

MINUTE BOOK**Board Meeting #17**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of Alberta held in Centre for Education McCauley Chambers on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 2 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Trisha Estabrooks
Dawn Hancock
Marcia Hole

Nathan Ip
Julie Kusiek
Marsha Nelson

Jan Sawyer
Saadiq Sumar

Officials

Angela Anderson
Todd Burnstad
Grace Cooke
Andrea Cooper

Karen Mills
Kathy Muhlethaler
Kent Pharis
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. O Canada

B. Roll Call: 2:00 p.m.

The Superintendent advised that Trustee O'Keefe was absent. All other Trustees were present.

C. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:

**"That the agenda for the September 20, 2022, Board meeting be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair welcomed back her fellow Trustees, staff and the Superintendent to the first board meeting for 2022-2023 school year. She said it's a busy time of year in our schools and she hoped that the first couple of weeks have been smooth. The Board Chair reminded everyone how great our school communities are when we work together.

The Board Chair reflected on the remarkable life of Queen Elizabeth II, whose reign was long and her service unwavering. Board Chair shared that many students in the Division took time to reflect on her life, her legacy, as well as the broader conversation around colonization and its impact, in particular, on Indigenous people. The Board Chair thanked teachers and staff in the Division who have had these conversations in the days that lead up to her funeral held on September 19th.

The Board Chair shared that Edmonton Public Schools will take time to reflect on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. She appreciated that this is a day off for students and staff on September 30, a day to honour the children who never returned home from residential school and survivors of residential schools. She said we must recognize and really hear the truth before we can move forward on the journey to reconciliation.

The Board Chair said that September 30th is also the official Orange Shirt Day. The orange shirt is meant to recognize the harm done to residential school students and show a commitment that every child matters. She shared that a student from David Thomas King School designed the 2022 Orange Shirt logo and many of our schools would be holding special events and activities on September 29th to mark this special day.

The Board Chair shared that the Board continues to receive updates from the Superintendent on the unprecedented enrolment growth seen in the Division. In the spring, administration projected enrolment would be about 107,000 students. The Division is seeing enrolment of around 110,000 students, almost five per cent growth from last school year. This growth is great for Edmonton Public Schools - we are welcoming new families and children into an amazing school division, but the increase in students has exacerbated the space crunch many of our schools are facing.

The Board Chair said that on September 19th, the Board of Trustees met briefly with Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange. They reminded her of the Division's urgent need for new schools.

The Board Chair expressed thanks to parents, students and staff who were continuing to take care for themselves and others around COVID-19. She said the pandemic is not over and we must remember the importance of staying home when sick as well as respecting the decision of those who choose to wear a mask to protect themselves and others. She also appreciates the decision by administration to continue to track COVID illnesses in our schools as well as illness for other reasons. This transparency continues to be important as we navigate this stage of the pandemic.

MINUTE BOOK

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent shared a warm welcome to staff, students and families to a new year and he welcomed the Board back.

The Superintendent advised that the Division continues to see enrolment pressures. The Division uses a growth control model; administration communicates with families exactly where the Division is at each school across the Division in terms of the ability for open boundaries. The Division also considers measures like closing enrolment boundaries, and in very extreme cases, implementing a lottery situation, where the Division designates two or more schools in an attendance area. He acknowledged that we can't accommodate everyone in their designated schools. Administration is working through individual situations with families around enrolment, and also transportation.

The Superintendent noted that the Division has added 2,500 new riders since September 1st and approximately three per cent of our routes are without permanent drivers. Administration is working hard to try to make sure that everyone's needs are met. The Superintendent thanked staff for their hard work and families for their patience as we get everyone settled in for a great year of school.

The Superintendent shared we are heading into cold and flu season and still contending with COVID-19. Administration continues to take measures to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students. The following practices work together to provide multiple layers of protection:

- Schools continue to support good hand hygiene practices, with hand sanitizer in high traffic and high touch areas throughout schools;
- Schools continue to use cleaning and disinfecting products that help mitigate the spread of illness;
- Schools have a designated sick room space for students who develop symptoms of illness while at school;
- We are continuing to extend the runtime of our ventilation systems before and after school and portable HEPA filtration systems remain in all classroom and learning spaces to enhance protection from the spread of viruses;
- Masks are an effective strategy to mitigate the spread of airborne viruses and we respect each person's decision around masking; and
- We remain committed to transparent information around absences due to illness and continue to post the daily absence rate for each school, including parent-reported absences due to COVID-19, on the Division website, [epsb.ca](https://www.edmontonpublicschools.ca).

The Superintendent shared that the most effective way to keep others from getting sick is to stay home if you are sick. He asked that all students and staff monitor symptoms of illness prior to coming to school. If you have symptoms, please stay home. He advised that Alberta Health Services (AHS) has communicated they are going back to the protocol for monitoring for outbreaks of illness in public schools across the province. AHS is using a 10 per cent illness benchmark, asking principals to phone them when student absences are in excess of 10 per cent. At that point, AHS would declare, if it's appropriate, a respiratory illness outbreak. Currently, the Division has five schools that have been declared on respiratory illness outbreak. He reminded everyone that there are other illnesses going around in the community besides

MINUTE BOOK

COVID-19. Administration is working closely with AHS, and will continue to communicate our measures with our families and share the communication from AHS, as appropriate.

F. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting #15 – June 21, 2022
2. Organizational Board Meeting – June 21, 2022

MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:

**“That the minutes of the Board Meeting #15 held June 21, 2022, and the Organizational Board Meeting held June 21, 2022, all 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

3. Actions Taken Under the Delegation of Authority – 2022 Summer Recess

The Superintendent reported that no actions were taken during the 2022 summer recess.

4. Amendment to the Three-Year Capital Plan 2023-2026

MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:

**“That the amended *Three-Year Capital Plan 2023-2026* be approved for submission to the Provincial Government.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

5. Process and Timeline for the Fall Review of the 2021-2022 Results and the Plans for 2022-2023

MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:

**“That the process and timeline for the 2021-2022 Results Review and the 2022-2023 Plans as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK6. 2021-2022 Board Self-Evaluation Summary

The Board of Trustees provided to the public a summary of the annual Board Self-Evaluation survey results from the 2021-2022 school year.

7. 2021-2022 Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation Summary

Information was provided regarding the 2021-2022 Superintendent of Schools' evaluation.

8. Bereavement

Vice-Chair Ip reported on the passing of Ms. Eunice Rosenthal.

I. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports - NoneJ. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - NoneK. Notices of Motions - NoneL. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 2 p.m.M. Adjournment: 4:04 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Trisha Estabrooks, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations