

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #14**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, April 27, 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 April 27, 2021, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair thanked the community for continuing to reach out and support the young boy who was badly beaten at Rosslyn School. The Board Chair advised that she and Superintendent Robertson, along with the mayor, had the opportunity to talk to the boy and his mother on the weekend and share how sorry they were that this attack happened. She said that Superintendent Robertson would be speaking to this incident as well, but she wanted to acknowledge the pain that this attack has

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caused for this boy, his family and the community. The Board Chair said that the Board of Trustees and the Division need to continue to work diligently to actively create a school division that is anti-racist. She reiterated that the Division needs community participation and guidance in achieving this.

The Board Chair reported that there are 35 school divisions that are choosing not to pilot the draft K-6 curriculum and that Edmonton Public Schools is among them. She advised that last week the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (ASBA) called for a delay on the pilot of the curriculum. The Board Chair explained that the decision by more than half of the school boards, representing approximately 65 per cent of students, is sending a message - a message that she hopes Education Minister Adriana LaGrange will listen to. She shared that Edmonton Public Schools has a long history of providing input and robust feedback on curriculum and will continue to do this on this latest draft. The Board Chair said that she was pleased to receive clarification from Education Minister LaGrange recently that feedback from school divisions who are choosing not to pilot will be accepted.

The Board Chair reported that COVID-19 continues to challenge the Division, and that pivoting, being flexible and creative are essential. She said this also means continued teamwork and a belief that the Division will emerge from this stronger. The Board Chair shared that it is her hope, and the hope of many, that the Division doesn't get into a situation where students learning in person return, only to shift back to online learning. The Board Chair said that it is also her hope that all who can get the vaccine, get it. With schools reflecting what's happening in our community, it is imperative that as many people as possible receive the vaccine.

The Board Chair reported that April 28 is the National Day of Mourning for workers injured or killed at the workplace. She advised that in recognition of the men and women of the province and of the Division who are part of those statistics, the Edmonton Public School Board on April 27, 1998, proclaimed every April 28 as an annual 'Day of Mourning' in recognition of workers killed, injured or disabled on the job.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent expressed his gratitude to the many individuals in the community who are supporting the student who was assaulted at Rosslyn School. He also thanked the Board Chair for her work to arrange a conversation with him, the family and the mayor. The Superintendent said he was grateful to the family for taking time to discuss this situation. The Superintendent remarked that schools and community need to be safe spaces for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour students, staff and families and that the Division is committed to doing the work to make this happen.

The Superintendent reported that the Rosslyn School principal has spoken with all classes about the assault and asked students to provide feedback about any safety concerns, and their experiences as Black, Indigenous and People of Colour at the school. He explained that the school has also offered support, including therapy, to any student who is experiencing trauma or feeling unsafe. The Superintendent advised that the Parent Advisory Council is holding an emergent meeting to ask parents who identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Colour to share their thoughts and concerns. He stated that staff will take

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part in professional development around anti-racism, restorative justice and uncovering bias. There will be student-led workshops focusing on anti-racism and social justice that will take place when students return to in-person learning. The Superintendent confirmed that school staff will also be reaching out to Black community groups to gather their feedback on future action needed.

The Superintendent reflected that last June the Board made the commitment to do the work of promoting anti-racism and inclusion. He said that Administration shares that commitment and that he is grateful for the community support and input.

The Superintendent thanked staff and Grades 7 to 12 families for their flexibility in switching to online learning on April 22, 2021. He advised that the Division is monitoring the COVID-19 numbers carefully and is hopeful that the move to online learning helps reduce the number of cases in schools.

The Superintendent announced the following principals have been confirmed, effective September 1, 2021:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Janice Anderson | • Joleen Kitt |
| • Kristina Bagan | • Kerry Kotyshyn |
| • Jeremy Brooks | • Shannon Mah |
| • Tara Copeman | • Maureen Matthews |
| • Wanda Cummins | • Greg Meeker |
| • Matt Evoy | • Ben Petruk |
| • Stephen Fay | • Dawn Schmitz |
| • Steven Greene | • Michael Steele |
| • Shaun Hall | • Karen Steinhauer |
| • Craig Hughson | |

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #13 – April 13, 2021

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #13 held April 13, 2021, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There was one registered speaker that requested the Board of Trustees implement supplying free menstrual products in Edmonton Public Schools.

