

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, November 25, 2025, at 2 p.m.

Present

Trustees	Nickela Anderson, Sarah Doll, Melanie Hoffman, Julie Kusiek, Linda Lindsay, Holly Nichol, Sherri O'Keefe, Jan Sawyer, Saadiq Sumar		
Officials	Angela Anderson, Todd Burnstad, Grace Cooke, Kelsey Duebel, Martin Fechner, Nancy Petersen, Cliff Richards, Carrie Rosa, Sunita Sas, Ron Thompson, Liz Yule		
Board Chair	Saadiq Sumar	Recording Secretary	Catherine Angeles

A. Land Acknowledgement

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.

B. O Canada

The Old Scona School video version of O Canada was played.

C. Roll Call

2:03 p.m. – The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

D. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY Vice-Chair Lindsay:

That the agenda for the November 25, 2025, Board meeting be approved as presented.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

E. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair stated that over the past month, following the election, Trustees have been busy with orientation, meetings with provincial associations, and other duties.

The Board Chair thanked all Central Decision Units that hosted Results Review last week and all school communities that have participated and will participate in Results Review later this week.

The Board Chair reported that all Trustees attended both the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Fall General Meeting (FGM) and the Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) last week. The ASBA FGM kicked off with an awards night, recognizing Edwin Parr Award winners like Breanna Tran Lee from Weinlos School and various organizations and community partners. In addition to some important professional development, the general meetings were an excellent opportunity for both new and returning trustees to come together and discuss both issues in their local school divisions and provincial advocacy items. Chair Sumar offered thanks to the outgoing ASBA President (Marilyn Dennis) and PSBAA President (Dennis MacNeil), and congratulated the new Presidents, Shali Baziuk (ASBA) and Lorraine Stewart (PSBAA), expressing the commitment to work closely with the new executives to continue to advocate for public education.

The Board Chair shared that last week also marked the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Chair Sumar said, “To the transgender community and Division students in particular. No one can erase your existence, your joy, or the community that cares about you. There is a future where you are safe, celebrated, and free. Don’t doubt who you are or that you are enough. Trans lives belong everywhere.” He also expressed pride in the previous Board’s work on the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) policy.

The Board Chair also acknowledged that this month is Hindu Heritage Month. It’s an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about Hindu Canadians and the important role they have played and continue to play in the community.

The Board Chair reported that both Delton and Spruce Avenue schools are advancing to construction. Both of these projects had previously been on the 3-Year Capital Plan for the better part of two decades. Chair Sumar expressed gratitude that the need to replace these schools has been recognized and that these and other infrastructure projects are moving more quickly through the different stages of funding.

The Board Chair confirmed that Trustee Nichol will be the TEBA Representative for EPSB.

The Board Chair advised that he and some Trustees attended the New Teacher Induction Ceremony for the ATA Local 37. The Chair noted the inspiring nature of the event, where new inductees took their oaths and committed to continuous learning and dedication. The Chair expressed gratitude to the new teachers for choosing the Division, acknowledging teaching as a noble profession and a calling.

F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked everyone in attendance today, including the Superintendent’s Community of Practice in Education (SCOPE) principals, Shauna Paul from Thelma Chalifoux School and Brad Mamchur from Michael Phair School, and those watching online.

The Superintendent shared that Trustee Results Reviews started last week with the Division's Central Reviews, and will continue this week with Division School Trustee Results Reviews. These are great opportunities to share with staff and the community the amazing things happening around the Division.

The Superintendent thanked principals, Central Decision Unit administrators, and the Board of Trustees for their preparation and participation in the upcoming Results Review conversations. He noted that these sessions provide an important opportunity to review the previous school year's work and understand future planning, which is valuable for all participants, especially those new to the process.

The Superintendent congratulated Jillian Marino, principal at Vimy Ridge Academy, for being named one of the Top 10 school principals in Canada by Education Insider. Jillian is a seasoned educator who focuses on advancing academic achievement, cultivating resilience in youth and empowering both students and staff on their shared learning journey. Jillian believes that small incremental changes can make a significant difference and encourages students at Vimy Ridge Academy to grow in both academics and athletics, living by the school's mantra, "We uplift those we serve by uplifting those who serve them."

The Superintendent congratulated Shaminder Parmar for recently being recognized as a Top 40 under 40 for 2025. These awards highlight individuals who are shaping Edmonton's future through innovation, leadership and community impact. Shaminder is a senior planner with the Division's Infrastructure team and is chair of the Joint-use Land Management Steering Committee, which brings together all of Edmonton's public planning bodies to collaboratively tackle infrastructure challenges. Shaminder is also a passionate animal rights advocate and is president of the Laurel Community League.

G. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting - September 9, 2025
2. Organizational Board Meeting - October 31, 2025

MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:

That the minutes of the Board meeting held September 9, 2025, and the Organizational Board meeting held October 31, 2025, 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

3. 2024-25 Audited Financial Statements
(Recommendation)

MOVED BY Trustee Anderson:

That the 2024-2025 audited financial statements, notes to the financial statements and unaudited schedules be approved.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

4. Funds for Professional Improvement Program - Teacher Certificated Staff 2026-27 and 2027-28
(Recommendation)

MOVED BY Trustee Doll:

1. That an allocation of \$1,350,000 from the 2026-2027 operating budget be approved for the Professional Improvement Program - Teacher Certificated Staff for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support to teachers for the 2026-2027 school year.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:

2. That a commitment of support not exceeding 50 per cent of the 2026-2027 allocation amount be approved for the 2027-2028 Professional Improvement Program - Teacher Certificated Staff applications. A formal request for an allocation of funds from the 2027-2028 operating budget will be brought to the Board of Trustees in the fall of 2026.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Funds for Professional Improvement Program - Exempt Staff 2026-27
(Recommendation)

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

That an allocation of \$140,000 from the 2026-2027 operating budget be approved for the Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support to exempt staff for the 2026-2027 school year.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. 2025-26 Student Accommodation Plan
(Information)

An annual update was provided on the Student Accommodation Plan with a summary of the work undertaken in the past year to support schools experiencing changes in their student enrolment.

There was a short break in the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 3:35 p.m.

7. Student Transportation Update
(Information)

An update was not provided for the 2024–25 school year. Administration provided an update on initiatives undertaken to improve service delivery for Division families since September 2024.

8. Caucus Committee Report
(Information)

Information was provided regarding the actions taken at the Caucus Committee meetings.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Board Chair Sumar shared an Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (Foundation) update. The Foundation's 2024-25 Impact Report is now available on the Foundation's website. He welcomed everyone to take time to explore Foundation stories of impact, gratitude and community. The Foundation is grateful for the support that it receives from generous donors, partners and community members, and is looking forward to the year ahead.

K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information

None

L. Notices of Motion

MOVED BY Trustee Doll:

That the Board of Trustees grant a waiver of notice to consider the following motion at the November 25, 2025, Board meeting.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

That the Board extend this year's deadline for Board committee work plans from December 31, as outlined in Section 6.1.5. in the Trustees' Handbook, to February 10, 2026.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

M. Meeting Dates

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 2 p.m.

N. Adjournment

4:11 p.m. – The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Saadiq Sumar, Board Chair

Kelsey Duebel, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations