

**MINUTE BOOK****Board Meeting #18**

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of the Province of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, June 22, 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 Stirling:**

**“That the agenda for the June 22, 2021, Board meeting be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**C. Recognitions**

1. Michael A. Strembitsky Award of Excellence:

The Board Chair announced the following students as recipients of the Michael A. Strembitsky Award of Excellence:

- Gold Medal – Johanna Lau, M.E. LaZerte

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- Silver Medal – Eric Au, Ross Sheppard
- Bronze Medal – Penny Gullion, Victoria School

### 2. School Name Honouree:

The Board Chair announced that the name of the new K-9 school in Keswick will be Joey Moss School.

### **D. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair reported that the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) hosted the Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards on June 21, 2021, to celebrate exceptional First Nations, Métis and Inuit students nominated by members of their education communities. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Board Chair congratulated Honourable Mention recipients Gladys Bull, Grade 12 student at M.E. LaZerte and Shaylee Rose, Grade 12 student at Eastglen High. She said that the Board is pleased to celebrate their accomplishments and commitment to their culture that they've demonstrated, particularly through the ups and downs over this past year.

The Board Chair congratulated parent Tammy Farkes from Crawford Plains Elementary School Council on receiving the Alberta School Council Association's Parent of Distinction Award. She explained that Tammy has been a very active member of the school council and the school's Parents and Teachers Together group since 2016. Tammy has also served as vice-chair, secretary, ASCA rep, fundraising co-chair, events co-chair and casino volunteer over the years. Tammy chairs the Crawford Plains Playground Redevelopment Committee and led the initiative to refurbish the school's basketball courts. In addition to this, Tammy regularly volunteers in classrooms, at school events and field trips, and organizes cultural events and special celebrations.

The Board Chair thanked Cassi Desrosiers for nominating Tammy. The Board Chair shared that Tammy will be moving on from Crawford Plains Elementary School this year, when her youngest completes Grade 6, and said she knows that Tammy will be missed.

The Board Chair stated that recent media reports on forthcoming changes by the Ministry of Education to the Standards for Special Education are concerning. She advised that school boards have not been consulted on the proposed changes and staff within the Division who could certainly help inform discussion on these Standards have not been consulted in a meaningful way. The Board Chair explained that a fundamental role of school boards is that they are consulted on changes that affect the education of the students and families they serve and that they can't help share the voice of parents on an issue as critical as the education and support of their children if they aren't included in the discussions.

The Board Chair thanked the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors for their meeting with the Trustees last week. She said that both Boards have a shared vision of supporting students in the Division. The Board Chair thanked Trustee Draper for her representation on the Foundation Board this past year.

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The Board Chair thanked staff, students and parents in the Division who worked together during what has been a challenging year. She said that the June 22, 2021, Board meeting is the final one of this school year and she thanked those who worked behind the scenes to make the virtual meetings happen as smoothly as they do. The Board Chair stated that this year tested all of us, it has been exhausting and at times frustrating. There have also been amazing moments of gratitude, of resilience, and of school communities coming together to support each other. She said now it is time for a break and time to reflect, rest and rejuvenate. On behalf of the Board, she wished all staff, students and parents a good summer break.

### **E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent said that this is the time of year when most scholarships are awarded and it highlights the great achievements of students in the Division. He congratulated the scholarship recipients and said that it is great to see their hard work acknowledged in this way. The Superintendent also thanked the many individuals and groups who sponsor student awards. He explained the funds often open doors to new worlds for students and allow them to give more focus to their studies.

The Superintendent acknowledged that the 2021-2022 school has been like no other. He said he is grateful to students, staff and families that navigated lots of change and for their continued focus on learning.

The Superintendent thanked the Board of Trustees for their support and advocacy.

The Superintendent wished staff, students and families a healthy and relaxing summer break.

### **F. Minutes**

3. Board Meeting #17 – June 8, 2021

**MOVED BY Vice-Chair Ip:**

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting #17 held June 8, 2021, be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### **G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

There was one registered speaker that addressed the Ministry of Education’s potential changes to the Standards for Special Education.

### **H. Reports**

4. Report #25 of the Caucus Committee (from the meeting held October 20, 2020)

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Information was provided regarding actions taken at the October 20, 2020, Caucus Committee meeting.

5. Next Steps for the Evaluation Framework

**MOVED BY Trustee Draper:**

**“That Administration present the Strategic Evaluation Framework to the incoming Board for their consideration before December 15, 2021.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

6. Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct

**MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:**

**“1. That Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct be introduced.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct be read for the first time and approved for further stakeholder feedback.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

7. First, Second, Third and Final Reading of Board Policy IAB.BP Comments, Delegations and Presentations at Board Meetings by Public and Staff Representatives

**MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:**

**“That Board Policy IAB.BP Comments, Delegations and Presentations at Board Meetings by Public and Staff Representatives be read for the first, second, third and final time.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

8. First, Second, Third and Final Reading of Board Policy FGB.BP Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools

**MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:**

**“That Board Policy FGB.BP Evaluation of Superintendent of Schools be read for the first, second, third and final time.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

9. Second, third and final reading of Board Policy HAAB.BP Anti-racism and Equity (replaces GGAB.BP Multicultural Education)

**MOVED BY Trustee Stirling:**

**“That Board Policy HAAB.BP Anti-racism and Equity be read for a second, third and final time.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

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10. Motions re Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care

**MOVED BY Trustee Draper:**

**“1. That the Board of Trustees provides a letter of support to endorse the Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care’s “Recommended Actions for the City of Edmonton.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That the Board of Trustees direct Administration to collaborate with the Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care and explore the feasibility of implementation of the “Recommended Actions for Education.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Dunn requested that recommended actions Items 4 and 5 for the City of Edmonton be incorporated into the Advocacy Committee workplan as next steps.

11. Motion re Referendum Questions – 2021 Municipal Election Ballot

Trustee Janz stated that following consultation with his colleagues, Administration, internal and external legal counsel, he decided to withdraw his motion: Referendum Questions - 2021 Municipal Election Ballot.

12. 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:**

**“That the amended 2021-22 Division Calendar be approved.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

13. Strategic Plan Update – First Nations Métis and Inuit

The Board of Trustees was provided an update on the Division’s efforts in support of First Nations, Métis and Inuit education and the academic progress of students who self-identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit.

There was a short break in the meeting.

14. COVID-19 Impact on the Division from May 26 to June 8, 2021

An update was provided on the COVID-19 impact on the Division from May 26 to June 8, 2021.

15. Implementation Strategy and Costs for the Division to Provide Free Menstrual Products (Response to Request for Information #103)

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Information was provided that Administration is working with the United Way to pilot access to barrier-free menstrual products in a group of schools from the Division's High Social Vulnerability list for the 2021-2022 school year.

16. **School Playgrounds on Edmonton Public Schools Land**  
**(Response to Request for Information #104)**

Information was provided regarding the construction, maintenance, and eventual replacement of school playgrounds on Edmonton Public Schools land.

17. **Bereavement**

The Vice-Chair reported on the passing of Mrs. Audrey Letourneau.

I. **Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**

Trustee Ip reported that he had the opportunity to speak at various events in May and June on the issues of equity and inclusion.

On June 10, 2021, Trustee Ip was one of several panellists in the education stream at the National Forum for Anti-Asian Racism convened by the University of British Columbia President Dr. Santa Ono. On June 10–11, 2021, a constellation of community organizers, scholars, and public intellectuals, along with key figures in government, health care, media, journalism, the corporate world, and the not-for-profit sector gathered to engage in frank discussions about anti-Asian racism in Canada with the aim of articulating bold and concrete recommendations for action.

On June 11, 2021, Trustee Ip joined panellists Dania Nur, Lloyd Cardinal and Irfan Chaudhry for a community roundtable discussion about ending racial and religious violence in Edmonton. The community roundtable was hosted by mayoral candidate and former federal cabinet minister Amarjeet Sohi.

As part of Asian Heritage Month, Trustee Ip, along with community organizer Keren Tang, co-moderated a panel discussion about courage and resilience in the Asian-Canadian community. Panellists included author Marty Chan, psychologist Dr. Gina Wong, community activist Marco Luciano and former federal minister Amarjeet Sohi. The event was organized by the Chinese community and supported by the Edmonton Heritage Council.

On June 17, 2021, Trustee Ip and Trustee Adams co-hosted a workshop for parents and families on the topic of understanding childhood anxiety. The workshop was delivered by Dr. Jo Ann Unger of KIDTHINK.

Trustee Ip announced that he intends to seek re-election in Ward H.

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### **J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information**

Trustee Janz requested that Administration provide an outline of the Board's ability to put forward questions for a plebiscite or referendum, at a general election period or another time. For background or context, he requested the following information:

1. What is the ability to put forward a question?
2. What is the scope or jurisdiction of the questions? We don't decide curriculum for instance, but we certainly contribute to it, decide to pilot it, and advocate to rewrite it or not.
3. What is the ability of City Council to ask a question and could they put forward a question on behalf of the Board? And would it have to pertain to their jurisdiction explicitly?
4. What are the deadlines?

Trustee Gibson, Chair of the Governance and Evaluation Committee is interested in ensuring lessons learned are part of the orientation of the new Board. For the past several years Trustee Stirling, Chair of Policy Review Committee has done an outstanding job explaining at successive Board meetings the values and thinking process in the development and revisions of many significant policies. Trustee Gibson requested that Administration examine the feasibility of adding to the Board Intranet Site (BIS) video clips of Trustee Stirling's presentations to Board of these various policies.

### **K. Notices of Motion**

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Draper:**

**"1. That the Board of Trustees grant waiver of notice of motion to consider her motion regarding the Standards for Special Education at the June 22, 2021, Board meeting."  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**"2. The Board of Trustees advocates to the Minister of Education to engage parents, caregivers, students and stakeholders in the revision of the Standards for Special Education and that any changes made reflect what was heard during a meaningful consultation process."  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Dunn:**

**"That given the significance of the Awasis (Cree) language and culture program at Prince Charles School, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action regarding the commitment to Indigenous languages and action in education, the Edmonton Public School Board commits to renaming Prince Charles School and requests that Administration facilitate a consultation process with students, families and staff of Prince Charles School, and relevant Elders and Knowledge Keepers in the community to gather feedback to inform the renaming process."**

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**MOVED BY Board Chair Estabrooks:**

“Given that Edmonton Public Schools has 215 schools and that school names are a chance to teach students about their community's history and leaders; and given that few schools are named after Indigenous, Black or People of Colour individuals; and given that some school names are named after people with a racist legacy; and given that EA.BP Infrastructure Planning Principles, of which naming of schools is mentioned, is up for review in 2022 that a special committee made up of students, parents, staff, community members, Trustees (two) and individuals involved in anti-racism work be formed to propose amendments to the school naming policy and provide a proposal for a Division-wide review of all Edmonton Public Schools names. This report will help inform the renaming policy for Edmonton Public Schools.”

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 5:50 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

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Karen Mills, Director of Board and  
Superintendent Relations