

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #02**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held in McCauley Chambers on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, 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
Grace Cooke
Ron MacNeil
Leona Morrison

Kathy Muhlethaler
Nancy Petersen
Kent Pharis
Darrel Robertson

Carrie Rosa
Chris Wright
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.

The Board Chair advised everyone that the fire alarm system at the Centre for Education is a two-stage alarm system. Stage One is a single repeating alarm tone indicating a warning only and evacuation is not required. Stage Two is a triple repeating alarm tone indicating that evacuation is required.

A. **O Canada** 

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

The Superintendent advised that Trustee Ip would be joining the meeting shortly. Trustees Adams, Draper, and Gibson attended via Zoom. All other Trustees were present.

C. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

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**“That the agenda for the September 22, 2020, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair thanked teachers and staff in the Division’s schools who are continuing to navigate the challenges of COVID-19. She said that each day the Division sees new COVID-19 cases in schools and staff are doing their best to support students, parents and each other during this time. The Board Chair acknowledged that many parents have received either late night or early morning phone calls from staff notifying them to keep their children home for two weeks due to a COVID-19 case in their school. She recognized that these can be stressful times for staff, students and families.

The Board Chair advised that the Division continues to follow the guidance and medical expertise of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and explained they are the health experts and the Division relies on their expertise on how to manage COVID-19 in Division schools. The Board Chair thanked the thousands of AHS staff who are working hard to ensure access to testing sites for teachers, families and students.

The Board Chair also thanked the Division, in particular Superintendent Robertson, for working so collaboratively with other school divisions in sharing Division online resources. The Board Chair said that she has received several kind letters from other board chairs thanking the Division for being so collaborative and supportive during this time.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent acknowledged the passing of one of the Division’s school namesakes, Nellie Carlson. He shared that Mrs. Carlson, a Cree women who lost her Indigenous status when she married a Métis man, died on September 10, 2020, at the age of 93. He said that she and her husband, Elmer, had 11 children together and were married for 73 years. The Superintendent advised that Nellie created the advocacy group *Indian Rights for Indian Women*, and eventually was able to reclaim her treaty rights and help thousands of other Indigenous Canadians in similar situations. The Superintendent expressed that the Division was honoured to celebrate her passion for education, community and equity by naming a school after her in 2016 and said that she was an active part of the school community, attending several Indigenous Peoples Day events, mentoring staff and acting as an Elder at the school. The Superintendent stated that the Division is grateful for Nellie’s many gifts to the community. On behalf of the Division, the Superintendent offered condolences to her family.

The Superintendent thanked staff, families and students for their collaboration to ensure the Division’s learning environments are next to none during these unprecedented times.

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1. Board Meeting #01 – September 8, 2020

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #01 held September 8, 2020, be approved as printed.”

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

H. Reports

2. Report #18 of the Special Caucus Committee (From the meeting held August 31, 2020)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the Special Caucus Committee meeting held August 31, 2020.

3. Governance and Evaluation Committee Work Plan 2020-2021

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the Board approve the Governance and Evaluation Committee 2020-2021 Work Plan.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Ip was not present for the vote.

4. Trustee representation for Ward A

Trustee Ip joined the meeting via Zoom.

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That due to the current Ward A vacancy, Board Chair Estabrooks undertake the Trustee duties and responsibilities for Ward A until the next municipal general election, scheduled for October 18, 2021.”

(CARRIED)

IN FAVOUR: Trustees, Adams, Draper, Dunn, Estabrooks, Gibson, Ip and Stirling

OPPOSED: Trustee Janz

5. Motion re: Edmonton Public Schools Model for the Collection of Race-Based Data

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MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

**“Given that collecting race-based data is one necessary step in working to dismantle systemic racism and racial discrimination, the Edmonton Public School Board formally requests that Administration develop a model for the collection of race-based data in our Division, in consultation with communities in Edmonton impacted by racism.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Dunn requested that updates be provided to the Trustees and general public on an ongoing basis, including next steps. The Superintendent advised that he will keep the Board apprised about the project. He explained that the initial steps for the project will be initiated in October to develop a project charter and will provide an update to the Trustees in December 2020.

There was a short break in the meeting.

6. Distribution of Federal Funding
(Response to Request for Information #078)

Information was provided regarding request for information #078.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Janz reported that he will be hosting a virtual meeting with parents in Ward F next week. He also reported that he will be attending the Public Schools Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) 2020 Annual General Meeting on October 15, 2020.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Dunn stated that the Board has received a significant amount of community advocacy about how the changes to the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD) may impact children's mental health services, and requested the following information:

- Impact of changes:
Provide information on the changes to RCSD funding, and how this has impacted the Division in terms of funding, services to students, and the ability for cross-ministry collaboration.
- Use of funds:
How has administration used the re-allocated funds from RCSD for this school year?
How has this impacted the number of mental health therapists and other health care professionals available to students in schools compared to the 2019-2020 school year?

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Dunn served notice of motion that given the systemic disruptions caused by the

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COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Trustees advocate to the provincial government to suspend diploma exams and Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) across the province during the 2020-2021 school year.

Trustee Draper served notice of motion that due to the increased workload of undertaking the Trustee duties and responsibilities for Ward A, Board Chair Estabrooks receive an increase of \$12,500.00 to her 2020-2021 honorarium.

- L. **Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**
- M. **Adjournment: 4:40 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations