

**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, April 16, 2024, at 2 p.m.

**Present:****Trustees**

Trisha Estabrooks  
Dawn Hancock  
Marcia Hole

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  
Ron Thompson  
Liz Yule

**Board Chair:** Julie Kusiek

**Recording Secretary:** Catherine Angeles

The Board Chair called the meeting to order.

The Board Chair said as she opened her heart in preparation for bringing today's land acknowledgement, a beautiful gift was shared by Sophia Lebessis, MC at yesterday's Honouring the Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards hosted by the Alberta School Boards Association. With Ms. Lebessis' permission, Board Chair Kusiek shared the following:

*It is said one of the longest distances you can travel is between your mind and your heart. But that in between these spaces is our mouth. And also our chin. And when we feel strong in our culture, we hold our chin up high.*

As the Board Chair reflected on the Board's work as a Division towards reconciliation, it is this sentiment of connecting mind and heart, and taking pride in ones' culture that stands out. Today, we gather on Treaty 6 Territory, and it is her wish that each and every student can feel pride in their culture and a connection to both the land from which their ancestors came and to this land, in amiskwaciwâskahikan or Beaver Hills House or Edmonton that we now all share.

**A. O Canada**

**MINUTE BOOK****B. Roll Call: 2:00 p.m.**

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:**

**“That the agenda for the April 16, 2024, Board meeting be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**D. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting today, both in person and to those who were watching online.

The Board Chair shared that Michelle Beaver, a Grade 12 student at M.E. LaZerte School, was recognized as one of the 12 recipients of the 2024 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards, presented by ASBA. The announcement was made yesterday and the Board Chair was excited to share the news with everyone. This prestigious award celebrates exceptional students who embody exemplary leadership, honour, courage, and commitment to their cultures and educational paths. Michelle’s achievement is a testament to her leadership, resilience and outstanding contributions to our community. She is a dedicated participant in her school’s Indigenous activities, including the Circle of Courage and the ReconciliAction initiative. Michelle’s teachers expect that she will impact society significantly and positively in her future endeavours. The Board congratulated Michelle on this well-deserved recognition.

The Board Chair stated that today’s agenda had one main item on it: The Distribution of Funds. This is the first step in the Division’s budgeting process and she wanted to acknowledge that these conversations aren’t easy. She is confident that this Board of Trustees, in partnership with our dedicated Superintendent and staff, will find ways to navigate the challenges posed by the weighted moving average methodology and limited funds for education from the province. She believes that together, we can make informed decisions and allocate resources in ways that best support the needs of our students across the Division.

The Board Chair reminded everyone that the Board of Trustees is hosting the Parent Appreciation Night at the Telus World of Science from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It is a free event and no ticket is required, but capacity is limited to 500. The Board hoped to see everyone there.

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

The Superintendent shared that as of April 8, 2024, pre-enrolment for the 2024-2025 school year was 114,242 students, or about 93 per cent of the projected 2024-2025 enrolment. For the next school year, 28 level 1 schools on our Growth Control Model employed a random selection process for a variety of programs; level 1 schools have open boundaries. Random selection is used when the number of applicants exceeds available space. Five level 2 schools conducted a random selection process for specific programs at the school; level 2 schools are those that are nearing capacity. The Division has seven schools that are at

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level 3 on the Growth Control Model and may conduct a lottery process, due to enrolment pressures. Of the seven, three had to conduct the lottery process this year due to demand for space in the school. Students who were unsuccessful in the lottery process may choose to attend a school nearby that has space or the designated overflow school.

- Lillian Osborne School is at level 3 on the Growth Control Model but was able to accommodate all Grade 10 resident attendance area students who pre-enrolled.
- Jasper Place and Ross Sheppard schools were moved to level 2 this year with closed boundaries. Both schools were able to accommodate all resident students who live in the attendance area.
- Both Dr. Anne Anderson and M.E. LaZerte schools were moved to level 2 on the growth control model, with open boundaries. Both schools conducted a random selection process.
- The other high schools conducting a random selection process included: Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack, Harry Ainlay, J. Percy Page and Strathcona schools.

The Superintendent stated that as the City of Edmonton continues to grow, so does the Division. Administration is addressing the space pressures as best they can and he thought this update would be helpful for the Board of Trustees.

### **F. Approval of the Minutes**

1. Board Meeting – April 9, 2024

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:**

**“That the minutes of the Board meeting held April 9, 2024, be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### **G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives on Items on the Meeting Agenda**

There were no registered speakers for this item.

### **H. Reports**

2. Report #06 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held January 23, 2024)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the January 23, 2024, Caucus Committee meeting.

3. 2024-2025 Distribution of Funds

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Hole:**

**“That Distribution of Funds for the 2024-2025 Budget be approved.”**

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Sumar the motion be amended:**

**“That the Distribution of Funds for the 2024-2025 Budget be amended as follows:**

- **up to \$1,000,000 be allocated from Operating Surplus for the renaming of schools for the 2024-2025 school year**

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- **up to \$1,000,000 be allocated from Operating Surplus to provide mental health supports and programs for student for the 2024-2025 school year  
Additionally, request that Administration report back on the use of the funds.”**

The Board Chair called the question on the amendment.

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Hole and Sumar**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Estabrooks, Hancock, Kusiek, Nelson, O’Keefe, and Sawyer  
(DEFEATED)**

The Board Chair called the question on the original motion.

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives on Educational Issues – 5 p.m.**

There were no registered speakers for this item.

**J. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports - None**

**K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information**

Trustee Estabrooks submitted a Request for Information regarding Gaps in Funding:  
Enrolment/Inflation:

1. When EPSB receives our funding manual, could Administration please provide an anticipated breakdown of per student funding for Division students for the 2024-25 school year? How does this spending per student compare to the last ten years, keeping in mind the introduction of a new funding formula in 2020-2021.
2. Could Administration please provide an explanation of the gap between funding provided using the weighted moving average methodology and actual number of new students to the Division each September? Please include information on this gap for each year since the weighted moving average (WMA) has been implemented.
3. Could Administration please provide, for each year since the WMA has been introduced, the total number of unfunded students alongside the approximated dollar value of that gap, and compare that with the supplemental enrolment funding grant provided by the government?
- 3a. Is the supplemental enrolment grant funding or any other funding available to growing school divisions mid-year currently closing the gap due to the WMA methodology and a growing student population?
4. What impact has inflation had on the Division's budget, including on our fixed costs of telecom, insurance, sewer/water, natural gas and electricity? Could Administration please include a graph showing inflation adjusted funding with the actual funding received?

**MINUTE BOOK****L. Notices of Motions**

Trustee Nelson gave notice that she would be making the following two motions:

1. Given the completion of the review and input received, the Board is open to Edmonton Police Service having a formal role in Division schools to enhance student and staff safety.
2. That the Board amend CHA.BP Board Delegation of Authority by deleting section 2(c) which currently has the Board retaining authority over decisions, contracts or agreements with or related to policing, security or paramilitary organizations, thereby resulting in this authority reverting back to the Superintendent.

The Board Chair called a Special Board meeting for April 30 at 9:30 a.m., with Trustee Nelson's two motions being the items of business.

Trustee Sumar gave notice that he would be making the following motion:

That the Board of Trustees write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting a timeline for an update to the Standards for Special Education.

**M. Next Board Meeting: Special Board meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. and Board meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 2 p.m.**

**N. Adjournment: 4:17 p.m.**

**The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.**

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Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

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Karen Mills, Director Board and  
Superintendent Relations