

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, June 10, 2025, at 2 p.m.

Present:**Trustees**

Dawn Hancock
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

A. Land Acknowledgement

The Board Chair called the meeting to order and called upon Trustee Sumar to provide a land acknowledgement.

Trustee Sumar acknowledged that he lives, works, plays, and enjoys the abundance that Treaty 6 land provides. This land, known by many names like amiskwacyi-waskahikan (nehiyawewin; "Beaver Hills House"), omahkoyis (Siksika; "Big Lodge"), and ti oda (Assiniboine; "many houses"), has been cared for by the Siksikaitsitapi, Denesuline, nehiyawak, Anishinaabe, Stoney Nakoda, and the Métis from the North Saskatchewan River Territory. This land has also been imprinted by the footsteps of the Inuit. It is only through their teachings and stories that we can fully appreciate the beauty of this land. He said he is aware, painfully at times, that as a son to immigrant parents, he has been treated more often than not better than the Indigenous people of this land.

June is National Indigenous History Month. During this month in particular, it is important to acknowledge the truths of the past and present, including the devastating impacts of Residential Schools, Day Schools, Indian Hospitals, the Sixties and Millennial scoops, and the ongoing systemic prejudice and discrimination embedded in government policies and legislation. It is also important to recognize the profound loss of cultural traditions and ways of knowing. True reconciliation involves remembering and changing. Trustee Sumar committed to doing what he can as an individual and as an elected official to ensure that the errors of the past and present do not continue into the future and that as a society, we must commit to supporting the restoration of Indigenous worldviews, culture, and language.

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Ms. Sheila Williams, a First Nations, Métis and Inuit teacher consultant with Curriculum and Learning Supports, sang O Canada in Cree.

C. Recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day

Ms. Sheila Williams spoke about the importance of National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day. She shared a video created for Division teachers and students. In the video, Dr. Dwayne Donald of the Papaschase Cree Nation shared stories that uncover the layered history of amiskwaciy, or Beaver Hills, and the significance of this location in relation to the land and the river through it as we ponder how we can live and be a good relative on these lands.

D. Roll Call: 2:14 p.m.

The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

E. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:

**“That the agenda for the June 10, 2025, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

F. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair said that at a recent Board meeting, Trustees discussed sending a letter to the Minister of Education, advocating for the education of undocumented students. That letter has been sent to the Minister, sharing the Board’s position that every student who resides in Edmonton deserves access to quality public education, regardless of their immigration status. The letter will be published on epsb.ca in the coming days.

The Board Chair shared that recently the Board of Trustees participated in the annual ASBA meeting where a number of position statements were accepted, including:

- ASBA advocates to the government for school boards to provide greater input in advance of any bargaining directives, in support of board autonomy. Further, that ASBA advocates that the government publicly acknowledge when the Minister issues directives to school boards on labour and employment matters. Further, that ASBA advocates that government fund all agreements reached within the directive and that they increase funding directly to school boards in future years to reflect those staff cost increases.

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- Another motion was passed that ASBA advocates to government that school divisions receive market value for the sale or transfer of their titled real property when the provincial government proceeds with a transfer to ensure that dollars in education remain in education to the benefit of students in public, Catholic and Francophone member boards.
- Finally, ASBA will advocate to the government of Alberta to keep the distance eligibility requirement and related funding for elementary students at one kilometre in the Student Transportation Regulation, to ensure equitable access for all students, particularly those in jurisdictions where public transportation is not available.

The Board Chair shared her gratitude to everyone who was involved in the grand opening of Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack School. It was such a momentous occasion, that marked not only the opening of a beautiful new learning space, but also honours an amazing individual who has dedicated his life to sharing his wisdom and knowledge with thousands of students in Edmonton Public Schools. The new school will serve as a vibrant hub for learning and community connection for years to come.

G. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent said that next week the Division will have an opportunity to celebrate the 2025 class of retirees. He said it's always a bittersweet time of year, celebrating the immense accomplishments this group of professionals have brought to the Edmonton Public Schools family, while also saying goodbye to friends and colleagues. This year, the Division will be celebrating 183 retirees who have given 4,923 years of service to the Division. Superintendent Robertson said he knows the Board of Trustees will join him in congratulating this incredible group and wishing them well in their next adventures.

The Superintendent wished all students good luck on upcoming final exams, Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma exams. Students have spent the last semester, or entire school year, preparing for these and he knows they'll be giving it all their effort. Superintendent Robertson thanked all the staff who have supported students throughout their learning journey the whole year.

H. Approval of the Minutes

1. Special Board Meeting – May 23, 2025
2. Board Meeting – May 27, 2025

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Sawyer:

**"That the minutes of the Special Board meeting held May 23, 2025 and the Board meeting held May 27, 2025, be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

There were no registered speakers for this item.

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Student Trustees Bella Jiao and Christina Daniel presented the 2024-2025 Student Senate Work Plan summary.

4. Specialized Learning Supports, Services and Programming

An update was provided on the overview of the supports, services, and programming available through Edmonton Public Schools for students requiring specialized learning supports. The report included information on the spectrum of placement and program options for families, and provides context regarding potential future developments, including an Autism Centre for Excellence as well as information on the funding received from Alberta Education and how the Division allocated these resources.

K. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports - None**L. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - None****M. Notices of Motion - None****N. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 2 p.m.****O. Adjournment: 3:02 p.m.**

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations