are back in Division classrooms and shared that students, teachers, and parents all want the same thing: to have children back in schools – safely. The Board Chair stated that she believes what students, teachers, parents and families also want is to get off of the “COVID coaster”. The on again, off again disruption to student learning that happens when students return to classes during a pandemic is a difficult transition for everyone. The Board of Trustees has faith in the Division’s re-entry plan as laid out by the Division and shared that staff are doing their best to reduce the spread of the virus as much as possible.

The Board Chair stated that the reality is that Division schools continue to reflect case counts in the general public. She advised that the Board of Trustees will continue to request access to provincial data, including in-school transmission and information about the metrics underlying provincial decisions. The Board Chair explained that data around in-school transmission of COVID-19 has not been shared with school divisions, which is unfortunate since this data could assist staff to adapt and change safety measures as required.

The Board Chair advised that the Division has asked the Province for in-school transmission data, but has yet to receive it. The Board Chair stressed that transparency and clear information remain very important. The Board said the Division also looks forward to hearing more information about supports for teachers and schools, including contact-tracing support for schools from the Alberta government. She stated these are both items Premier Kenney mentioned during his Facebook Live event.

The Board Chair announced that Maintenance Employees’ Appreciation Day is on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. She said that maintenance employees and CUPE Local 784 bring so much skill and creativity to the Division and that everyone relies on these employees to keep buildings safe, healthy and running efficiently. The Board Chair shared the Division will be doing a social media campaign to recognize their work and contributions.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Board Chair thanked the maintenance employees and CUPE Local 784 for their hard work and dedication in supporting staff and students.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed his sincere appreciation to students, staff and parents who have done a tremendous job in keeping teaching and learning moving forward during a global pandemic. He noted that staff have gone above and beyond in many areas and pointed out the amazing work that is being done to maintain effective communication with families when there is a case of COVID-19 in a school. He explained that during part of the winter break, Division staff worked diligently to ensure families were notified if there were COVID-19 cases and potential close contacts that the Division became aware of after December 18, reinforcing the Division’s collective commitment to the safety of its students and staff, and the community.

MINUTE BOOK

The Superintendent advised that the Division is working to keep stakeholders informed about the realities of COVID-19 by providing regular updates to the media, publishing the number of cases on the Division's website daily and providing weekly updates to Division staff. The Superintendent reported that on November 30, 2020, students in grades 7 to 12 moved to online learning; however, there were a number of students that required specialized supports that remained in schools for face-to-face learning during that time. The Superintendent said that all students, excluding those requiring specialized supports, shifted to at-home learning for the first week after winter recess. On January 7, 2021, the Province confirmed that all students would return to face-to-face learning on January 11, 2021.

The Superintendent stated that the Division's safety protocols remain in place and it continues to exercise caution in notifications to families of COVID-19 cases in schools asking that all staff and students in a cohort that have had potential exposure self-isolate for a 14-day period. The Superintendent reported that the Division has had 1,044 cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of September 2020, resulting in 24,786 students and 2,790 staff that were required to self-isolate. The Superintendent reported that from November 11, 2020 to January 11, 2021, the Division had 672 individuals test positive for COVID-19.

The Superintendent shared that Dr. Hinshaw has stated that in-school transmission is not a main driver of COVID-19 cases amongst school age children. The Superintendent has asked for COVID-19 in-school transmission data specific to the Division. The Superintendent said that feedback he has received from Alberta Health Services and Occupational Health and Safety inspections shows the safety protocols within the Division are good; they are supportive of the Division's re-entry strategy and the safety protocols are being applied in the Division's schools effectively.

The Superintendent shared that a concern moving forward is the Division's ability to provide enough supply teachers and supply educational assistants when there are increased cases of COVID-19. He advised that the Division is working on a survey of the supply staff to ensure the Division is doing everything it can to make them accessible for temporary assignments.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #07 – December 8, 2020

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Dunn:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #07 held December 8, 2020, be approved as printed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There was one registered speaker who spoke on behalf of the University of Alberta Black Youth Mentorship & Leadership Programme.

MINUTE BOOK

G. Reports

2. Report #21 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held December 8, 2020)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the December 8, 2020, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. First, Second, Third and Final Reading of Board Policy EM.BP Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis on and in Division Property and at Division Functions

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

**"1. That Board Policy EM.BP Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis on and in Division Property and at Division Functions be considered for the first, second and third time at this meeting."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**"2. That Board Policy EM.BP Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis on and in Division Property and at Division Functions be considered for the first time."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**"3. That Board Policy EM.BP Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis on and in Division Property and at Division Functions be considered for the second time."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**"4. That Board Policy EM.BP Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis on and in Division Property and at Division Functions be considered for the third and final time and be approved."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Update on the Model for the Collection of Race-based Data

Administration provided an update on the Division's progress in creating a model to collect race-based data.

H. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Draper stated that the nomination process, coordinated by the City of Edmonton for the next municipal election to be held on October 18, 2021, opened early this month and runs until September 20, 2021. She said the election includes Edmonton Public School Board Trustees.

Trustee Draper advised that after careful consideration she has decided not to seek re-election as Trustee for Ward B. She thanked the constituents for the honour and privilege to serve in this role for the past seven plus years.

Trustee Draper encouraged those who live in the northeast part of Edmonton or who are connected to it, who are interested in promoting public education and this form of service to consider this

MINUTE BOOK

position. Trustee Draper expressed that she hopes to be a resource for interested candidates and welcomed those who would like information to contact her directly. Other resources include Edmonton Elections and the Alberta School Boards Association.

Trustee Draper also thanked the Edmonton Public Schools' students, families, staff and stakeholders for the memorable opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees and to represent the northeast part of Edmonton for two terms.

I. **Trustee and Board Requests for Information** - None

J. **Notices of Motion**

Vice-Chair Dunn requested that the Board grant waiver of notice of motion to consider two recommendations:

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Dunn:

**"1. That the Board of Trustees grant waiver of notice of motion to consider two related motions at the January 12, 2021, Board meeting."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**"2. That, in accordance with the *Education Act* and the Superintendent of Schools Regulation, authorization for the Board Chair to seek the approval of the Minister of Education to reappoint the Superintendent of Schools for a new five-year term effective September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2026 be approved."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**"3. That, subject to the approval of the Minister of Education, authorization for the Board Chair to sign on behalf of the Board a new five-year contract of employment with the Superintendent of Schools effective September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2026 be approved."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

K. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

L. **Adjournment:** 3:05 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations