

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #05**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 2 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Trisha Estabrooks
Dawn Hancock
Marcia Hole

Nathan Ip
Julie Kusiek
Marsha Nelson

Sherri O'Keefe
Jan Sawyer
Saadiq Sumar

Officials

Angela Anderson
Todd Burnstad
Grace Cooke
Ron MacNeil

Karen Mills
Leona Morrison
Kathy Muhlethaler
Kent Pharis

Nancy Petersen
Darrel Robertson
Carrie Rosa
Liz Yule

Board Chair: Trisha Estabrooks

Recording Secretary: Catherine Angeles

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: 2:02 p.m.

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

B. Approval of the Agenda

Trustee Sumar advised that he was withdrawing his motion (Agenda Item G5: KN95 masks for Edmonton Public Students and Staff).

MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:

**"That the agenda for the February 1, 2022, Board meeting be approved as amended."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair noted that February 2022 marked Alberta's fifth annual Black History Month and throughout the month, the Division will honour the lives, histories and accomplishments of Black Albertans and Canadians. To help celebrate the important month, the Division's Diversity Education Unit compiled a variety of resources, including a video entitled: Listen, Hear, Learn: Honouring Black Voices. The video was then played.

The Board Chair thanked Dr. Jennifer Kelly and the Edmonton Heritage Council for sharing, with the Division, their presentation and exhibit titled "And Still We Rise: A Black Presence in Alberta", available at citymuseumedmonton.ca.

The Board Chair noted that today also marked the beginning of the Lunar New Year celebrations. She said that 2022 is the Year of the Tiger, an animal associated with bravery, courage and strength. The tiger can be seen as an animal that can give people hope – an important symbol as we continue to navigate the global pandemic

The Board Chair said it was important to recognize the ethnocultural diversity in the Division and the community through events such as Black History Month and Lunar New Year. Participating in such events are ways we can learn and act to build a more welcoming, safe and anti-racist world. Over the past weekend, the city and the country witnessed divisive, hateful and intolerant actions and language. The Board stands against hate and believes through education we can become a more tolerant, inclusive society. The Board is committed to living up to the Anti-racism and Equity Policy.

The Board Chair shared that the Division has been dealing with COVID-19 and all the many implications of a global pandemic for the past two years. Children have learned new vocabulary, new ways of doing and making sense of this world we live in, new ways of interacting with people. Students have made sacrifices and continue to make sacrifices in order to do their part to keep everyone safe. Vaccination rates are on the rise in young people - which is encouraging and the hope is that the government of Alberta takes up the Division's offer of hosting in-school vaccination clinics to make the vaccine more accessible.

The Board Chair expressed thanks, on behalf of the Board, to Division staff who were working incredibly hard, under tough circumstances to support kids and their families.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent advised that today marked the open house season for the Division. The Division shared open house information on social media, the Division News section of SchoolZone and through posters delivered to all schools. Families can visit openhouse.epsb.ca, to find open house dates and times and information on how to make the most of their virtual open house experience. Open house events will run until mid-April.

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The Superintendent welcomed Principals Humphrey and Matthew, who are part of the Division's Superintendent's Community of Practice and Education (SCOPE). Every Board meeting two members are invited to come and listen to the dialogue of the Board. He appreciated them taking the time out of their busy days to attend the Board meeting.

E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #04 – January 18, 2022

MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:

**"That the minutes of Board Meeting #04 held January 18, 2022, be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The Board of Trustees heard from two registered speakers for this item.

G. Reports

2. COVID-19 Impact on the Division

The Superintendent provided a verbal update on the impact of COVID-19 on the Division.

3. Board Policy CI-BP COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Trustees

MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:

**"That Board Policy CI.BP COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Trustees be read for the first time."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**"That Board Policy CI.BP COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Trustees be read for the second time."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**"That Board Policy CI.BP COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Trustees be read for the third and final time and be approved."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Provincial Funding for Purchase of Stand Alone HEPA Filters for Classrooms

There was a short break in the meeting.

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“That the Board of Trustees, in accordance with the Board Delegation of Authority Policy CHA.BP (section 3), authorize the expenditure of up to \$6,000,000 being a new unanticipated expenditure not accounted for in the current budget that exceeds \$1,200,000, to support the Division’s purchase of stand-alone HEPA air filtrations units.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

“That the Board of Trustees directs Administration to prepare and submit the required documentation to the Minister of Education seeking approval to access up to \$6,000,000 of the Division’s accumulated operating surplus funds in order to support the purchase of stand alone HEPA air filtration units be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. KN95 Masks for Edmonton Public Students and Staff

Trustee Sumar withdrew this motion.

6. Proposed Expansion of the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation’s Fundraising Priorities

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:

“That the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation strategically expand its fundraising priorities to reflect the full context of its Mission Statement, thereby better positioning its effort to support the may programs and priorities that contribute to student success across the Division”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Vice-Chair Ip suggested an addition to the next steps: that the Foundation bring the proposed priorities back to a future Board meeting.

7. Students Accessing Yellow Bus Service for Designated Overflow Schools

Information was provided regarding request for information #002.

There was a short break in the meeting.

8. Ventilation

Information was provided regarding request for information #003.

H. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Trustee Kusiek stated that over the past month she was fortunate to be invited to the Strathcona, Lillian Osborne and Nellie Carlson School Council meetings. She also met with Councillor Cartmell, Councillor Janz and MLA Thomas Dang.

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Trustee Kusiek shared that February 17 she was hosting with Trustee Ip a joint board Traffic Forum. There will be a special guest panel discussion with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, Ever Active Schools and Councillor Cartmell. The focus will be on school traffic safety, yellow bus and ETS student transportation, and active transportation. All are welcome and can RSVP through her ward [website](#).

Trustee Kusiek hosted a Ward F conversation on January 20 with participation from 50 attendees. A main topic of conversation was the lottery for the Lillian Osborne High School enrolment. Trustee Kusiek thanked Division staff for their support in answering her questions and the questions of constituents over the past month. She also thanked Mr. Christopher Wright for attending the January 20 Ward F conversation and providing insight to questions about the lottery.

Trustee Kusiek shared that Strathcona High School won the Metro Edmonton High School Swim Championship for the thirty-third consecutive year. Strathcona High School swim team is remarkable in that they are a “no cut” team and welcome students from all levels of experience and ability. Trustee Kusiek recognized Coach Kirby Peng, all the community members, teacher volunteers and staff who have supported the team and congratulated the student swimmers.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Kusiek submitted the following request for information regarding lotteries:

On December 14, 2021, Division staff provided Trustees an update on the Growth Control Model. This included the addition of two new lottery schools, bringing the total to five. This includes a high school for the first time.

The December 14, 2021, report to Trustees also included information on student enrolment growth, local demographic changes due to residential development, and lottery process changes for the 2022-2023 school year. The Division is seeing student enrolment growth and a current utilization rate of 79%, which essentially means “full” usage of classroom spaces available.

In keeping with this information report above, the following questions are being submitted as a request for information:

- 1. Notification: Since announcing the lottery at Lillian Osborne High School, several questions have come up in regard to the notification timelines for families.**
 - a. When planning for the upcoming school year, how early is the Division able to make a call on the need for a new or existing lottery?
 - b. When is the earliest possible time that families can be made aware of a new or continuing lottery at their designated school?

- 2. Growth Enrolment Pressures: At the heart of the issue is insufficient provincial funding for space for students. The Board of Trustees submits a Three-Year Capital Plan to the province each spring which asks for new schools and modernizations. The last modernization announced by the**

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province for Edmonton Public Schools was in 2018. The last new school announced by the province for Edmonton Public Schools was in 2019 (opening date scheduled for fall 2024). Optionally, please include information on this set of questions with the upcoming Capital Planning report, separate from this Request for Information.

- a. With the current number of spaces for students and expected student growth enrolment, what is the projected increase in the number of lottery schools for Edmonton Public Schools in the next five years, up to 2027?
- b. How many spaces for students would the province need to announce towards Edmonton Public Schools maintaining up to just five lottery schools over the next five years, up to 2027?
- c. How many school spaces (seats) for students would the province need to announce for Edmonton Public Schools to move all schools from a Growth Control Model level 3 to a level 1 or 2 and retain all existing level 1 and 2 schools at that level by 2027? (no schools at level 3)
- d. What impact does the rate of growth in a neighbourhood have in the ongoing ability of a school to accommodate all students within a designated attendance area?
- e. When thinking about opportunities to collaborate with city planning, what growth rate for school age children in new/developing neighbourhoods is sustainable from an enrolment accommodation perspective?
- f. How does the Division plan for future stabilized school enrolment when planning attendance area boundaries for a school?

3. Community: One important aspect of the Growth Control Model is reducing division and keeping communities together. Some feedback from families impacted by the Lillian Osborne lottery includes a variety of perspectives on community. Can you please comment on what you heard in past engagement on the Growth Control Model regarding different perspectives on community and how that informed the current lottery process?

- a. Community of peers. What did feedback say about the community of peers, say by keeping a cohort of students from one school together at the next (the idea that as children grow up their peers become increasingly important).
- b. Community of familial connections. The Division already prioritizes students in a lottery who have a sibling attending the lottery school in the following school year. What feedback was provided about the impact of including families who have an older sibling who recently graduated (say, in the past 1-2 years) from the high school to also give preference to younger siblings? The idea behind this community is that the family already has connections and relationships to the school, sometimes having been avid volunteers and community builders within that school for many years prior.
- c. Community of location. What did past engagement say in regards to families who live near the school being additionally prioritized within an attendance area? For example, the Calgary Board of Education employs a “walk zone” to further prioritize enrolment in an attendance area.

4. Transportation: Families are concerned about the cost of transportation through yellow bus service or ETS passes should they need to go to the overflow designated school.

- a. What is the current ETS bus subsidization rate? How does this compare with subsidization rates for the previous three years?

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- b. What factors impact the level of subsidy the Division is able to offer for ETS passes for students? For example, the levels of provincial funding or ETS fees set by the City of Edmonton?
- c. When is the timeline for ETS bus subsidization rates set? How can the Division and Trustees work to reduce these costs for all families, and in particular families impacted by the lottery and further travel to a designated overflow school?
- d. In what ways does or could the Division work to inform families in advance that by choosing a home in a high growth neighbourhood, they may need to travel further to school?
- e. How does the availability of current ETS routes factor into decisions around choice of designated overflow school for junior high and high school students?

J. **Notices of Motion** - None

K. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 2 p.m.

L. **Adjournment:** 5:21 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations