

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of Alberta held in the Centre for Education McCauley Chambers on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 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
Andrea Cooper

Karen Mills
Kathy Muhlethaler
Kent Pharis
Nancy Petersen

Cliff Richard
Darrel Robertson
Carrie Rosa

Board Chair: Trisha Estabrooks

Recording Secretary: Catherine Angeles

The Board Chair called the meeting to order with the recognition that we are meeting on Treaty 6 Territory of which amiskwaciwâskahikan or Edmonton is a part. She acknowledged that she is a settler on this land and she took a moment to recognize the importance of the long, rich, amazing and fulfilling history that this land holds and continues to hold for many First Nations and Inuit people. As a Board and as a Division, they are honoured to live, work, learn, play and raise their families on this land.

A. O Canada

B. Roll Call: 2:01 p.m.

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:

**“That the agenda for the February 7, 2023, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK**D. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair shared that February is Black History Month and thanked school communities who were taking the time to celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians and Black Albertans. Black History Month's theme this year is, "Ours to Tell." Black History is Canadian History and including the contributions, sacrifices and triumphs of Black Albertans in the new Alberta curriculum is essential. She shared that she spent Saturday afternoon learning about the contributions of Black Albertans, for example, the sleeping car porters and what life was like for Black settlers who came to places like Amber Valley in the early 1900s. The Board Chair encouraged everyone to visit the online exhibit titled "[And still we rise](#)," written and curated by Dr. Jennifer Kelly. This resource has been used in some Edmonton Public schools and is an incredible resource that shows the formation of Alberta's Black communities from the late 1800s to the early 1970s.

The Board Chair thanked the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange, for visiting the Alberta School for the Deaf, which is part of Edmonton Public. She thanked the staff at the school and Principal Sandra Mason for hosting the event, as the Minister announced additional one-time funding for students who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing or those with complex communication needs. The Board Chair said the school was a wonderful place and it was an honour to share the school's history, and meet students and staff alongside the Minister.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked the Board for including him in their planning meetings that were held last week. He commended the Board on their commitment to undertaking professional learning to advance their work with the Division. He also appreciated the time and thoughtfulness the Board dedicated to planning and advocating to ensure Edmonton Public students get what they need to be successful.

The Superintendent advised it is open house season. Whether the open house visit is virtual or in person, parents and students are going to be checking out one of the Division's 215 schools and multiple programs. He said it's a big decision point for lots of families, and the Division is endeavoring to provide families with great information. The Superintendent acknowledged the growth in the city has, in some cases, limited some families' choices. He said the Division will continue to try to make sure that we're accommodating as many kids as possible in great supportive learning environments. He said he expects that this will be a topic of discussion during upcoming conversations about the Division's Three-Year Capital Plan and Ten-Year Facilities Plan. These will be important conversations as Edmonton is a wonderful place for families. The Division's strives to ensure that our families have a great choice in public education.

MINUTE BOOK**F. Approval of the Minutes**

1. Board Meeting – January 24, 2023

MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:

**“That the minutes of Board Meeting held January 24, 2023, 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 #06 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held January 24, 2023)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the January 24, 2023, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. School Council Annual Report and Highlights Summary

A summary of highlights was provided from the 2021-2022 school council annual reports.

There was a short break in the meeting.

4. Operational Efficiencies
(Response to Request for Information #011)

Information was provided regarding the Request for Information #011 and included an update on efficiencies that have been continued from prior years, new efficiencies that were realized during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, and other efficiencies currently being explored.

5. Bereavements

Vice-Chair Ip reported on the passing of Mrs. Jennifer Lunn-Wallin and Mrs. Melanie Ketsa.

I. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports

Trustee O'Keefe provided an Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (Foundation) update:

- The Foundation invited staff to send a sweet Valentine's note to their colleagues, recognizing their incredible efforts year-round while supporting the Foundation's work. Candy grams can be purchased through a link on Connect until Sunday, February 12 and will be delivered the week of

MINUTE BOOK

February 13. Every dollar raised through the Candy Gram campaign will come back to our schools, helping to level the playing field for students who come to the classroom at a disadvantage.

- The Foundation's third annual Reading for Life fundraiser takes place May 3-17. They invite all schools, students and the community to read with them. More information is available on their website - foundation.epsb.ca – under the “Reading for Life” tab.

J. Trustees and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Kusiek submitted a Request for Information regarding pilot projects:

The Division has a number of pilot projects underway or that have been recently completed. Many of these pilot projects have served our students well. However, when funding for the pilot runs out and the good work is not able to continue, this can create a difficult situation. This RFI will provide further information to the Board on pilots that the Division advises would be ideal to continue, but that ongoing funding is a barrier to doing so.

1. Which pilot projects underway or recently completed has the Division seen significant value in and would like to continue but have ceased or may have to stop, because additional ongoing funding is required to do so? Please provide information on both projects initiated by the Division and those funded directly by the Province. Include:
 - a. the name of the pilot,
 - b. brief description,
 - c. source of initial funding and duration,
 - d. approximate number of students served by this pilot, and
 - e. approximate annual dollar value to move the pilot to a standard program of support within Edmonton Public Schools.

K. Notices of Motions - None**L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 2 p.m.****M. Adjournment: 3:37 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations