

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #10**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, February 9, 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
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 Janz would be joining the meeting shortly. All other Trustees were present.

B. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Vice Chair Dunn:

**“That the agenda for the February 9, 2021, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair shared that February is Black History Month and that while it is important to take time to celebrate and reflect on the amazing contributions of Black Canadians to the city, province and country, it is important to recognize that this not just be a month-long activity. She said that we can

MINUTE BOOK

and we must do better to ensure greater awareness of Black people, their history and their contributions in our curriculum as well as actively promote anti-black racism in our school system.

The Board Chair advised that there are some powerful conversations happening in Division schools, conversations being led by students about anti-racism. She remarked that it is clear that we still have a lot of work to do after reading about what the Edmonton Police are calling hate motivated assaults involving two Muslim women in the city last week. The Board Chair stated that everyone has a part to play in denouncing hate and speaking up when we witness acts and words of racism.

The Board Chair noted that it has been five years since the city and the Division welcomed more than 500 Syrian children to Edmonton Public Schools and the contributions of these families and their children to the Division has strengthened what it means to be an inclusive and welcoming school division.

The Board Chair advised that the Board of Trustees continues to advocate to the provincial government and to the Alberta School Boards Association for this year to be a “hold harmless” year in terms of funding.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent acknowledged that schools and families are preparing for pre-enrolment, which will begin on March 8, 2021. He advised that the open houses will be virtual this year, but they are still a great way to learn more about schools and the programs they offer. The Superintendent asked that students and families refer to SchoolZone and epsb.ca to find dates and times for the open house virtual events.

The Superintendent advised that Monday, February 15, is Family Day and that this year has made us realize how important the support of family is. He acknowledged that not everyone has close family ties. However, Family Day provides everyone an opportunity to say thank you to the people who encourage and support us throughout the year, and to reach out to those who might need some extra support.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #09 – January 26, 2021

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Dunn:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #09 held January 26, 2021, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

MINUTE BOOK**G. Reports**

2. Report #22 of the Special Caucus Committee (From the meeting held January 19, 2021)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the January 19, 2021, Special Caucus Committee meeting.

3. Student Senate Work Plan Update

The Student Senate presented to the Board of Trustees an update of their work in support of their 2020-2021 Work Plan.

4. COVID-19 Impact on the Division from November 11, 2020, to January 26, 2021

The Board of Trustees received an update on the COVID-19 impact on the Division from November 11, 2020, to January 26, 2021.

The Board Chair asked how many COVID-19 tests have been done for staff by the mobile testing unit. The Superintendent advised that this information would be provided in the March 9, 2021, COVID-19 update report.

5. School Council Annual Report Highlights Summary

Information was provided regarding highlights from the 2019-2020 school annual reports.

The Board Chair requested that Administration send a copy of this report to the Alberta School Councils Association for their information.

There was a short break in the meeting.

6. Strategic Plan Update: Early Years

An update was provided to the Board of Trustees with an overview of the Division's efforts in support of its youngest learners through a more detailed look at the Early Years Evaluation - Teacher Assessment (EYE-TA) data . The report also provided a historical summary of the development of the Division's Pre-Kindergarten program, including the impact of changes to provincial Program Unit Funding (PUF).

The Board Chair stated that restoration of PUF is a major advocacy issue for the Edmonton Public School Board. The Board Chair requested that Administration send this report to the Minister of Education.

There was a short break in the meeting.

MINUTE BOOK

7. Special School Tax Levy Plebiscite Process
(Response to Request for Information #090)

Information was provided regarding the special school tax levy plebiscite process.

8. Changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act* concerning Political Action Committees
(Response to Request for Information #091)

Information was provided regarding changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act* concerning Political Action Committees.

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

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Dunn advised that in the fall, Edmonton Public Schools put forward the following policy position at the Alberta School Boards Association, which passed with a majority vote by school boards in Alberta:

That Alberta Education reverse decisions on Program Unit Funding (PUF) program eligibility in order to ensure that all students with mild to moderate and severe disabilities-delays who require specialized early intervention provided by this funding are able to receive it, and that funding of the PUF Program be restored to the equivalent per-student amount as 2018 levels, including Family Oriented Supports, allowing Early Childcare Service providers to offer fully funded half-day programming, and that program funding be extended from two years to three years to include supports for Kindergarten.

Trustees Dunn and Gibson requested the following information:

1. How have the reductions to PUF impacted the supports for students in Kindergarten at Edmonton Public Schools? Are we expecting an impact on school readiness in Kindergarten? Please include any information deemed relevant for budget considerations for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. Recognizing that our funding model has changed significantly, please provide as much information as possible on EPSB spending (or allocations) on Kindergarten for the 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. Please include total amounts spent on or allocated to Kindergarten, as well as spending on specialized supports in Kindergarten.
3. Please include Kindergarten enrolment numbers so a per-student equivalent may be calculated for comparison across years, and please provide the number of students who qualified for PUF supports in these years as a proportion of the total number of students enrolled in Kindergarten for these years.
4. For every coded student who previously received PUF, what would the Division estimate the anticipated typical annual cost of supports and typical number of years supports are required in Division 1 years to ameliorate the loss of the PUF intervention?

MINUTE BOOK

5. Under the Weighted Moving Average funding model, what is the gap between the typical annual cost and the amount of funding provided?

Trustee Stirling requested the following information on behalf of the Board Advocacy Committee regarding Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) and Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) funding:

1. What are the differences between IMR and CMR funding and how those funds can be used by the Division?
2. Is Administration able to provide clarity on the proposed future of the CMR grant?
3. What opportunities and challenges may be associated with the future direction of CMR funding?

J. Notices of Motion

Trustee Janz served notice of motion that:

1. The Edmonton Public School Board advocate for the establishment of a municipal broadband modelled on the example of Connect Toronto and other publicly owned telecommunications initiatives across North America.
2. The Edmonton Public School Board advocate to the federal and provincial governments for immediate initiatives to increase accessibility, quality and reduce costs of internet for students, staff, and families.

K. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

L. Adjournment: 5:15 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations