

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, October 22, 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
Karen Mills
Cliff Richard

Darrel Robertson
Carrie Rosa

Board Chair: Julie Kusiek**Recording Secretary:** Catherine Angeles

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 amiskwacyiwaskahikan (nehiyawewin; “Beaver Hills House”), omahkoyis (Siksika; “Big Lodge”), and ti oda (Assiniboine; “many houses”), has been cared for by the Siksikaititapi, 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. Trustee Sumar said he is aware, painfully at times, that as an immigrant, he is a settler and only here thanks to the warmth of the First Peoples of this land.

Trustee Sumar said that October marks Latin History Month and 2SLGBTQIA+ History Month. It also marks Islamic History Month and this year’s theme is “Health and Healing”. During an event that he and some of his colleagues attended on the weekend, he was reminded that, as it says in the Qu’ran, we were made into peoples and tribes and that we have a duty to get to know and learn from others. As a wise twelve-year old said through a video presentation, different peoples are like different parts of the human body, like the arms, the heart, and the brain, and we can only achieve our collective goals by all working together. The program ended with a powerful quote: “People are of two kinds, either your brothers in faith or your equals in humanity.” In the spirit of reconciliation, Trustee Sumar committed to, as Dr Ali Lakhani said, “opening wider the aperture of my own heart so that I may know and that I may get to know more about the original inhabitants of Turtle Island and their descendants.”

MINUTE BOOK**A. O Canada****B. Roll Call: 2:05 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 October 22, 2024, Board meeting be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair advised she was saving her comments for the next Board meeting.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent shared that the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade has granted approval for a Disputes Inquiry Board (DIB) to assist in resolving the ongoing contract negotiations with CUPE Local 3550. A DIB is a neutral third-party process that helps clarify issues and explore potential solutions to avoid a strike or lockout. The Division was served with strike notice by CUPE Local 3550 late last week and was scheduled to go on strike this Thursday. While the DIB process is ongoing, the strike will not proceed. The Division remains committed to reaching an agreement with CUPE Local 3550. We value the incredible work that support staff do every day in schools, classrooms and in central offices. They are important members of our team, contributing to the success and well-being of students. Superintendent Robertson said the Division is hopeful that the DIB process will be successful in resolving the outstanding issues so we can reach an agreement that avoids any disruption to learning.

F. Approval of the Minutes**1. Board Meeting – October 8, 2024**

MOVED BY Trustee Nelson:

**“That the minutes of the Board meeting held October 8, 2024, be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

MINUTE BOOK**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. 2024 Division Energy and Environment Strategy Annual Update**

An update was provided on the progress made on the 2023 action items outlined in the Division Energy and Environment Strategy 2023–2026. In addition to the 2023 action items identified within the Energy and Environment Strategy that were addressed during the 2023–2024 school year, a number of other initiatives were undertaken in order to further the Division’s efforts to reduce emissions.

There was a short break in the meeting.

**3. Follow-up on Accelerated Infrastructure Announcement
(Response to Request for Information #022)**

Information was provided regarding the Request for Information #022.

**4. Anticipated Election 2025 Costs
(Response to Request for Information #023)**

Information was provided regarding the Request for Information #023.

Trustee Estabrooks asked the Board Chair if she would be amenable sharing this report with ASBA and explore joint advocacy opportunities. Board Chair Kusiek agreed, stating that the reports are public reports and it’s beneficial to inform our partners about the situation.

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

Trustee Nelson shared an Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (Foundation) update:

Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Launches Top-ups for Tummies

The Foundation officially launched Top-ups for Tummies to Division schools. The Foundation is excited to be able to provide school nutrition support at a time in our community when food insecurity is a challenge for many families. Top-ups for Tummies is an Edmonton Public Schools Division-wide strategy that allows schools to apply for funding to top-up and fill current gaps within

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their school nutrition strategies. It encourages equitable access to wholesome, nutritious food at school for students who need it most.

Top-ups for Tummies is made possible by a contribution from the Edmonton Community Foundation and additional community donors. Donations continue to be collected to ensure the sustainability of this program in future years and can be made online through the Foundation's website at any time.

The deadline for Principals to apply for their school is Friday, November 15, 2024

2023-2024 Impact Report Available

The Foundation's 2023-2024 Impact Report is now available on the [Foundation's website](#). The Foundation is grateful for the support that it receives from generous donors and supporters, and is looking forward to the year ahead.

Trustee Estabrooks thanked school council chairs in Ward D who are reaching out and inviting her to upcoming meetings. She looks forward to those meetings and sharing the work of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Estabrooks appreciated the opportunity to attend MacEwan University's "Love in a Dangerous Time" exhibit, which featured a display from the Canadian Human Rights museum in Winnipeg documenting the purge of LGBTQ+ staff from federal government and the military. Former Edmonton mayor Michael Phair, a namesake of one of the Division's schools, spoke at the event. Trustee Estabrooks shared a comment made during the event was how we must continue to fight to protect the human rights of all and how the proposed "parental choice" legislation by the UCP government is taking us back decades, not to mention that it will be incredibly harmful to students.

Trustee Sumar noted that the exhibit from the "Love in a Dangerous Time" event which he and some of his colleagues attended is available in the John L Harr Library at McEwan University until November 8th.

Trustee Sumar expressed gratitude to the Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities and the Aga Khan Councils for Canada and Edmonton for the invitation to attend the Islamic History Month event at the Aga Khan Garden. It was an interesting and thought-provoking event. He shared that Dr. Ali Lakhani, the keynote speaker, and school-aged students, through a video presentation, shared their thoughts and perspectives on diversity and pluralism.

K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - None

L. Notices of Motion

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

That the Board of Trustees urge the Alberta School Boards Association and the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta to advocate to the Minister of Education that sexual education

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remain an "opt out" option for parents in Alberta and that school boards' autonomy be respected with regards to their own sexual orientation and gender identity policies.

M. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 2 p.m.

N. Adjournment: 4:28 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations