

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, September 10, 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
Liz Yule

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

The Board Chair called the meeting to order with recognition that we are on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

A. O Canada**B. Roll Call: 2:03 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 September 10, 2024, Board meeting be approved as printed."
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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D. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair welcomed everyone back to school. She thanked Division staff who have been working hard to get things ready for the nearly 121,000 students enrolled at Edmonton Public Schools this year.

The Board Chair congratulated Alex Dudek from Old Scona School for being chosen to sit on the Minister of Education's Youth Council for the 2024-2025 school year. Alberta Education received 198 applications from junior and senior high students across Alberta. The 40-member council will help the provincial government understand how students feel about what is happening in the education system. Chair Kusiek thanked Alex for his leadership and knows he will represent his school and Edmonton Public Schools with pride.

The Board Chair thanked Trustee Hancock for attending the Back to School Safety Event at Centennial School, in partnership with the Alberta Motor Association and Edmonton Police Service. The Board appreciates everyone's care in looking out for one another, and ensuring students are safe on their journey to and from school each day.

The Board Chair stated that in May, the Board of Trustees passed a motion to write to the Minister of Education to request an update on timelines to update the Standards for Special Education. That letter has now been sent and will be posted to epsb.ca in the coming days.

The Board Chair reminded everyone about a funding and modular announcement from the province over the summer. The Board of Trustees will be discussing distribution of the \$22 million allocated to the Division in early October and how to best put that money to use to support student learning.

E. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent welcomed everyone back to another exciting school year. He expressed a deep appreciation to all the parents and guardians for their unwavering support in preparing their children for the year ahead. The Superintendent also extended a warm welcome back to the Board of Trustees. He said the Division is excited for the year ahead and looks forward to the continued collaboration that supports the success of students and schools.

The Superintendent mentioned that the Division is engaged in ongoing work to develop a School Safety and Belonging framework, which includes all supports available to enhance pathways for student success. The Division anticipates having this ready before the end of November. This is complex, multi-faceted work guided by the work our schools are already doing to use proactive and reactive approaches to enhance safety and belonging. In the coming months, he is looking forward to sharing more information about the framework with the Board, staff and families.

The Superintendent shared that through a grant provided by Alberta Education, Edmonton Public Schools completed a comprehensive set of resources to support the implementation of the new Kindergarten to Grade 3 Science curriculum. The Stepping Into Science Alberta resources have been submitted to Alberta Education on time and under budget, and are now available on Connect to teachers in Edmonton Public

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Schools and publicly on the New Learn Alberta website. The Grade 4 to Grade 6 Stepping Into Science Alberta resources will be provided to Alberta Education at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. The project team in Curriculum and Learning Supports has already begun the work to develop the Grade 4 to Grade 6 resources.

The Superintendent advised that an AI Student Conference will be held at the Fantasyland Hotel from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on April 30. The conference is for interested high school students to foster awareness, understanding, and interest in artificial intelligence. The conference will feature a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, networking opportunities with post-secondary and industry professionals, in addition to a hands-on/challenge activity.

The Superintendent said that students, families and staff have worked to navigate the new rules set out by the province regarding the use of cellphones and other personal mobile devices this year. The new rules reinforced practices already in place in a number of schools and sets expectations for schools that didn't have existing rules in place. He thanked school staff and administrators who are doing a great job sharing information with students and families about this change.

The Superintendent shared that the Division is projecting just over 120,000 students for the 2024-2025 school year and the data he received shows the Division has welcomed 120,724 students as of today. Early data shows that Division-wide, our space is at about 90 per cent utilized. We have many families and students looking for space in schools. Appeals are up about 40 per cent compared to last year. Division staff are trying their hardest to accommodate as many students as possible.

The Superintendent provided an update on modular classrooms. Over the summer, the Division installed and relocated 27 modular classrooms. The Division is looking forward to receiving an additional 23 new modular classrooms, which are expected to arrive sometime this school year. Superintendent Robertson said the Division is grateful to the province for these spaces. While these modulars do not significantly impact our space challenges nor represent a long-term solution to the burgeoning student enrolment growth we are experiencing, every little bit helps.

The Superintendent recognized Twyla Armagost, Assistant Principal at Mayfield School, for her outstanding achievement. In April, Twyla was named a recipient of the Early Childhood Education Council's (ECEC) 2024 Award. This honour celebrates her dedication to the field of early childhood education. This award is given to individuals who embody the philosophy that children are capable, curious, and imaginative. Superintendent Robertson said Twyla's work and commitment to fostering the potential of our youngest learners is inspiring, and we are so proud of her accomplishment.

Trustee Estabrooks asked Superintendent Robertson if the Division is anticipating police officers back in our schools this school year.

The Superintendent responded that the Division is currently working on developing a Memorandum of Understanding with Edmonton Police Services, which will have to be in place before School Resource Officers (SROs) formally return to school communities. Superintendent Robertson anticipates, in semester two, that there would be a limited number of SROs available for placement, possibly up to six. As the schools who will host a school resource officer are determined, schools will engage with their communities

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to prepare for the return of SROs. Additional SROs will be introduced into schools over the course of the next couple of years.

F. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting – June 18, 2024
2. Organizational Board Meeting – June 18, 2024

MOVED BY Trustee Estabrooks:

**“That the minutes of the Board and Organizational Board meetings held June 18, 2024, all be approved as printed.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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

3. Caucus Committee Report (From the meeting held June 18, 2024)

Information was provided regarding actions taken at the June 18, 2024, Caucus Committee meeting.

4. Process and Timelines for the Fall Review of the 2023-2024 Results and the 2024-2025 Plans

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Sawyer:

**“That the process and timeline for the 2023-2024 Results Review and the 2024-2025 Plans as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.”
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Items 5 to 9 were incorporated into an omnibus presentation.

5. Actions Taken Under Delegation of Authority – 2024 Summer Recess

The Superintendent reported that no actions were taken on behalf of the Board during the 2024 summer recess.

6. Governance and Evaluation Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan Summary

The report provided a summary of the work accomplished by the Governance and Evaluation Committee over the 2023-2024 school year.

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The report provided a summary of the work accomplished by the Infrastructure Committee over the 2023-2024 school year.

8. Policy Review Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan Summary

The report provided a summary of the work accomplished by the Policy Review Committee over the 2023-2024 school year.

9. Advocacy Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan Summary

The report provided a summary of the work accomplished by the Advocacy Committee over the 2023-2024 school year.

I. Other Committee, Board Representatives and Trustee Reports

Trustee Sumar attended the August meeting of the Idylwylde Community League. He thanked the community members that attended and Division staff for their support leading up to and during the meeting. He reminded everyone that September 21st is the City of Edmonton's Community League Day.

Trustee Sumar expressed excitement about the Read-In Week requests that have started to roll in, as this week is always a highlight of the year and is a good reminder of the importance of continuous learning for all. He is looking forward to getting out to as many schools as he can and sharing stories with a number of different grades.

Trustee Sumar thanked Principal Tammy Tchir and the team at Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack School for welcoming him and a group of Trustees to a media day ahead of the first day of school. He noted that the space is phenomenal, truly set up for 21st century learning.

Trustee Sumar congratulated the 2024 University of Alberta Alumni Horizon Award recipient Assistant Principal Atif Hirjee from WP Wagner High School. He noted that this is a tremendous achievement and continues to demonstrate the great work of staff in Division schools.

J. Trustees and Board Requests for Information - None

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K. Notices of Motion

Trustee O'Keefe gave notice that she would be making the following motion:

That the Board of Trustees write a letter to the Minister of Education advocating for sustainable, adequate, predictable funding for public education that meets the needs for our growing school division.

L. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 2 p.m.

M. Adjournment: 3:09 p.m.

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Julie Kusiek, Board Chair

Karen Mills, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations