

**MINUTE BOOK****Board Meeting #09**

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 26, 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 Trustee Ip would be joining the meeting shortly and that all other Trustees were present.

**B. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED BY Trustee Janz:**

**“That the agenda for the January 26, 2021, Board meeting be approved as printed.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**Trustee Ip was not present for this item.**

**C. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair shared that she is encouraged to see the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations declining in Edmonton and that the positivity rate is slowly decreasing. She said this is a glimmer of positive news in the midst of learning about new variants of the virus in Alberta. The Board

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Chair advised that a number of restrictions remain in place while Division schools remain open. She advised that two of the Division's high schools had to switch to online learning due a large number of staff and students having to isolate.

The Board Chair commended staff in Division schools for working to keep each other and students as safe as possible and also acknowledged the more than 800 teachers working online to support students.

The Board Chair reported that the Metro School Boards have sent a letter to Health Minister Shandro advocating for all school-based staff to be prioritized for the COVID-19 vaccine. She explained that teachers, educational assistants, custodians, and others working directly with students in schools are in situations daily which put them at greater exposure to contract the virus.

The Board Chair recognized the hard work of the Board of Trustees at the Calgary Board of Education in completing the ministerial order as directed by Education Minister LaGrange. She said that this welcomed news for not just the Calgary Board of Education but for all democratically elected school boards in the province.

The Board Chair reported that Eastglen students are talking about ways schools can be more inclusive of Black experiences, ways to fight anti-Black racism and create a vision that is more inclusive of Black communities. The Board Chair explained that this is a student-led project and that she looks forward to hearing what the students learn and what they will do with the information.

#### **D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent reported that on January 11, 2021, the Division was advised that the provincial language describing case numbers of COVID-19 in schools was being changed to the following:

- *Alert* is now used for one to four cases.
- *Outbreak* is now used for five cases or more.
- The term 'watch' will no longer be used.

The Superintendent advised that from January 12 to 22, 2021, 83 individuals in 46 schools tested positive requiring 2,030 students and 250 staff to self-isolate. He said that the Division continues to keep families informed by providing daily updates to media and publishing the number of cases on the Division's website daily.

The Superintendent stated that Quarter 2 comes to a close on Friday, January 29, 2021. He explained that Monday, February 1, 2021, has been designated as a professional development day and that Quarter 3 classes will begin on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. The Superintendent thanked all families who submitted their Family Choice form by the deadline and shared that knowing in advance whether students want to learn in-person or online is critical to the Division having staffing in place for the beginning of the new quarter.

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Trustee Ip joined the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

**E. Minutes**

1. Board Meeting #08 – January 12, 2021

**MOVED BY Vice-Chair Dunn:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #08 held January 12, 2021, be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

There were no registered speakers for this item.

**G. Reports**

2. Board Policy GGAB.BP Multicultural Education

**MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:**

**“1. That Board Policy GGAB.BP Multicultural Education be introduced.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That Board Policy GGAB.BP Multicultural Education be read for the first time and approved for consultation for further stakeholder feedback.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

3. Board Policy GGAJ.BP Early Years

**MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:**

**“1. That Board Policy GGAJ.BP Early Years be introduced.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That Board Policy GGAJ.BP Early Years be read for the first time and approved for posting on the Division website for final stakeholder feedback.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Annual Update on Operational Efficiencies 2019-2020

Administration provided an update on efficiencies that were continued from 2018-2019, new efficiencies that were realized during the 2019-2020 school year, and other efficiencies currently being explored.

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5. Data on Frequency of Seclusion and Restraint Use  
(Response to Request for Information #089)

Administration provided an update on the frequency of seclusion and restraint use since the Division implemented a new administrative regulation and training modules.

H. **Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports** - None

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

J. **Notices of Motion**

Trustee Janz served notice of motion that as per Sections 13 and 14 of the *Joint Use Agreement* with the City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Public School Board initiate a renegotiation of the agreement in order to clearly articulate appropriate uses of surplus school sites that would keep neighbourhood schools open and strengthen the educational outcomes of the Public, Catholic, and Francophone school divisions.

Further, that the Edmonton Public School Board request the City of Edmonton to refrain from any further sale of public land to private schools until the renegotiation is complete.

K. **Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.**

L. **Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

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Karen Mills, Director of Board and  
Superintendent Relations