

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #03**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held in McCauley Chambers and Via Zoom on Tuesday, October 6, 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
Todd Burnstad
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler
Nancy Petersen

Kent Pharis
Darrel Robertson
Carrie Rosa

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 all Trustees were present.

C. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED BY Trustee Ip:

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**“That the agenda for the October 6, 2020, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised that last week the Division recognized Orange Shirt Day — an opportunity to reflect and remember the impact of residential schools on Indigenous children and families. She explained the day is held in September to mark the time in which Indigenous children were taken from their families and forced into residential schools. The Board Chair said we remember, but we also must continue to act and live up to honouring the recommendations put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The Board Chair shared that October 2, 2020, was Custodial Workers Recognition Day. She said the Division appreciates and values the members of CUPE Local 474, custodial staff, who ensure that the Division’s buildings are comfortable, clean and safe for our students and staff. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, she sincerely thanked CUPE Local 474 for their dedication.

The Board Chair also thanked all staff for continuing to navigate the reality and the challenge of educating children during a global pandemic. She said that she has heard from many parents who are appreciative of the hard work of staff during this challenging time.

The Board Chair advised that World Teachers’ Day was Monday, October 5, and what a year it is to appreciate teachers. She said that teachers inspire, motivate and this year they are being called upon to help guide students through a global pandemic. The Board of Trustees appreciate teachers greatly and want to thank the thousands of teachers who serve the Division and support students in countless ways. The Board Chair stated that this year the Division asked staff, students and families to submit short messages of thanks to teachers. She advised that the Division will share a selection of responses on its website, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram from Monday, October 5 to Friday, October 9.

The Board Chair acknowledged that this is the time of year when many school councils are beginning to meet and said that serving on a school council is a rewarding way to support a child’s school as well as public education. She thanked the hundreds of parents who dedicate time and energy to serve on school councils in Edmonton.

The Board Chair shared that from October 5 to 9, schools across the Division will celebrate the 31st anniversary of READ IN Week. She said READ IN Week highlights the importance of reading in schools, libraries, workplaces and community organizations. Although literacy and learning events occur throughout the year, this annual event is a special time for schools in the Division to share the love of reading with students and staff. The Board Chair stated that this year’s READ IN theme is *Read Around the World!* The Board Chair advised that due to COVID-19 safety precautions, schools are arranging READ IN Week with virtual guests only.

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E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that families have until October 19, 2020, at 4 p.m. to choose whether they want their children to learn in-person or online for the second quarter of school. He explained that the deadline plays an important role in ensuring the Division has enough time to assign teaching staff to online and in-person classes. The Superintendent shared that families can access the selection form on SchoolZone and that families who do not have access can contact their school directly. The Superintendent said that family choice is an important part of the Division's re-entry strategy.

The Superintendent referenced Thanksgiving this weekend and said that we have a lot to be thankful for in Edmonton Public Schools such as a Board who strongly advocates for the needs of students, dedicated staff and supportive parents and community partners. The Superintendent thanked all of those groups for helping get this school year off to a good start. The Superintendent said that he is thankful to be able to serve such a great school Division. He shared that he knows the last month has been challenging and tiring for many, and hoped this weekend would be an opportunity to rest, reconnect and recharge.

F. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #02 – September 22, 2020

MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #02 held September 22, 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. Motion re: Suspension of Diploma Exams and Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) for the 2020-2021 School Year

MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:

“That given the systemic disruptions caused by the 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.”

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MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks that the motion be amended:

“Given the systemic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Trustees advocate to the provincial government to **make diploma exams optional ~~to~~ ~~students suspend diploma exams and Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)~~ across the province during the 2020-2021 school year.**

There was a short break in the meeting.

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adams, Estabrooks, Gibson, Ip,

OPPOSED: Trustees Dunn, Draper, Janz and Stirling

The Amendment was defeated

The Board Chair called the question on the Motion.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adams, Dunn, Draper, Estabrooks, Gibson, Ip, Janz and Stirling
(CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY)

3. Motion re: Increased Honorarium for 2020-2021 for the Addition of Ward A Responsibility

The Board Chair declared a pecuniary interest regarding the motion being presented by Trustee Draper and excused herself from the meeting until the discussion and voting on this matter had been completed. The Board Chair requested that Trustee Janz assume Board Chair responsibilities for this item.

MOVED BY Trustee Draper:

“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.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Adams, Dunn, Draper, Gibson, Ip, Janz

OPPOSED: Stirling

(CARRIED)

Board Chair Estabrooks was not present.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Ip reported that on September 25, 2020, he had the pleasure of bringing greetings via video on behalf of the Board of Trustees at the Annual Mid-Autumn Festival organized by the Edmonton Chinese Community as part of Alberta Culture Days. He said this year, the festival was held virtually over a period of three days with online performances and cultural displays. The festival was webcast to many schools and an online audiences across Alberta. Some students from the Mandarin Bilingual program participated as performers. Trustee Ip

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congratulated the Chinese Benevolent Association and other community organizations for putting together such a wonderful event.

Trustee Ip thanked the many schools who invited him to their virtual school council meetings in September and said he appreciated the opportunity to connect directly with parents and community.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Janz requested that Administration provide a rough estimate of what the Division has spent, what it anticipates spending, and what are the other anticipated budget impacts from COVID-19 that may need to be considered for the 2020 and 2021 school years.

K. Notices of Motion

Board Chair Estabrooks provided notice of the following motion:

“That Trustee Ip be appointed to serve on the executive council for the Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta.”

MOVED BY Trustee Janz:

“That the Board of Trustees grant waiver of notice of motion to consider the appointment of Trustee Ip to the PSBAA executive council.”

(CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY)

MOVED BY Board Chair Estabrooks:

“That Trustee Ip be appointed to serve on the executive council for the Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta.”

(CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY)

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 4:45 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations