

**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 14, 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  
Andrea Cooper  
Karen Mills

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 Hancock to provide a land acknowledgement.

Trustee Hancock acknowledged and is thankful for this land on which she has her home and work, and recognized the many Indigenous people who have cared for this land and have woven into it their hearts and lives for generations.

Ninanâskomon - Cree for "I am grateful for", she is grateful for this road of reconciliation, and has been shown much kindness on this learning journey from many elders, kookums, staff and other Indigenous people along the way.

Ninanâskomon, she is grateful for the sharing of their art, dance, music, stories, and traditions which have broadened my appreciation of the richness of their history and culture. And for the opportunities to grow in understanding, and to honor memories of lives past.

Ninanâskomon, she is grateful for this Treaty 6 land where Edmonton resides, for the beauty of the river valley where she regularly walks to rejuvenate and to remember the original caretakers, all the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps have travelled these lands long before her including the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene and Nakota Sioux.

Trustee Hancock said she will continue to embrace opportunities to learn more about the First Peoples' cultures and perspectives and share those learnings with those around her.

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

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:**

**"That the agenda for the May 14, 2024, Board meeting be approved as printed."  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**D. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair had the privilege of attending an event, alongside Ward D Trustee Trisha Estabrooks, unveiling a new basketball court at Wihkwêntôwin School. She said it was a fantastic example of collaborative efforts, benefiting both the community and students. This project highlights the power of partnerships in creating positive spaces for recreation and learning. Very fitting for a school that embodies "circle of friends".

The Board Chair said the Board had an opportunity to share the story of Edmonton Public Schools at the ASBA Zone 2/3 MLA session, particularly around students with complex needs. Chair Kusiek thanked Trustee Estabrooks for her efforts in helping to organize this advocacy opportunity. These engagements are crucial in showcasing our dedication to student achievement.

The Board Chair shared that many members of the Board attended the State of the City event. She said it won't come as a surprise to many, but the city continues to grow. We're seeing that borne out in Division schools. Thriving cities attract workers and businesses, who are looking for schools for their children. Chair Kusiek is looking forward to the opportunity to keep the conversation going around how the Division can work with the City of Edmonton, business, industry and the Government of Alberta to find ways to accelerate the pace of new school construction for the Division.

The Board Chair and Vice-Chair Jan Sawyer recently had an opportunity to tour MLA Andrew Boitchenko around both L.Y. Cairns and McKee schools. Chair Kusiek thanked principals Angela Blanchette and Errol Johnson for hosting. The tour focused on specialized education in Interactions, Connections and Opportunities classrooms and what inclusion and choice for families look like in the Division. The Board Chair appreciated the opportunity to show the great work of our schools and staff and discuss the opportunities for further investment to support students with diverse learning needs.

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The Board Chair shared that yesterday, Trustee O’Keefe, Superintendent Robertson and she met with Honourable Minister Muhammad Yaseen, Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism. He shared the work that the Government of Alberta is doing regarding anti-racism and is appreciative of the excellent work being done at Edmonton Public Schools through our Division Strategic Plan Priority 2, our Anti-Racism, Reconciliation and Equity Plan, multi-faith calendar and more. The Board looks forward to further supporting work towards anti-racism, reconciliation and equity in Edmonton Public Schools and in Alberta.

The Board Chair stated that Trustee Dawn Hancock and she may need to leave the meeting early for another meeting. She appreciates Vice-Chair Sawyer’s willingness to step in and chair the meeting if needed. Everyone’s understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated as the Board works towards the best interests of Edmonton Public Schools and our students.

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

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

The Superintendent shared that budgets closed for schools and central units at the end of April. He noted it was another tough budget year for the Division. While education funding is increasing, so too are Division costs. The budget will be presented and discussed at next Friday’s special Board meeting, but he wanted to express his sincere thanks and appreciation to leaders across the Division for their thoughts, consideration and student-first lens as they made decisions in order to staff for budget.

The Superintendent stated we’re heading into an extra-long weekend for many of Division staff and students; he expressed his appreciation for everything Division staff continue to do to support student success.

The Superintendent announced that the following principals have been confirmed, effective September 1, 2024:

- April Aitken, Ekota
- Satinder Basra, Weinlos
- Tamie Beattie, Queen Alexandra
- Cathy Burrows, Donnan
- Jon Carstensen-Sinha, Coronation
- David Close, Mill Creek
- Kathleen Durance, Garneau
- Chelsea Erdmann, Dickinsfield
- Carmen Geissler, Forest Heights
- Darin Johnson, Talmud Torah
- Jennifer Kozak, Lendrum
- Terri Leedell, Evansdale
- Ana Paulino, Britannia
- Karen Teague, Riverdale
- Tracy Tucker, Parkallen
- Tracy Warawa, Lee Ridge
- Marnie White, Rutherford
- Bobbi Whitrow, Abbott

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

1. Board Meeting – April 16, 2024
2. Special Board Meeting – April 30, 2024

**MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:**

**“That the minutes of the Board meeting held April 16, 2024 and Special Board meeting held April 30, 2024, all be approved as printed.”**  
**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

The Board of Trustees heard from four registered speakers regarding the Seclusion and Physical Restraint Update report.

**H. Reports**

3. Report #08 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held March 5, 2024)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the March 5, 2024, Caucus Committee meeting.

4. Report #11 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held April 9, 2024)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the April 9, 2024, Caucus Committee meeting.

5. Centre for Education Capital Plan

**MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:**

**“That the Board of Trustees grant approval to Division Administration to move forward with addressing the most pressing Centre for Education capital needs (Years 1–4, approximately \$8.5 million).”**

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

**“That the Board of Trustees grant approval to Division Administration to move forward with addressing ~~all of the most pressing~~ Centre for Education capital needs ~~(Years 1–4, approximately \$8.5 million)~~ (Years 1–8, approximately \$16 million).”**

The Board Chair called the question to the amendment.

**IN FAVOUR: Trustee Sumar**

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

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**The Board Chair called the question on the original motion.  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

6. Student Transportation Fees for 2024-2025

Trustee Estabrooks asked Administration to provide the Board of Trustees with an update, in fall of 2024, on the work/partnership with the City of Edmonton on the low-income bus passes.

**MOVED BY Trustee Hole:**

**“That the 2023–2024 Student Transportation Fee Schedule be maintained for 2024–2025, as outlined in the table below.”**

**Proposed 2024-2025 Transportation Fees**

Transportation Service	Monthly Fee
Kindergarten to Grade 12 students taking ETS	<b>\$55</b>
Kindergarten to Grade 12 students taking yellow bus	<b>\$30</b>
Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 students who need additional care or specialized supports when taking yellow bus	<b>\$0</b>

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting.

Board Chair Kusiek and Trustee Hancock left the meeting at 4:02 p.m. Vice-Chair Sawyer chaired the remainder of the meeting.

7. 2024-2025 Non-Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees and  
2025-2026 International Student Fees

**MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:**

**“That the proposed 2024-2025 Non-Alberta Resident fees and the Special Needs Sponsorship fees as outlined on Attachment I be approved.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:**

**“That the proposed 2025-2026 International Student Tuition fee and International Student Application fee as outlined on Attachment I be approved.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Board Chair Kusiek and Trustee Hancock were not present for the votes on the recommendations.

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8. Gaps in Funding: Enrolment/Inflation  
(Response to Request for Information #021)

Information was provided regarding the Request for Information #021.

9. Board Policy HFA.BP Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

**MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:**

**“That Board Policy HFA.BP Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression be read for the first time and be approved for stakeholder feedback.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Board Chair Kusiek and Trustee Hancock were not present for the vote.

10. Seclusion and Physical Restraint Update

An annual update on the use of seclusion and physical restraint was reported. This is the third year for the collection of comprehensive physical restraint data across all schools.

11. Bereavement

Vice-Chair Sawyer reported on the passing of Mr. Victor (Aaron) Kucher.

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

Trustee Estabrooks shared that she attended several school council meetings in the past couple of weeks. She expressed gratitude to principals who shared with parents and school council members some tough budget conversations and decisions. Principals are preparing their school communities for larger class sizes and sharing the message that the Division has long been talking about, which is the current funding formula is inadequate and penalizes growing school divisions.

Trustee Estabrooks expressed gratitude to Forest Heights and Rutherford School Councils for their hard work at the recent Alberta School Councils' Association annual general meeting. Forest Heights School Council put forward a motion, which passed, related to playground funding. Rutherford School Council put forward a motion, which also passed, related to advocacy to the government around transparency on infrastructure decisions.

Trustee Estabrooks shared that the Board Chair and she attended a fabulous and fun event at École Wìhkwèntòwin School with the WNBA, where an art mural was unveiled at the school's basketball court. She said it was great to meet the artist, Rashelle Campbell, and to share in the celebration with Wìhkwèntòwin Principal Sheelagh Brown and some student athletes.

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Trustee Estabrooks stated that this Thursday she will be hosting a Ward D drop-in event at Mandolin Books at 7 p.m. She looks forward to chatting with parents and constituents about their visions for public education and answering any questions they may have.

Trustee Sumar shared a few highlights from Ward G and also across Edmonton Public. He highlighted the work of the Student Senate in putting together the EPSB Clubs Summit hosted at McNally High School during a Division PD day. He noted that some of the insights shared by students were quite brilliant and thanked Administration for their support in putting it all together.

Trustee Sumar thanked his colleagues, Division staff, parents, and community members for coming out to the Parent Appreciation Night. Quite a few parents, community members, and families took part in the event at the Telus World of Science.

Trustee Sumar gave a quick shout out to W.P. Wagner for bringing back Wag-a-thon, an annual fundraiser, which raised over \$70,000 for Second Chance Animal Rescue Society.

Trustee Sumar thanked the staff from Thelma Chalifoux and TD Baker Schools and Corey Wells in particular for organizing the Elder and Youth Gathering. It was a great way for Elders and youth to be able to connect while they break bread and go back to traditional ways of passing on information. There will also be some great art coming out of the gatherings and he's looking forward to what they end up putting together.

Trustee Hole shared that she was able to join the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) as they celebrated 95 years of great work at their Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26 and 27. ASCA is a member-driven association, representing voices from across the province. The ASCA board and member school councils adopted some important resolutions in support of students, families and public education in Alberta.

Trustee Hole expressed many thanks to the 18 school councils from Edmonton Public who participated in person or by proxy in the AGM. She also congratulated four EPSB school councils for their work in presenting the following resolutions which were adopted with support from the membership.

- **Kensington School Council** with resolutions on:
  - *Funding for More Assessments of Learning Disabilities*
  - *Improving Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in Alberta Classrooms and Shared Environments*
- **Forest Heights School Council** with two resolutions on:
  - *Equity in Playground Funding*
- **Bisset School Council** with two resolutions on:
  - *Opposing the Alberta Government's Proposed Policies Re: "Preserving Choice for Children and Youth"*
- **Rutherford Elementary School Council** with a resolution:
  - *Request for Emergency Multi-tiered Taskforce to Ensure Public School Space for All Students*

A [full list of Advocacy Resolutions](#) presented by school councils and the ASCA board can be found on their website [albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://albertaschoolcouncils.ca). Additional highlights of those which were adopted included:

- Seven motions to Preserve Safe Spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ Students

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- Integrating Climate & Biodiversity Education Throughout the Curriculum from K-12
- Preserving Non-partisan Elections for Alberta School Board Trustees
- Enhanced Reporting of Class Size and Complexity

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

K. **Notices of Motions - None**

L. **Next Board Meetings: Special Board meeting Friday, May 24, 2024, at 9 a.m. and  
Board meeting Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 2 p.m.**

M. **Adjournment: 5:51 p.m.**

The Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

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Karen Mills, Director Board and  
Superintendent Relations