G. Reports

2. Transportation Fees for 2021-2022

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MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

**“That the 2020-2021 Student Transportation Fee Schedule be extended for the 2021-2022 school year.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Dunn requested that information be added to the fee sheet advising families that fee waiver requests can be submitted to school principals.

There was a short break in the meeting.

3. Rescindment of Bylaw No. 2012-2013-1

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

**“That School Trustee Candidates Election Campaign Disclosure Bylaw 2012-2013-1 be rescinded.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Motion re: Access to Free Menstrual Products in Edmonton Public Schools

MOVED BY Board Chair Estabrooks:

**“Given that menstrual products are a basic need and that access to these products can be a barrier for students, the Board of Trustees moves that Administration explore ways to provide free menstrual products in Division schools, including pursuing partnerships, to provide what should be essential products in Edmonton Public School washrooms.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

The Board Chair requested that Administration report back to the Board the projected costs of providing free menstrual products, dispensary machines and an implementation strategy. The Board Chair requested that this report be submitted by the end of June 2021.

There was a short break in the meeting.

5. Proposed Resolutions for ASBA Spring and Fall General Meetings

The following proposed two emergent resolutions be submitted for consideration at the ASBA SGM to be held June 6-8:

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“1. That the ASBA affirm that internet access is essential to Alberta students, staff, and families for participation not only in public education, but society, and should be accessible and affordable for all. Furthermore, that ASBA advocate to the federal and provincial governments on behalf of all Alberta school divisions for immediate initiatives to increase

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accessibility and quality and reduce costs of internet for students, staff and families.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“2. Given the number of school divisions opting out of the K-6 curriculum pilot, and given the numerous concerns about the draft K-6 curriculum, such as a lack of consultation with stakeholders, questions as to age and developmental appropriateness, and concerns raised by Chiefs with the Treaty 6 Confederacy and the Metis Nation of Alberta, we ask that ASBA advocate to the government on behalf of all school boards for a halt to the piloting and the implementation, and a rewrite of the K-6 curriculum.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Draper, Dunn, Estabrooks, Ip, Janz and Stirling

OPPOSED: Trustees Adams and Gibson
(CARRIED)

The following proposed three non-emergent resolutions to be submitted for consideration at the ASBA FGM:

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“1. Given that collecting race-based data is one necessary step in working to dismantle systemic racism and racial discrimination, we ask that ASBA formally request on behalf of all school boards that Alberta Education develop a model for the collection of race-based data for staff and students across Alberta, in consultation with communities impacted by racism.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Draper, Dunn, Estabrooks, Ip, Janz and Stirling

OPPOSED: Trustees Adams and Gibson
(CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“2. That ASBA request that the provincial Auditor General investigate the challenges and barriers to achieving inclusion as intended by the 2009 “Setting the Direction” framework. This could include, but not be limited to, inclusion, class-size composition, supports, comparisons to jurisdictions, court rulings, and funding.”

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the Motion 2 be referred back to the Board of Trustee’s ASBA Issues and Resolution Committee for further discussion.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Draper requested that the ASBA Issues and Resolutions committee submit a recommendation report that includes proposed changes to Motion 2 for deliberation prior to May 31, 2021.

MOVED BY Trustee Adams:

“3. That the Alberta government continue to collect and make publicly available class size data consistent with previous reporting requirements by the Alberta government and report on this information annually.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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6. Criteria the Province Uses to Allocate New Schools, Modernizations and Portables (Response to Request for Information #098)

Information was provided in response to Request for Information #098.

Trustee Stirling left the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Trustee Ip requested confirmation whether the Edmonton Catholic School Division utilized a temporary school composed of portables during the construction of a permanent school.

H. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Draper reminded everyone that the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation will host a 2021 Reading for Life Virtual Fundraiser in support of full-day Kindergarten programming. The event will take place on Friday, May 7, 2021, throughout the day. Trustee Draper encouraged everyone to sign up online or to email Ms Alva Shewchuk, Acting Director. She explained that Ms Shewchuk would appreciate pictures of those participating virtually for the development of a collage of the event.

- I. **Trustee and Board Requests for Information** - None
- J. **Notices of Motion** - None
- K. **Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.**
- L. **Adjournment: 5:45 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations