

Board Meeting Minutes

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, April 28, 2026, at 2 p.m.

Present

Trustees	Nickela Anderson, Sarah Doll, Melanie Hoffman, Julie Kusiek, Linda Lindsay, Holly Nichol, Sherri O’Keefe, Jan Sawyer		
Officials	Angela Anderson, Todd Burnstad, Grace Cooke, Andrea Cooper, Kelsey Duebel, Martin Fechner, Kathy Muhlethaler, Kent Pharis, Nancy Petersen, Cliff Richard, Carrie Rosa, Ron Thompson, Liz Yule		
Acting Board Chair	Linda Lindsay	Recording Secretary	Catherine Angeles

A. Land Acknowledgement

The Acting Board Chair called the meeting to order with recognition that we are on Treaty 6 Territory. Acting Board Chair Lindsay shared the land acknowledgement received at Bannerman School from the grade four students in Miss Pollard's class.

“Our class includes students from many places like Syria, Ukraine, Mexico, Dubai, Somalia, Kenya, Iraq and many other parts of Canada. We acknowledge the traditional lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Metis, Dene and Nakota Sioux peoples. On this land, we enjoy playing sports like soccer, football and basketball, outdoor fun like fishing, camping, longboarding, cycling and dancing in the rain and other activities like writing, gaming, visiting family and shopping. Our promise to the land is to keep it clean, recycle and care for plants. We commit to reconciliation by listening to the voices of Indigenous Peoples and recognizing what Indigenous People did for our land.”

B. O Canada

The Svend Hansen School video version of O Canada was played.

C. Roll Call

2:05 p.m. – The Superintendent advised that Board Chair Sumar was absent. All other Trustees were present.

D. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Doll:

That the agenda for the April 28, 2026, Board meeting be approved as presented.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

E. Communications from the Acting Board Chair

The Acting Board Chair shared that the Board entered a team in the Highlands Cookie Off Fundraiser. It was a great opportunity for Trustees to share some sweetness with the community while engaging students, staff, families and community members about the Strategic Plan. She congratulated all of the award winners and thanked the organizers of the event.

The Acting Board Chair said that Division staff organized the Campus EPSB Networking Lunch last week. It was an opportunity for students to connect with industry professionals in artificial intelligence, psychology, cosmetology, and more. Acting Chair Lindsay thanked all of the professionals who shared their insights and knowledge with students. She also thanked staff for organizing this incredibly well-attended event.

The Acting Board Chair advised that several members of the Board attended the GSA Conference organized by the FyreFly Institute this past weekend. It was an opportunity for students, educators, and advocates to connect and learn more about how to support 2SLGBTQIA+ students across the province.

The Acting Board Chair shared that this past weekend also marked the Alberta School Councils' Association Annual Conference and General Meeting. There were many school councils in attendance, and some great professional learning opportunities available in person or virtually. She expressed congratulations to the newly elected executive and to the assembly for passing several important resolutions.

The Acting Board Chair advised that on April 27, 2026, a large education delegation from Germany came to Bannerman School to learn about Alberta's education system. Hosted by Tara Kushnir, the visit was attended by Superintendent Thompson, Assistant Superintendents Fetchner and Yule, Board Chair Sumar, Trustee Hoffman and Acting Chair Lindsay. The delegation included German Ministers of Education from various states, State Secretaries (similar to a Deputy Minister in Alberta), Parliamentary State Secretaries, Members of the German Parliament, and representatives from Wubben Stiftung, Bildung and Deutsche Telekom Stiftung. The German delegation visited Bannerman School two years ago and was eager to return to learn more. Principal Kushnir shared how school staff utilize collaborative team structures and data-driven decision-making to implement intervention strategies. This approach supports a diverse student population and ensures instructional decisions are informed by student needs.

F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked everyone in attendance and those tuning in online. He also welcomed a principal from the Superintendent's Community of Practice in Education (SCOPE), Anne Jordan, from David Thomas King School

The Superintendent shared that on April 24, 2026, the province announced they were making changes to help qualified individuals enter classrooms sooner. The Division has teacher shortages and could always use more highly-skilled teachers in the classroom. He expressed appreciation that the government is looking at how to attract more teachers and have them share their skills and knowledge with students more quickly. The announcement may present an opportunity to address some of the shortages the Division is experiencing.

The Superintendent shared that on April 23, 2026, the Division's General Counsel, Grace Garcia Cooke, received her King's Counsel appointment. King's Counsel appointments are awarded to lawyers who are found to have made a significant contribution to the legal profession or public life in Alberta. Those who receive the appointment have contributed to the administration of justice, to the community and to the legal profession. Superintendent Thompson, on behalf of the Board and the entire Division, expressed congratulations to Ms. Cooke on her appointment.

G. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting - April 14, 2026

MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:

That the minutes of the Board meeting held April 14, 2026, be approved as presented.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

H. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives on items on the Meeting Agenda

There were no registered speakers for this item.

I. Reports

2. Revised 2026-27 School Year Calendar
(Recommendation)

MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:

That the attached revised 2026-27 School Year Calendar be approved.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Hoffman, Kusiek, Lindsay, O'Keefe, and Sawyer

OPPOSED: Trustees Anderson, Doll, and Nichol

(CARRIED)

There was a short break in the meeting at 2:42 p.m., and it resumed at 2:49 p.m.

3. Division Energy and Environment Strategy Update
(Information)

An update was provided on the Division's energy and environmental strategy.

Trustee Kusiek left the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Acting Board Chair Lindsay reported on her attendance at the Taste of Bracco, an annual event at John D. Bracco School that celebrates the school community's cultural diversity. She noted that the event featured traditional foods provided by families and community partners, alongside student performances and art displays, fostering an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated.

K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information

None

L. Notices of Motion

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

That Administration enter into engagement with students, staff and families as to whether schools should continue to be required to provide "instruction in a second language (in addition to English) in Grades 4 to 9 and support and encouragement to students to continue to build proficiency in a second language through the end of Grade 12" as outlined in Board Policy GA.BP Student Programs of Study. Once complete, results of the engagement should be reported back to the Board.

M. Meeting Dates

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 2 p.m.

N. Adjournment

3:36 p.m. – The Acting Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Linda Lindsay, Acting Board Chair

Kelsey Duebel, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations