

MINUTE BOOK

Board Meeting #17

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

Sherry Adams
Shelagh Dunn
Michelle Draper

Trisha Estabrooks
Ken Gibson
Nathan Ip

Michael Janz
Bridget Stirling

Student Trustees

Sarah Freeman

Helen Pan

Ellen You

Officials

Angela Anderson
Grace Cooke
Todd Burnstad
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler
Nancy Petersen

Kent Pharis
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. O Canada 
Recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day**

Ms Sheila Williams, a consultant with the Division, sang O Canada in Cree.

The Board Chair advised that Division students and staff are wearing orange today to honour the 215 children whose remains were discovered. On behalf of the Division, the Board Chair extended its sympathies to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation and to all who are grieving. She said that flags at Division schools and buildings are now at half-mast and will remain that way until after June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day, in remembrance of all of the children who died at residential schools and all those who continue to feel the impact of residential schools. A moment of silence was shared in honour of the 215 children whose remains were found.

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Ms Clarice Anderson, Supervisor with the Division's First Nations, Métis and Inuit unit spoke and shared a video about the traditional Jingle Dress and dance.

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

**"That the agenda for the June 8, 2021, Board meeting be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair recognized that June is Pride month and the first week of June is Pride week at Edmonton Public Schools. Pride is a time to celebrate but it's also a time to remember the hard-fought battles for inclusion. She said that Edmonton Public Schools has a strong sexual orientation and gender identity policy and previous Boards of Trustees, including many of the Trustees on this current board, have been leaders in ensuring LGBTQ+ students and staff are safe and welcome in Division schools. The Board Chair remarked that this leadership was important especially when considering some of the rights rolled back by the UCP government when it comes to supporting Gay Straight Alliances in schools Alberta-wide. The Board Chair stated that Edmonton Public Schools policies remain some of the strongest in this province.

The Board Chair reported that the Edmonton Public School Division received news last week that of the 30 requests put forward to the Alberta government for portables, funding for 25 will be received. She said this is a significant investment in modular classrooms and will help accommodate growth that the Division is seeing in schools, in particular schools in the southwest. The Board Chair stated that the Division appreciates this investment but reinforced that what is needed is further investments in the capital plan. She said the Division is one of the fastest growing school divisions in Alberta, and it is imperative that it continue to see new schools announced as well as funding for replacement schools in its mature neighbourhoods.

The Board Chair reported that on June 10, 2021, she and Trustee Draper will be participating in an event with Edmonton Catholic Trustees as well as ParityYEG to share information about what it means to be a school board Trustee. She appreciates ParityYEG's role in encouraging women to run for public office, including the position of school board Trustee.

The Board Chair said she is very encouraged, as many Edmontonians are, to see the decreasing number of daily COVID-19 cases. She remarked that vaccinations work and it's really powerful to talk to students or young people right now about the significance of receiving the vaccine for them. The Board Chair said that everyone has sacrificed so much this year, including students,

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and many of the young people she has been talking to feel the hope that a vaccine can bring as well as a sense of doing their part in this pandemic when they receive the vaccine.

The Board Chair reported that the membership of the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) met yesterday. Trustees from 61 boards from across the province attended the ASBA Spring General Meeting. She provided an update on the motion put forward by Edmonton Public School Division in conjunction with the Evergreen Catholic School Division calling for a delay, review and rewrite of the provincial draft K-6 curriculum.

The Board Chair advised that Trustees thoroughly discussed the motion and the motion weathered a number of amendments but was amended to remove the word *rewrite* from the original motion.

In the end, the ASBA membership passed a motion that calls for a delay, a review and further engagement on the draft K-6 curriculum. The Board Chair said this is a step forward for ASBA but in the Board's opinion stronger language, in particular calling for a rewrite, is truly what is needed in order to ensure the best curriculum for Alberta students.

On behalf of the Board, the Board Chair congratulated Trustee Michael Janz for receiving the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) award for Advancing Association Business. She noted that Trustee Janz has been a strong advocate for public education and this award recognizes his passion and contributions to the PSBAA and to public education.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent congratulated all students that will be graduating this year. He said this is a great accomplishment. The Superintendent thanked parents and school staff who help every student on their academic journey. The Superintendent also thanked all the creative folks who are figuring out amazing ways to celebrate graduation, even though it won't be in person.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #16 – May 25, 2021

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #16 held May 25, 2021, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There was one registered speaker for this item who opposed the mandatory requirement for students to wear masks at school.

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2. Report #24 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held May 11, 2021)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the May 11, 2021, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Student Senate Work Plan Update

The Student Senate presented a final update of their work in support of their 2020-2021 Work Plan.

4. Locally Developed Courses

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 31, 2025:

- Design Thinking for Innovation 15-25-35 (3 and 5)
- Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairment 15-25 (3 and 5)
- Extended Essay 35 (3)
- Film and Media Art 15-25-35 (3 and 5)
- Forensic Studies 25-35 (3)
- Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 (3 and 5)
- Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35 (3 and 5)
- Musical Theatre Performance 15-25-35 (5)

That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 31, 2023:

- Orientation & Mobility 15-25 (3)
- Unified English Braille Code 15 (5)

That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 31, 2022:

- Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Ip was not present for the vote.

5. Rescindment of Board Policy GIBD.BP Integrated School Library Learning Commons

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“1. That Board Policy GIBD.BP Integrated School Library Learning Commons be rescinded.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Ip was not present for the vote.

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**“That the budget report for the year ending August 31, 2021, be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

7. Three-Year Education Plan (2021-2024)**MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:**

“That the Edmonton Public Schools’ Three-Year Education Plan (2021-2024) be approved.”

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn that the motion be amended:

“That the Three-Year Education Plan be amended to include achievement data as a measure under Goal 2.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:**

“That the Edmonton Public Schools’ Three-Year Education Plan (2021-2024) be approved as amended.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)8. COVID-19 Impact on the Division from April 28 to May 25, 2021

An update was provided regarding the COVID-19 impact on the Division from April 28 to May 25, 2021.

9. School Safety Coach

The Division has created a new school-based role that supports safety and well-being in the Division’s school communities. The School Safety Coaches will help meet the needs of school communities with an emphasis on trauma informed practices, restorative practices and relationship building with students and youth from the surrounding community. Principals now have the option, should they choose, to initiate the process to hire a school safety coach.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports:

Trustee Draper, Trustee Representative for the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation, reported that on June 7, 2021, the Division welcomed Ms Kyla Amrhein as the new Director of the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation. She advised that Ms Amrhein brings 15 years of experience to the position in the areas of governance, volunteer management, fund development and

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community engagement. In her most recent role, as Director of Advancement within the University of Alberta Faculty of Engineering, Ms Amrhein was responsible for leading a team focused on alumni relations, fund development, communications and events. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Draper welcomed Ms Amrhein to the Division.

Trustee Draper reported that on May 7, 2021, approximately 2,000 donors, friends, volunteers, students and staff members took time to read a book for a good cause, and many also donated to the Foundation's 2021 Reading for Life virtual fundraiser. She said that including the \$10,000 matching donation made through EPCOR's Heart and Soul Fund, over \$35,000 was raised through the Reading for Life fundraiser. Trustee Draper explained the money will support full-day Kindergarten programming and help level the educational playing field for children who come to the classroom at a disadvantage.

Trustee Draper reported that the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation will be receiving \$25,000 through EPCOR's Heart and Soul Fund to embark on a 2021 Chromebooks for Kids Campaign. The campaign will run from September to December of the 2021-22 school year with the goal of raising \$50,000 or more to purchase Chromebooks. These Chromebooks will supplement the Division's supply and help ensure that the Division's vulnerable students have equitable access to technology to support their learning journey.

J. Trustee Requests for Information:

The Board Chair requested that the Administration provide contextual information related to the construction, maintenance, and eventual replacement of school playgrounds on Edmonton Public Schools land. More specifically:

1. Who determines whether a playground located on EPSB land is the responsibility of the City or Edmonton or the school division?
2. Who is responsible for maintaining and eventually replacing school playgrounds?
3. What Division supports are offered to parent groups trying to raise money to construct new or replacement playgrounds?
4. How is money for replacement playground construction generated?
5. What costs to the Division would be associated with providing additional supports to address any gaps in the system?
6. On behalf of parent groups, are there opportunities for trustee advocacy that could help improve efforts to construct playgrounds?

K. Notices of Motion:

Trustee Draper served notice of motion that the Board of Trustees provides a letter of support to endorse the Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care's "Recommended Actions for the City of Edmonton."

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Trustee Draper served notice of motion that the Board of Trustees direct Administration to collaborate with the Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care and explore the feasibility of implementation of the “Recommended Actions for Education.”

Trustee Janz served notice of motion that Edmonton Public Schools request Mayor Iveson and City Council to add two referendum questions to the 2021 Municipal Election Ballot as follows:

1. A rejection of the UCP Alberta Education equalization formula (the Weighted Moving Average).
2. The rejection of the current draft K-6 curriculum and call for a rewrite.

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations