

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #07**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, March 8, 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 p.m.

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

B. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:

**“That the agenda for the March 8, 2022, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair took a moment to speak about the war in Ukraine. She noted that the roots that connect our province to Ukraine are deep and Edmonton has a long history of celebrating and

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embracing Ukrainian language and culture. She said her thoughts are with students, staff, families and community members who are watching what is happening with a heavy heart.

The Board Chair said that it is also with a heavy heart that we reflect upon the discovery of more unmarked graves at residential schools, this time where the former Grouard Indian Residential school was located. Let us remember that this is not just another discovery or another number - but the lives of children lost to a genocide, which is what the history of Residential Schools in this country, was. Our thoughts are with those who continue to hurt from this most recent discovery. May our intentions as a Board continue to focus on uncovering the truth as we journey on the path of reconciliation.

The Board Chair shared that the Board appreciates the transparency with which our Superintendent has been sharing COVID-19 information about the Division's response to the global pandemic. She recently had the opportunity to meet with several school councils and the hope for the spring, as well as the gratitude parents have for Edmonton Public Schools as we have navigated this pandemic, together, is truly inspiring. The Board Chair advised we are at a transition point. And when there is change, it is teachers and school staff who are on the front lines of navigating this change in our schools. As with every step of this pandemic, the ability to show empathy, to listen to others, to support each other remains the most important things we can do together.

The Board Chair shared a few thoughts about the recent provincial budget and school infrastructure announcement. The Board of Trustees remains concerned that education funding is not keeping pace with growth in our Division. While we may see either the same or perhaps a slight increase in our provincial funding, it is unlikely that it will match our growth. This will impact the students and families we serve. We do not yet have a clear picture of how the provincial budget will impact EPSB as we are still waiting for budget details from the provincial government.

What is clear is that Edmonton Public was shut out of the infrastructure funding announcement on Friday. For the second year in a row, EPSB, despite being the fastest growing school division, will not receive funding to build or modernize a school. We remain frustrated that the government has not heard our message: that we are growing, we are running out of space and the need for schools is acute. We remain committed to continue to advocate on behalf of students and families who deserve access to quality learning spaces.

The Board Chair shared today is International Women's Day. She expressed gratitude in particular to the fabulous women on this Board of Trustees who she has the pleasure and the honour of serving with. The Board Chair acknowledged the namesakes of some of our schools - Soraya Hafez, Thelma Chalifoux, Dr. Anne Anderson and Jan Reimer just to name a few. They are women who have made significant contributions to our community and who continue to inspire future generations of students.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent reiterated a Happy International Women's Day to everyone.

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The Superintendent advised that pre-enrolment for the 2022-2023 school year opened today. Families can find information about the options on SchoolZone or the Division's [website](#) and social media channels. This year, pre-enrolment will end a day earlier than in past years. The final day to pre-enrol is April 14. For questions regarding pre-enrolment, talk to the principal at your child's current school. Families who are new to the Division should contact their preferred school to learn how to register as a new Edmonton Public Schools student before April 14.

The Superintendent thanked Trustee Kusiek for bringing to his attention that March 9 is Taras Shevchenko Day. It's a day that's recognized in Ukraine. Taras Shevchenko was a poet, writer and author whose works are significant in Ukrainian culture. A message will be sent to Division schools later today encouraging folks to wear blue and yellow in recognition of what's happening in Ukraine.

E. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting #06 – February 15, 2022

MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:

**"That the minutes of Board Meeting #06 held February 15, 2022, be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

F. Recognition

2. Edwin Parr Teacher Award

Ms. Jane Berry of W.P. Wagner School was selected as the Division's honorary nominee for the 2022 Edwin Parr Award for excellence in first year teaching.

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

There were no registered speakers for this item.

H. Reports

3. Student Senate Work Plan Update

Student Trustees Angelina Raina, Ryan Fang and Jasmine Virk presented the Student Senate Work Plan update.

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4. COVID-19 Impact on the Division

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

There was a short break in the meeting.

5. Staff Group Representatives re: 2022-2023 Budget

Mr. Jorge Illanes, President of CUPE LOCAL 3550 (Support Staff), presented the Local's brief.

Mr. Ian Crichton and Ms. Sandra Sveinunggard, representatives for the Exempt Staff, presented the Exempt Staffs' brief.

6. Class Size Information

The annual class sizes, along with two years of historical data, was provided to the Board of Trustees.

7. Growth Control Model Inquiry (Response to Request for Information #005)

Information was provided regarding request for information RFI #005.

8. Bereavement

Vice-Chair Ip reported on the passing of Ms. Rita Robinson.

I. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Board Chair Estabrooks thanked Beacon Heights, Abbot, Windsor Park, Rutherford, and Forest Heights school councils for the warm welcome, great questions and discussion at recent council meetings. The voices of parents are critical in the work that the Board does and the attendance at the school council meetings she has attended has been phenomenal.

Board Chair Estabrooks also thanked the Edmonton Council for Somali Advocacy and Research for inviting her to a virtual Black History Month celebration. The stories of young Somalis who are making a difference and inspiring others was a great way to wrap up a month-long celebration of Black Albertans and Black Canadians. She said it was great to see our Mayor as well as our Chief of Police also attend this event.

Trustee Kusiek shared she had a wonderful visit at Malmo school and saw all the wonderful things happening there. She was very appreciative of all the questions the Grade 6 class had for her about being a Trustee, what the school board does and about local government.

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Trustee Kusiek expressed her appreciation to the School Councils and community groups she was able to meet with over the last few weeks, including Greenfield and Avalon School Councils and the LOHS SEATS Committee. This last visit included a tour of the Lillian Osborne Theatre and opportunity to chat with some of the folks who were on the original committee to help get that space built. Trustee Kusiek noted that this was a wonderful example of that idea of education grounded in community and in schools as community hubs.

Trustee Kusiek thanked Superintendent Robertson for quickly being able to get the invitation out for students and staff to wear blue and yellow tomorrow in acknowledgement of the events in Ukraine.

Trustee Kusiek shared that today is International Women's Day. As a mom of four girls and a Trustee working for excellent public education for all students, she noted that today is an important day to her to reflect on and to celebrate. She highlighted the work this Division is doing that directly impacts women and girls, like the pilot to provide menstrual products at Division schools. She looks forward to supporting continued work on this file.

Trustee Sumar shared that he attended the Clara Tyner School Council meeting and attended a few meetings with community organizations to discuss opportunities related to anti-racism and the curriculum. He also had the opportunity to join students, staff, and community members in discussions on anti-racism as part of W.P. Wagner's Human Library project (where he met Jane Berry and saw the great work she was doing). The project was phenomenal. At times, the stories he heard were hopeful, and at times emotional and heartbreaking, but it was incredibly important to have these discussions. Trustee Sumar thanked all involved for their time and vulnerability when discussing anti-racism, as it is a complex and difficult topic. He hopes that more schools in Ward G and in Edmonton undertake such an activity.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Kusiek submitted the following request for information regarding Dual Credit Programming at EPSB:

Further to:

- former [Trustee Gibson's Request for Information](#) dated January 23, 2018,
- conversation about the new [STEM program](#) at the February 15, 2022 public board meeting, and
- recognizing the leadership of Edmonton Public Schools in offering choice in public education, please provide the following information regarding dual credit programming at EPSB:
 1. A list of current dual credit programs EPSB offers including a brief description and mention of which post-secondary program/institution the dual credit is applied towards.
 2. What are some new potential dual credit programs that the Division could consider in the near term?
 3. What potential roadblocks are there for developing more dual credit programs for EPSB and how might the Board consider addressing those challenges through advocacy or other actions?
 4. How does the Division determine which dual credit courses to offer to our students?

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Trustee Sumar submitted the following request for information regarding Transportation:

General

1. Is the *Student Transportation Handbook* dated September 10, 2014, the most current version?
2. What information is included in the annual transportation updates to the Board?

Training

3. Aside from basic provincial licensing requirements, what other provincial and contractor training is required for bus drivers?
4. As administrative regulations do not apply to bus drivers (because they are contractors), what other division requirements do they need to abide by?

Bus Routes and Delays

1. What statistics and metrics does the Division capture through yellow bus transportation services? Of this information, what is captured and reported by the yellow bus contractor? What information does the Division collect directly?
2. In the period from September 2021 to February 2022 inclusive, how many buses were late in picking students up from designated stops and dropping students to schools? How does this compare to previous school years for the same period (i.e. September to February)? Please provide a breakdown by month.
3. For the same period, how many instances of incorrect student drop offs were noted? Please provide a breakdown by month.
4. How many transportation complaints have been registered from families in the Division over the September to February period? What is the nature of these complaints (example: late pick up, wrong drop off, behaviour, other)? How are they grouped in terms of area or location?
5. Since the RFI response in December, how many routes are still without a permanent driver?
 - a. How have average delays changed?
 - b. How many routes are delayed more than the average?
6. How many routes have been noted as having a permanent driver because the routes have been combined? Overall, how many routes have been combined?
7. Parents are provided notices on SchoolZone when buses are delayed. Are schools provided with similar notifications? Who is responsible for reporting delayed bus information?
8. When buses are delayed arriving at school (regardless of the reason), what staff or administrators are responsible for ushering students into the school upon arrival?

Safety

1. How many instances of Student Behaviour and Conduct Policy violations have been noted this school year on yellow bus or ETS transportation?
2. How are these policy violations recorded when occurring on yellow bus or public transportation? Are these treated differently than if the violations had occurred on school property?
3. What safety metrics are used when evaluating a bus contractor?

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4. What restraints are the school and/or carrier responsible for with respect to Curb Service Transportation?

Transportation Programming

1. Please provide more details on the First Riders Program, including the current status and targeted audience.
2. Has the GPS pilot program been expanded to all routes and carriers? What has been the feedback from parents on accuracy and timeliness of information?
3. What restraints are the school and/or carrier responsible for with respect to Curb Service Transportation?

K. Notices of Motion

Trustee Sawyer gave notice that she would be making the following motion: That policy CI.BP: COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Trustees be suspended.

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 2 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 5:05 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director of Board and
Superintendent Relations