

**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, May 28, 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 and called upon Trustee Hole to provide a land acknowledgement.

Trustee Hole said June is fast approaching and it will be a time for our country to celebrate National Indigenous History month, the summer solstice on June 20 and National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21. It's a time to honour the vast contributions - past and present - of the many nations on whose land we work, live, learn and play. Throughout the month, and despite the lasting impacts of colonization, legislation and treaties made, and promises broken, First Nations, Métis and Inuit folks will graciously invite us to learn about the strength and resilience of their ancient knowledge, and about the beauty of their cultures, languages and relationship to this land.

Trustee Hole shared that as a descendant of settlers she grew up on a farm in the heart of Treaty 6 territory; it was quite literally on the traveling route of the nehiyaw, Saulteaux, Niitsitapi, Dene, Nakota Sioux, Anishnaabe, Inuit and Métis of the North Saskatchewan River territory. As farmers, that land provided for all of our needs and it has created for her a complicated relationship to the stolen land on which we live. It's also inspired her to learn from Indigenous teachers about reciprocity with the land, to have profound gratitude for its gifts, the animals, water, food and medicines which sustain us, and to embrace the idea of never taking more than we need.

Trustee Hole offered this land acknowledgement in the spirit of truth, friendship, collaboration, reconciliation, and as a reminder of her obligations, in this governance role, to honour and support the

**MINUTE BOOK**

Elders, Knowledge Keepers and teachers as they impart and strengthen this knowledge for the students we serve here in amiskwaciwâskahikan.

**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 Vice-Chair Sawyer:**

**“That the agenda for the May 28, 2024, Board meeting be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**D. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair expressed excitement about today’s agenda, especially celebrating the Michael Strembitsky Awards. These awards are a testament to the outstanding achievements and contributions of students.

The Board Chair said the first week of June is Pride Week in Edmonton Public Schools. It's a time when schools across the Division show support for all 2SLGBTQIA+ staff, students, and families. This week is about inclusivity, acceptance, and celebrating diversity. We want everyone to know that they belong here, and we are proud to stand together. Board Chair Kusiek thanked schools and staff in advance for their dedication in creating inclusive and welcoming environments for everyone.

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

The Superintendent welcomed everyone watching online and those attending the meeting in person.

The Superintendent shared that Kate Jolicouer from Soraya Hafez School was selected to represent Edmonton Public Schools in the Alberta School Boards Association Zone 2/3 finals and was selected as the winner. Kate teaches nine students diagnosed with Autism in the Interactions program in Grades 2-6. She has proactively designed engaging learning activities that empower students to develop communication skills. She created a buddy program connecting students from both the Interactions program and the regular program. She uses a variety of visual supports and augmentative and alternative communication devices to improve her students’ ability to communicate their needs. She focuses on ensuring students are provided with high-quality literacy and numeracy programming. For example, she introduces numbers and number concepts through engaging sensory play and hands-on

### **MINUTE BOOK**

activities. On behalf of the entire Division, Superintendent Robertson congratulated Kate on this amazing honour. The Alberta School Boards Association plans to share this information and celebrate further this fall.

The Superintendent congratulated Jasper Place School student Rachel Antwi who recently won the Skills Canada gold medal in IT Office Software Applications Level 2, in the Skills Alberta competition. This is a major accomplishment for the Grade 11 student, who will have a chance to demonstrate her amazing technical skills. Rachel will represent not only Jasper Place School, but also Alberta at the Skills Canada competition, which is taking place in Quebec City. Superintendent Robertson wished Rachel the best of luck.

The Superintendent congratulated Theron Lund, a teacher at Ross Sheppard School, who recently received a Loran Teachers Building Leaders Award. Loran is a national foundation that invests in youth who approach challenges with curiosity, perseverance and creativity. The Teachers Building Leaders Award is a way for graduating Loran Scholars to celebrate those teachers whose support has had a profound impact on their development, and who played a pivotal role in providing foundational inspiration, guidance and growth opportunities. Theron was nominated by Sumaya Soufi, a 2020 Loran Scholar and Ross Sheppard grad. Sumaya received \$85,000 to pursue her creative and professional interests and nominated Theron because she felt he was deserving of the award and should be recognized on a national level.

The Superintendent shared that last Thursday he attended the celebration of 54 Educational Assistant Interns who completed the Educational Assistant (EA) Internship Program this past spring. The EA interns participated in 16 weeks of in-class learning alongside a team of teachers and EAs, completed modules on supporting students in literacy and numeracy, managing anxiety and supporting students with complex needs and students with autism. EA interns attended a community of practice throughout their learning experience and were supported by an EA mentor. EA interns shared that the internship changed their lives, helping them to gain confidence to support the most vulnerable students, feeling a sense of belonging and optimism for their future as they enter the profession of an educational assistant with Edmonton Public Schools. Superintendent Robertson extended his thanks to the Central staff who created the program, the school staff who supported the in-class learning of the EAs and to the EA internships for taking a leap of faith and enrolling in this program. The work of the EA is invaluable in our schools supporting both staff and students. He thanked them for being a part of our Edmonton Public Schools family.

The Superintendent said that it's Exempt Staff Appreciation Week. This is a diverse group of staff who work in areas like finance, technology, human resources, communications, infrastructure, specialized learning supports and more. He expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the staff who work incredibly hard to support schools and students each and every day.

The Superintendent shared that we're in the middle of graduation season. Many of our Board members are participating and taking in these meaningful ceremonies. Graduation is a rite of passage: a milestone that feels so far away when children enter Kindergarten. Before we know it, they're crossing the stage and getting ready to enter the next phase of their lives, whether it's post-secondary, the world of work or community living. So much goes into preparing students for graduation and supporting them to live a

**MINUTE BOOK**

life of dignity, fulfillment and possibility. Superintendent Robertson thanked all Division staff who played a hand in getting them prepared; it truly takes our collective efforts. He also thanked all of the staff who make these ceremonies so meaningful for students and their families.

**F. Approval of the Minutes**

1. Board Meeting – May 14, 2024

**MOVED BY Trustee Hole:**

**“That the minutes of the Board meeting held May 14, 2024, be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**G. Recognition**

2. Michael A. Strembitsky Award of Excellence Presentations

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

- Gold Medal – Jules Ng, J. Percy Page School
- Silver Medal – Chelsea Kwon, Dr. Anne Anderson School
- Bronze Medal – Athena Annika Reyes, Victoria School

There was a short break in the meeting.

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

There were no registered speakers for this item.

**I. Reports**

3. Student Senate Work Plan Update

Student Trustees Chelsea Kwon, Callum La Roi and George Xie provided an update on the 2023-2024 Student Senate Work Plan.

There was a short break in the meeting.

**MINUTE BOOK**

4. Strategic Plan Update: Priority 1

The Strategic Plan Update Report provided the Board of Trustees with an overview of the Division’s comprehensive approach in support of Priority 1 with a focus on Goals 2 and 3.

5. ASBA Emergent Position Statement

Trustee Hole left the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

**MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:**

**“That the Board approves in principle this position statement to be presented at the Alberta School Board Association’s Spring General Meeting on June 3, 2024.”**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT,** “the Alberta School Board Association advocates that annually when Alberta inflation rates are rising, the Government of Alberta increases all Grant Funding Rates proportionately to mitigate the impacts of compounding inflationary operational costs; and in declining inflation no annual adjustment is made to Grant Funding Rates.”

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Hole was not present for the vote.

6. Locally Developed Courses

**MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:**

**“That the following elementary, junior high and senior high school locally developed courses be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools:”**

**Senior High School LDCs**

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Codes</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Approval Period (School Years)</b>
American Sign Language (Language Arts) 15 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 25 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 35	LDC1878 LDC2878 LDC3878	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 15 Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 25 Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 35	LDC1931 LDC2931 LDC3931	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028

**MINUTE BOOK**

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Codes</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Approval Period (School Years)</b>
Arabic Language and Culture Three-Year (3Y) 15 Arabic Language and Culture Three-Year (3Y) 25 Arabic Language and Culture Three-Year (3Y) 35	LDC1330 LDC2330 LDC3330	5 credits (2022-2026)	2024–2025 to 2025–2026
Beading (Elder Chronicles) 15	LDC1014	3 credits (2023– 2027)	2024–2025 to 2026–2027
Calculus (Advanced) 35	LDC3255	5 credits (2020-2025)	2024–2025
Capstone Seminar 25 Capstone Research 35	LDC2440 LDC3440	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Competencies in Science 15	LDC1516	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Directing 25 Directing 35	LDC2468 LDC3468	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Engineering and Design 15	LDC1147	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
ESL Expository English Level 1 15 ESL Expository English Level 2 15	LDC1271 LDC1276	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Reading Development 15 Reading Foundations 15	LDC1311 LDC1296	3 and 5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Statistics 35	LDC3195	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Treaties and Sovereignty 15	LDC1068	3 credits (2023– 2027)	2024–2025 to 2026–2027

**MINUTE BOOK**

**Elementary and Junior High School LDCs**

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Codes</b>	<b>Approval Period (School Years)</b>
American Sign Language and Deaf Culture 4 American Sign Language and Deaf Culture 5 American Sign Language and Deaf Culture 6	ELM4124 ELM5124 ELM6124	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
American Sign Language (Language Arts) Kindergarten American Sign Language (Language Arts) 1 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 2 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 3 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 4 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 5 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 6 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 7 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 8 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 9	KGN1020 ELM1120 ELM2120 ELM3120 ELM4120 ELM5120 ELM6120 JHS7040 JHS8040 JHS9040	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 7 Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 8 Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 9	JHS7379 JHS8379 JHS9379	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Bible Studies 1 Bible Studies 2 Bible Studies 3 Bible Studies 4 Bible Studies 5 Bible Studies 6 Bible Studies 7 Bible Studies 8 Bible Studies 9	ELM1430 ELM2430 ELM3430 ELM4430 ELM5430 ELM6430 JHS7012 JHS8012 JHS9012	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Creative Writing 7 Creative Writing 8 Creative Writing 9	JHS7035 JHS8035 JHS9035	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
French Language Arts Late Immersion 7 French Language Arts Late Immersion 8	JHS7103 JHS8103	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Guitar 7 Guitar 8 Guitar 9	JHS7415 JHS8415 JHS9415	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Judaic Studies Kindergarten Judaic Studies 1 Judaic Studies 2 Judaic Studies 3	KGN0445 ELM1445 ELM2445 ELM3445	2024–2025 to 2027–2028

**MINUTE BOOK**

Course Name	Course Codes	Approval Period (School Years)
Judaic Studies 4 Judaic Studies 5 Judaic Studies 6	ELM4445 ELM5445 ELM6445	
Punjabi Language and Culture 7 Punjabi Language and Culture 8 Punjabi Language and Culture 9	JHS7388 JHS8388 JHS9388	2024–2025 to 2027–2028

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Hole was not present for the vote.

There was a short break in the meeting.

Trustee Estabrooks left the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

7. Second, third and final reading of Board Policy GCA.BP Approval of the School Year Calendar

**MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:**

**“That the Board meeting be extended beyond 6 p.m.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustee Hancock suggested page 2 of the policy be updated as follows:

“The Board expects that the Division will use available data, ~~which includes and~~ feedback from students and families, to inform the selection of days of significance ~~that are considered~~ to be included in ~~each the~~-school year calendar ~~each year~~, with the recognition that:...”

The Board Chair asked the mover of the motion, Trustee Sumar, if he considered this a friendly amendment.

Trustee Sumar agreed the amendment was friendly.

The Board Chair stated that the friendly amendment was now part of the main motion.

**MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:**

**“That Board Policy GCA.BP Approval of the School Year Calendar be read for a second, third and final time and be approved.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustees Estabrooks and Hole were not present for the votes.



**MINUTE BOOK**8. Request for a Timeline to Update the Standards for Special Education**MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:**

**“That Board of Trustees write to the Minister of Education requesting a timeline as to when the Standards for Special Education will be updated, including when **and how** consultations with stakeholders (e.g., school divisions, families of children with disabilities, and professionals who support students with disabilities) will take place and when the new standards will be released.”**  
**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustees Estabrooks and Hole were not present for the vote.

9. Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct Annual Review**MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:**

**“That the Policy Review Committee’s recommendation that Board Policy HG.BP Student Behaviour and Conduct remain as written based on the 2024 annual review be approved.”**  
**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustees Estabrooks and Hole were not present for the vote.

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

There were no registered speakers for this item.

**K. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports**

Trustee Estabrooks submitted the following written report after the Board meeting ended:

Trustee Estabrooks congratulated the Highlands students who will be participating in an art show with the Edmonton Arts Council this coming weekend.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked those who stopped by the Ward D drop-in event at Mandolin Books a couple of weeks ago. She said there were some great conversations about public education.

**L. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - None**

**MINUTE BOOK****M. Notices of Motion**

Trustee Hancock gave notice that she would be making the following motion:

That the Board approve the following motion for presentation to the Alberta School Boards Association Fall General Meeting: “That the Alberta School Boards Association work with the Canadian School Boards Association to advocate to the federal government to ban all flavoured ingredients, including mint and menthol flavours, in all vaping products.”

**N. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 2 p.m.****O. Adjournment: 6:34 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