

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of Alberta held via Zoom on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 2 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Trisha Estabrooks
Dawn Hancock

Marcia Hole
Julie Kusiek
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
Ron Thompson
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: 2:01 p.m.

The Superintendent advised that Trustee Ip and Trustee Nelson were absent. All other Trustees were present.

B. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:

**“That the agenda for the November 29, 2022, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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C. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair shared that the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) met earlier this month. On behalf of the Board, she was pleased to share that their emergent motion urging ASBA to oppose a voucher system passed with a strong majority of boards voting in favour. Presenting a united front on behalf of all school boards in this province on the dangers of a voucher system is an important step by ASBA. She thanked Livingstone Range School Division and their Board chair, Lacey Poytress, for her support of this position statement.

The Board Chair shared that Minister LaGrange spoke to Trustees at ASBA. During the Minister's speech, she shared that P3s are no longer the preferred method of building schools. The Board appreciated this announcement and has, on numerous occasions - alongside their Metro colleagues - shared the issues they have had with P3 builds. The Board is incredibly proud of the Division's integrated project delivery model of building schools and has seen how this model benefits our school communities as well as keeps projects on time and on budget.

The Board Chair acknowledged that November 20 was International Transgender Day of Remembrance - a day to remember those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. She said that we know that trans people experience disproportionate levels of violence and abuse. Edmonton Public Schools has a strong [Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Board Policy](#) which guides their work in this area ensuring that all children feel safe and welcome at school.

The Board Chair thanked parents and families who continue to reach out to her and her colleagues to share their concerns about the rates of illness in our schools. The Minister's announcement last week about additional regulations, while it does offer clarity, does raise concerns about how operationally our schools will be able to offer in-person and online learning if need be. She said we need to continue to be nimble and looks forward to hearing back from the Chief Medical Officer of Health about thresholds that will be considered for additional action and safety measures in our schools during high rates of illness.

The Board Chair thanked, on behalf of the Board, the Division leaders who spent time with Trustees during central and school results reviews. The meetings were an important part of their role as publicly elected Trustees in terms of their accountability and transparency to those they serve. The innovative, collaborative and intentional work happening in the Division right now in support of students and the Division's new strategic plan is inspiring.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent provided an update on respiratory outbreaks in the Division. Since last Monday, Alberta Health Services declared respiratory outbreaks in 23 of our schools. And since the beginning of the school year, a total of 133 schools have been declared on respiratory outbreak. Overall illness rates in the Division are trending downward. Since November 16, eight and a half per cent of Division students were away from school, and that has trended down to five per cent in the last four school days. The Superintendent said that it is instructive for all of us to continue to monitor our own health and thanked parents for keeping kids home when they are ill. He also said he appreciated the Board's letter to the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

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The Superintendent advised of recent provincial direction and regulatory changes to guarantee that students have access to in-person learning, even if the class has moved to online learning due to operational challenges. He said that the shift to online learning requires staff and in-person learning requires staff as well. Operationally, it will be a challenge for the Division from a staffing perspective. The Division will continue to send out messages to parents and comprehensive messaging to school principals. The Division will continue to monitor the situation.

The Superintendent said that the regulation also clarified that students cannot be declined in-person learning by school authorities because of their decision to wear or not to wear a mask. These regulatory changes took effect on November 24. The Alberta government also provided school divisions with a letter for parents and families from the Minister of Education outlining these changes and the letter was posted to SchoolZone on Friday following the announcement.

E. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting – November 1, 2022
2. Special Board Meeting – November 15, 2022

MOVED BY Trustee Hole:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting held November 1, 2022, and the Special Board meeting held on November 15, 2022, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:**

“That the 20-minute time allotted for registered speakers be extended to 30 minutes for the Board Meeting.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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

There was a short break in the meeting.

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**"That the 2021-2022 audited financial statements, notes to the financial statements and unaudited schedules be approved."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Funds for 2023-2024 Professional Improvement Program – Teacher Certificated**MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:**

**"That the allocation of \$1,300,000 from the 2023-2024 operating budget be approved for the Professional Improvement Program – Teacher Certificated Staff for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support to teachers for the 2023-2024 school year."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. Funds for the 2023-2024 Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program**MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:**

**"That an allocation of \$140,000 from the 2023-2024 operating budget be approved for the Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support to exempt staff for the 2023-2024 school year."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

6. Student Transportation Update

An update was provided on the issues impacting yellow bus transportation services and how the situation has evolved since April 2022.

There was a short break in the meeting.

7. Student Accommodation Plan 2022-2023

Information was provided to the Board of Trustees on the 2022-2023 Student Accommodation Plan.

H. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports

Trustee O'Keefe shared an Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (Foundation) update. She said Wrap and Roll is back at Kingsway Mall for the month of December. The Foundation invited everyone to bring their presents to the Community Space, located just inside Entrance 8 near Santa. For a donation to the Foundation, they will wrap your presents. She thanked their partner Kingsway Mall for donating the space and supplies, and the Leadership students at Strathcona High School for their enthusiasm and commitment to organizing and staffing the event. Please visit the Kingsway Mall [website](#) for hours of operation.

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Trustee Kusiek thanked Nellie Carlson School and Principal Madsen for having her out for a school tour and thanked the School Council for inviting her to their AGM. She appreciated getting out to the schools where so much of the magic happens.

Trustee Kusiek said that she echoed the Board Chair's opening comments about Results Review. She said that whether you work in Central at the Centre for Education or in a school or classroom, thank you. Trustee Kusiek extended that thanks to families and school council members. The gratitude and appreciation they continue to show to the staff who take care of their kids and their learning are so important.

Trustee Hole shared that she had a wonderful opportunity to visit the Languages Centre at Woodcroft earlier this month. She spent time with some of the 5,009 students who are currently studying Spanish in the Division as they participated in the third biennial Spanish Career Fair. The Languages Centre is home to the Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education (IISLE) which helps promote excellence in second language teaching and learning. It houses resources and services that support 11 languages (plus English as an additional language) which are being taught to 55,753 students across the Division.

Trustee Hole said IISLE at Edmonton Public Schools has many global partnerships including with the Confucius Institute and is officially recognized as an Associate Centre of the Instituto Cervantes. It has been an examination centre for the Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE) exam since 2006, making it the first accredited center within a school division in Canada.

Trustee Hole extended her thanks to Ms. Beaudoin and the staff at the Languages Centre for the tour and the time spent telling her about their work. The services and expertise IISLE staff share with teachers means students receive top-notch language education and has helped to make Edmonton Public Schools a leader in North America with regard to second language education. She said it was a pleasure hearing from students, presenters and staff about how learning multiple languages has enriched their lives and opened up a world of opportunities.

I. Trustees and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Hole submitted a Request for Information regarding Refugee and Displaced Student Enrollment Numbers:

- Can Administration provide a breakdown of the number of students fleeing global conflicts who are new to the division for the 2022 -2023 school year?
- Please provide data on:
 - The number of refugee students and their country of origin, if known.
 - The number of displaced students from Ukraine, and elsewhere if applicable.
- Including a breakdown of:
 - Those who arrived prior to the September 2022 count date and those who have arrived since.
 - The type of funding the Division receives from the province to specifically support refugee and displaced students.

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- Which funding is received as part of the weighted moving average formula?
- Which funds are provided through a separate grant from the provincial government?
- Please provide information on a cut-off date to apply for any special grants received for globally displaced or refugee students, who arrive after September 30.

J. **Notices of Motions - None**

K. **Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 2 p.m.**

L. **Adjournment: 5:49 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations