

**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 18, 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  
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 O'Keefe to provide a land acknowledgement.

Trustee O'Keefe acknowledged and gave thanks to the land on which she was born, lives, works and plays, and to the Indigenous peoples who have cared for it since time immemorial. Amiskwaciwaskahikan or Edmonton sits on Treaty 6 land and she said she is truly privileged to call it home. She was raised knowing the importance of history and today she thanked the Elders and Knowledge Keepers for sharing their knowledge and wisdom through stories, experiences and lessons. Like the history passed on to her from her ancestors, she commits to learning more about First Nations, Metis, and Inuit cultures and perspectives. She said that as she enters the second half of her life, she also recognizes she has an opportunity and obligation to share what she learns with her own children and grandchildren as well as other family and friends.

**A. O Canada  
Recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day**

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

Ms. Clarice Anderson, Supervisor with Curriculum and Learning Supports, spoke about the importance of National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day. She shared a video created for

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Division teachers. In the video, Leo McGilvery shares his gift of song and music through the Grandmother Song, a song about healing.

**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 June 18, 2024, Board meeting be approved as printed.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**D. Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair said that this time of year is filled with emotion. Being tired. But also feeling satisfied with a job well done. Students are finishing their exams, class projects and final concerts. Teaching staff are in a flurry of activity preparing progress reports. Schools are wrapping up administrative, custodial and other duties prior to the summer break. Central staff are there to support it all. The Board Chair expressed thanks, she thanked school staff, students and families for all the hard work they've put in this year to make the 2023-2024 school year a memorable one.

The Board Chair shared that Vice-Chair Jan Sawyer and she returned this weekend from a week in Germany as part of the Government of Alberta's Education Delegation, to learn more about dual vocational education in that country. This was a great opportunity to learn more about this model and to bring home ideas to further strengthen Edmonton Public Schools' already excellent Career Pathways, Campus EPSB and dual credit opportunities. Various German Ministers they met with expressed their admiration for several aspects of the Alberta school system, including one special mention to Bannerman School resulting from the visit the German delegation participated in last fall. The Division's high achievement ratings, use of data to drive educational practices, and the way we support diverse students and staff was also celebrated. Chair Kusiek said we have a lot to be proud of in Alberta and at Edmonton Public Schools, and she looks forward to continuing conversations with the Minister of Education on how to further enhance pathways to student success.

The Board Chair stated that yesterday, the Minister of Education announced a new policy restricting use of personal mobile devices during the school day. This will come into effect for the 2024/2025 school year and Division staff will be working to develop administrative regulations to comply with requirements of government for this Ministerial Order. More information about the announcement can be found at [gov.ab.ca](http://gov.ab.ca) under the heading "Limiting distractions in Alberta's classrooms."

The Board Chair, on behalf of the Board, wished everyone a fantastic summer, and said Go Oilers Go!

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

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

The Superintendent shared news about M.E. LaZerte School Principal George Hoyt, who received the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA) Robert H. Routledge Award. This is the highest award the ASAA offers and was given to George for his contributions to high school sports. Superintendent Robertson congratulated George on behalf of everyone in the Division.

The Superintendent offered the Division's congratulations to Jacqueline Yaniv from the Curriculum and Learning Services department who has been selected to participate in the Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy in Ottawa in November. The Teachers Institute is a unique week-long professional development event that takes place annually at Parliament. It's a chance for educators to explore the legislature in the company of parliamentary experts and connect with teachers from across the country.

The Superintendent said that this is the final Board meeting of the year, and he wished staff, families, students and the Board a wonderful summer break. Many staff continue to work throughout the summer to get our buildings ready for the 120,000 students we are anticipating to serve next year, so he expressed his gratitude for those who continue to work. He said he is excited to see everyone back in late-August.

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

1. Special Board Meeting – May 24, 2024
2. Board Meeting – May 28, 2024

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

**"That the minutes of the Special Board meeting held May 24, 2024 and Board meeting held May 28, 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 two registered speakers regarding the second, third and final reading of Board Policy HFA.BP Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression.

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**H. Reports**

- 3. Report #12 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held May 14, 2024)
- 4. Report #13 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held May 28, 2024)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the May 14, 2024 and May 28, 2024, Caucus Committee meetings.

- 5. Locally Developed Courses

**MOVED BY Trustee Hancock:**

**“That the following elementary, junior high and senior high school 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>
Biology (Advanced) 35	LDC3202	3 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Dance Performance 15 Dance Performance 25 Dance Performance 35	LDC1299 LDC2299 LDC3299	3 and 5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
English Literature 35	LDC3169	3 and 5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15	LDC1350	5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Improvisational Theatre 15 Improvisational Theatre 25 Improvisational Theatre 35	LDC1551 LDC2551 LDC3551	3 and 5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Religious Studies: Islamic Studies 15 Religious Studies: Islamic Studies 25 Religious Studies: Islamic Studies 35	LDC1785 LDC2785 LDC3785	5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Theatre Performance 15 Theatre Performance 25 Theatre Performance 35	LDC1367 LDC2367 LDC3367	5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028

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**Elementary and Junior High School LDCs**

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Course Codes</b>	<b>Approval Period (School Years)</b>
French as a Second Language 1 French as a Second Language 2 French as a Second Language 3 French as a Second Language 4 French as a Second Language 5 French as a Second Language 6 French as a Second Language 7 French as a Second Language 8 French as a Second Language 9	ELM1210 ELM2210 ELM3210 ELM4210 ELM5210 ELM6210 JHS7351 JHS8351 JHS9351	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Hebrew Language Arts Kindergarten Hebrew Language Arts 1 Hebrew Language Arts 2 Hebrew Language Arts 3 Hebrew Language Arts 4 Hebrew Language Arts 5 Hebrew Language Arts 6	KGN0140 ELM1140 ELM2140 ELM3140 ELM4140 ELM5140 ELM6140	2024–2025 to 2027–2028

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

6. Second, third and final reading of Board Policy HFA.BP Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression

Trustee Hole requested the second paragraph in the Purpose section of the policy be updated to include the following:

To reflect the Board's mandated responsibility and expectation for providing a welcoming, inclusive, safe and healthy learning and working environment **that respects diversity and supports a sense of belonging** throughout the Division.

This was accepted as a friendly amendment by Trustee Sumar.

There was a short break in the meeting before the vote on Recommendation 1 was completed.

Trustee Hole requested the definition of Gender Identity be updated to flip the placement of the terms transgender and two-spirit in the definition, as two-spirit is listed first in the term 2SLGBTQIA+.

This was also accepted as a friendly amendment by Trustee Sumar.

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**MOVED BY Trustee Sumar:**

**“1. That Board Policy HFA.BP Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression be considered for a second time.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“2. That Board Policy HFA.BP Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression be considered for a third and final time and be approved”.**

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

**“That Board Policy HFA.BP Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression be referred back to the Policy and Review Committee to add the definitions for gender diverse and sexually diverse and review the accountability section of the policy to provide greater clarity.”**

**The Board Chair called the question to the amendment.**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Hancock, Kusiek, O’Keefe and Sawyer**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Estabrooks, Hole, Nelson, and Sumar**

**(DEFEATED)**

**The Board Chair called the question on the original motion:**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Estabrooks, Hole, Kusiek, Nelson, Sawyer, and Sumar**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Hancock and O’Keefe**

**(CARRIED)**

7. Proposed 2024-2025 Caucus, MST and Board Meeting Schedule

**MOVED BY Board Chair Kusiek:**

**“That the 2024-2025 Caucus, MST and Board schedule as presented in Attachment I be approved.”**

**IN FAVOUR: Trustees Estabrooks, Hancock, Kusiek and Sawyer**

**OPPOSED: Trustees Hole, Nelson, O’Keefe, and Sumar**

**(DEFEATED)**

8. Delegation of Authority

**MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:**

**“That in accordance with Section 3 of the *Education Act* Board Procedures Regulation, any special Board meetings during the 2024 summer recess be at the call of the Board Chair or, in their absence, the Board Vice-Chair.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**“That in accordance with Section 52(1) of the *Education Act*, effective immediately following the June 18, 2024, Organizational Board meeting, delegation of authority to the Superintendent of Schools to make decisions during the 2024 summer recess on behalf of the Board be approved.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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**“That a report of all such decisions be brought to the first public Board meeting in the fall of 2024.”**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

9. 2023-2024 Superintendent of Schools’ Evaluation Summary

The Board of Trustees provided, to the public, a summary of the annual Superintendent evaluation results from the 2023-2024 school year.

**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 Sumar wished Eid Mubarak to all those observing Eid Al Adha, also known as the Festival of Sacrifice.

Trustee Sumar expressed thanks to the school communities of J. Percy Page, W.P. Wagner, Braemar, Vimy Ridge, Millwoods Christian, and Eastglen for inviting him to bring greetings to graduating students on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Sumar thanked Escuela Mill Creek and W.P. Wagner for invitations to end of year celebrations.

Trustee Sumar also thanked the teams at Thelma Chalifoux and T.D. Baker Schools, and Corey Wells in particular, for inviting him to the Elder and Youth Gathering event last week. Youth, Elders, and members of the community had created art tiles which were put together into four different animal representations: the Eagle, the Bison, the Bear, and the Wolf. This art will be on display at City Hall over the summer and in schools this fall.

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

- Earlier today, the Foundation and their partners Go Auto and the Edmonton Stingers unveiled the newly renovated basketball court at Centennial School, along with a new school mural. This was all part of the Fresh Hoops program. Fresh Hoops started as a grassroots movement replacing basketball nets and has expanded to offer full court refreshes at multiple Division schools. The Foundation is thrilled to continue providing updated basketball courts to schools through a partnership with the Edmonton Stingers’ Fresh Hoops program. Last year, the Foundation received an initial \$500,000 donation from Go Auto to support basketball court renovations at many schools in Edmonton. In addition to this generous gift, Go Auto will match all donations up to \$500,000 made to the program, bringing the total investment from Go Auto to an incredible \$1,000,000! This matched donation will mean new courts for even more schools!

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- The Foundation was fortunate to be included as a beneficiary of the Breaking the Silence Walk and Run this past Saturday, June 15. The event promotes mental and physical wellness through running, walking and jogging, all while raising awareness and funds for mental health. Funds raised from this year's event will support mental wellness in our schools.
- The Foundation thanked all those who attended the 33rd annual Bids for Kids events last month. The Public Schools Administrators Association raised more than \$18,000 in support of the Foundation at this year's event.
- The final Foundation Board meeting of 2023-2024 took place on May 24 and staff would like to thank the Foundation's Board of Directors for bringing their passion, enthusiasm and expertise to support their mission. They provide guidance, donate their time and advocate for the work the Foundation is doing and they wouldn't be able to do their work without them. Over the coming months, the Foundation will be embarking on the important and exciting work of developing its strategic plan for the next few years, so stay tuned.

Trustee O'Keefe expressed thanks and gave a general shout out for all the invitations to attend year-end celebrations.

Trustee O'Keefe congratulated the graduates at Queen Elizabeth School. She appreciated being able to speak at their graduation. She said it was heartwarming to see students walk across the stage who attended the school where she was principal before being a Trustee.

Trustee O'Keefe said the Division Retirement event is later this week. It will be a time to celebrate staff for all their contributions to the Division and she is looking forward to attending this event.

Board Chair Kusiek shared a Ward F Update:

- She attended the LYC Abilities Expo and said it was fantastic. This Expo is designed to showcase and recognize the abilities of students with mild intellectual disabilities to participate in vocational areas in and beyond school as they enter the world of work. L.Y. Cairns staff connected with other high schools (and adult volunteers) in and around Edmonton to offer the opportunity to students to participate and connect with peers in the areas of metal fabrication, culinary arts, and cosmetology. Students took two hours to complete a specific task in one of the vocational areas. Feedback was provided to the participants and their accomplishments were celebrated with a lunch. Students from eight schools and six different school divisions attended the event at L.Y. Cairns School along with their teachers, career education and special education staff leaders. Events like this are important. It gives students a chance to prove to themselves and show the community at large that they have the ability to make a meaningful contribution to the workforce and society. It's about enhancing pathways to success and helping students one day transition to a life of dignity and fulfillment. Board Chair Kusiek said it was a joy to meet these students and she wishes them well in their continued studies exploring various career opportunities.
- She attended the Richard Secord Diversity Days, which share and celebrate diversity at RS Fest. There was song, dance, demonstrations, traditional dress, food, crafts and personal stories. Board Chair Kusiek thanked parents and staff for all their work with this beautiful event.
- She was invited and attended D.S. MacKenzie School to view a classroom lesson from the Impact Society, along with Minister Dan Williams (Mental Health and Addiction).



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- Board Chair Kusiek said attending graduations and year-end celebrations has been great. She's looking forward to celebrating with students, families and staff at all of the upcoming events before the end of the school year.

**K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - None****L. Notices of Motions**

Trustee Hancock withdrew her May 28, 2024, 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."

**M. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 2 p.m.****N. Adjournment: 4:27 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