

Organizational 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, June 16, 2026.

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, Andrea Cooper, Kelsey Duebel, Martin Fechner, Kathy Muhlethaler, Kent Pharis, Nancy Petersen, Cliff Richard, Carrie Rosa, Ron Thompson, Liz Yule		
Board Chair	Saadiq Sumar	Recording Secretary	Catherine Angeles

A. Roll Call

3:40 p.m. – The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

B. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:

**That the agenda for the June 16, 2026, Organizational Board meeting be approved as presented.
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

C. Reports

1. Confirmation of Committees, Board Representatives and Regular Meetings
(Recommendation)

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the following actions be taken for the 2026-27 school year:

1. **That the following standing committees of the whole be confirmed:**
 - a. Caucus Committee
 - b. Audit Committee
2. **That the following Board committees be confirmed:**
 - a. Governance and Evaluation
 - b. Policy Review

- 3. That Board representation on the following Division staff negotiating committees, as required, be confirmed:**
 - a. Custodial Staff (CUPE Local 474)
 - b. Maintenance Staff (CUPE Local 784)
 - c. Support Staff (CUPE Local 3550)
 - d. Specialized Learning Supports Employees (CUPE Local 3550)
 - e. Teaching Staff (Edmonton Public Teachers' Local 37)
- 4. That Board membership and representation on the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) be confirmed:**
 - a. Provincial Executive - Director
 - b. Public School Boards Council (PSBC) Representative
 - c. Public School Boards Council (PSBC) Alternative Representative
- 5. That Board membership and representation on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) be confirmed:**
 - a. Provincial Executive - Director
 - b. Zone 2/3 Executive
 - c. Zone 2/3 Executive - Alternate
- 6. That the Board's ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee, comprised of the Board Chair or Board Vice-Chair, the ASBA Provincial Executive Board of Directors representative and the ASBA Zone 2/3 representative, be confirmed.**
- 7. That the following Ad Hoc committee and Board representative assignments be confirmed:**
 - a. Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee
 - b. Edmonton Public Schools Foundation Board of Governors
 - c. Ad Hoc Trustees' Handbook Committee
- 8. That the following dates and times of the regular meetings be confirmed:**
 - a. Board: The Board will hold its regular meetings at 2 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month, when possible, unless otherwise directed by a special motion or by the Board Chair.
 - b. Caucus Committee: Caucus Committee meetings will be held on an as-needed basis at the call of the Caucus Committee Chair. The first Tuesday morning of each month will be reserved for such meetings.

9. That the Board appoint or review the following positions and committees:

		2025-26
	Board Member Positions:	
	a. Board Chair	Saadiq Sumar
	b. Board Vice-Chair	Linda Lindsay

		2025-26
1.	Standing Committees of the Whole:	
	a. Caucus Committee Chair <i>(Rules of Order state: The Vice-Chair of the Board will serve as the Caucus Committee Chair.)</i>	Linda Lindsay
	b. Audit Committee Chair	Nickela Anderson
2.	Board Committees:	
	a. Governance and Evaluation (one less than the majority of Trustees)* <i>For the duration of the Trustees' Handbook Committee, this committee will have three members</i>	Sarah Doll Melanie Hoffman Sherri O'Keefe (Chair) Jan Sawyer
	b. Policy Review (one less than the majority of Trustees) <i>*For the duration of the Trustees' Handbook Committee, this committee will have three members</i>	Nickela Anderson (Chair) Sarah Doll Julie Kusiek Holly Nichol
3.	Negotiations:	
	a. Custodial Staff (CUPE Local 474)	Julie Kusiek Sherri O'Keefe
	b. Maintenance Staff (CUPE Local 784)	Sarah Doll Saadiq Sumar
	c. Support Staff (CUPE Local 3550)	Nickela Anderson Jan Sawyer
	d. Specialized Learning Supports Employees (CUPE Local 3550)	Melanie Hoffman Sherri O'Keefe

		2025-26
	e. Teaching Staff (Edmonton Public Teachers' Local 37) <i>[The two confirmed representatives decide between themselves who will be the TEBA representative.]</i>	Linda Lindsay Holly Nichol (TEBA Rep)
4.	Representatives for the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA):	
	a. Provincial Executive - Director	Jan Sawyer
	b. Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) Representative	Sherri O'Keefe
	c. PSBC Alternate Representative	Sarah Doll
5.	Representatives for the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA):	
	a. Provincial Executive* <i>*Directors serve a two-year term; the next term commences following the conclusion of the 2027 ASBA Fall General Meeting.</i>	Linda Lindsay
	b. ASBA Zone 2/3 Executive	Melanie Hoffman
	c. ASBA Zone 2/3 Executive - Alternate	Saadiq Sumar
6.	ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee	
	Board Chair or Vice-Chair	Saadiq Sumar
	ASBA Provincial Executive Board of Directors Representative	Linda Lindsay
	ASBA Zone 2/3 Executive Representative	Melanie Hoffman
7.	Ad Hoc Committee and Board Representative Assignment:	
	a. Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee	Committee of the whole, as affirmed Sep. 24, 2024.
	b. Representative - Edmonton Public Schools Foundation	Saadiq Sumar

		2025-26
	c. Ad Hoc Trustees' Handbook Committee (three members)	<i>Vacant (established June 9, 2026)</i>

MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:

That recommendations 1 to 9 be approved.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Following the approval of the recommendations, the nominations and elections were held, resulting in the Board appointing the following positions:

1. Board Member Positions:

a. Board Chair

The Board Chair called for nominations for the position of Board Chair.

Trustee Anderson nominated Trustee Sumar. Trustee Sumar accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared himself elected by acclamation as Board Chair for the coming year.

b. Board Vice-Chair

The Board Chair called for nominations for the position of Board Vice-Chair.

Trustee Lindsay nominated Trustee Nichol. Trustee Nichol accepted the nomination.

Trustee O'Keefe nominated Trustee Sawyer. Trustee Sawyer accepted the nomination.

Trustee Sumar nominated Trustee Anderson. Trustee Anderson accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

MOVED BY Trustee Lindsay:

That the vote be by secret ballot.

(UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED)

The nominees for the position of Board Vice-Chair each provided a one-minute presentation.

Ms. Duebel distributed the ballots. Ms. Duebel collected the completed ballots and left the room with Superintendent Thompson to tabulate the results.

MOVED BY Trustee O'Keefe:

That the ballots be destroyed.

(UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED)

Ms. Duebel and Superintendent Thompson returned to the room. Ms. Duebel announced that there was a tie between all three candidates. As a result, the Board proceeded to a second ballot to determine the election of the Board Vice-Chair.

Ms. Duebel distributed the ballots. Ms. Duebel collected the completed ballots and left the room with Superintendent Thompson to tabulate the results.

Ms. Duebel and Superintendent Thompson returned to the room. Ms. Duebel announced that Trustee Nichol was elected as Board Vice-Chair for the coming year.

2. Standing Committees of the Whole:

a. Caucus Committee Chair

The Board Chair advised that Trustee Nichol is the Board Vice-Chair and will also serve as the Chair of the Caucus Committee.

b. Audit Committee Chair

The Board Chair called for nominations for the position of Audit Committee Chair.

Trustee Anderson nominated Trustee Kusiek. Trustee Kusiek accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing that there were no further nominations, declared Trustee Kusiek elected by acclamation as Audit Chair for the coming year.

3. Board Committees:

a. Governance and Evaluation

The Board Chair called for nominations for three Trustee representatives to serve on the Governance and Evaluation Committee.

Trustee Sawyer nominated Trustee O'Keefe. Trustee O'Keefe accepted the nomination.

Trustee Sumar nominated Trustees Doll and Hoffman. Both nominees accepted.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustees Doll, Hoffman and O'Keefe as the Board's representatives on the Governance and Evaluation Committee for the coming year.

b. Policy Review

The Board Chair called for nominations for three Trustee representatives to serve on the Policy Review Committee.

Trustee Nichol nominated Trustee Anderson. Trustee Anderson accepted the nomination.

Trustee Sawyer nominated Trustees Nichol and Kusiek. Both nominees accepted.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustees Anderson, Kusiek and Nichol as the Board's representatives on the Policy Review Committee for the coming year.

c. Ad Hoc Trustees' Handbook

The Board Chair called for nominations for three Trustee representatives to serve on the Ad Hoc Trustees' Handbook Committee.

Trustee Doll nominated Trustees Nichol and Sawyer. Both nominees accepted.

Trustee Sumar nominated Trustee Lindsay. Trustee Lindsay accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustees Lindsay, Nichol and Sawyer as the Board's representatives on the Ad Hoc Trustees' Handbook Committee for the coming year.

4. Negotiating Committees:**a. Custodial Staff (CUPE Local 474)**

The Board Chair called for nominations for two Trustee representatives to serve on this committee.

Trustee Sawyer nominated Trustee O'Keefe. Trustee O'Keefe accepted the nomination.

Trustee O'Keefe nominated Trustee Kusiak. Trustee Kusiak accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustees Kusiak and O'Keefe elected to the committee for the coming year.

b. Maintenance Staff (CUPE Local 784)

The Board Chair called for nominations for two Trustee representatives to serve on this committee.

Trustee Hoffman nominated Trustees Doll and Sumar. Both nominees accepted.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustees Doll and Sumar elected to the committee for the coming year.

c. Support Staff (CUPE Local 3550)

The Board Chair called for nominations for two Trustee representatives to serve on this committee.

Trustee Nichol nominated Trustee Sawyer. Trustee Sawyer accepted the nomination.

Trustee Kusiak nominated Trustee Anderson. Trustee Anderson accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustees Anderson and Sawyer elected to the committee for the coming year.

d. Specialized Learning Supports Employees (CUPE Local 3550)

The Board Chair advised that negotiations are currently underway for this negotiating committee. In this circumstance, the Board has the discretion to affirm the sitting Trustees on the negotiating committee.

No Trustees objected to affirming the sitting Trustees.

The Board Chair declared that Trustees Hoffman and O'Keefe were affirmed to the committee for the coming year.

e. Teaching Staff (Edmonton Public Teachers' Local 37)

The Board Chair called for nominations for two Trustee representatives to serve on this committee.

Trustee Sawyer nominated Trustee Nichol. Trustee Nichol accepted the nomination.

Trustee Nichol nominated Trustee Lindsay. Trustee Lindsay accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair asked who would be the TEBA representative.

Trustee Nichol nominated Trustee Lindsay. Trustee Lindsay accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustees Lindsay and Nichol elected to the committee for the coming year. Trustee Lindsay will serve as the TEBA Representative.

5. Representatives for the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA):

a. Provincial Executive - Director

The Board Chair called for nominations for one Trustee representative to serve as Provincial Executive - Director.

Trustee O'Keefe nominated Trustee Sawyer. Trustee Sawyer accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustee Sawyer elected as Provincial Executive - Director for the coming year.

b. Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) Representative

The Board Chair called for nominations for one Trustee representative to serve as PSBC Representative.

Trustee Sawyer nominated Trustee O'Keefe. Trustee O'Keefe accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustee O'Keefe elected as PSBC Representative for the coming year.

c. PSBC Alternate Representative

The Board Chair called for nominations for one Trustee representative to serve as PSBC Alternate Representative.

Trustee O'Keefe nominated Trustee Doll. Trustee Doll accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustee Doll elected as PSBC Alternate Representative for the coming year.

6. Representatives for the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA):**a. Provincial Executive**

The Board Chair advised that ASBA Provincial Executive - Directors serve a two-year term. Trustee Lindsay will begin the second year of her term in the 2026-27 school year. Therefore, Chair Sumar did not call for nominations for Provincial Executive - Director this year.

b. ASBA Zone 2/3 Executive

The Board Chair called for nominations for one Trustee representative to serve as ASBA Zone 2/3 Executive.

Trustee Sumar nominated Trustee Hoffman. Trustee Hoffman accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustee Hoffman elected as ASBA Zone 2/3 Executive for the coming year.

c. ASBA Zone 2/3 Executive - Alternate

The Board Chair called for nominations for one Trustee representative to serve as ASBA Zone 2/3 Executive - Alternate.

Trustee Nichol nominated Trustee Doll. Trustee Doll accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared Trustee Doll elected as ASBA Zone 2/3 Executive - Alternate for the coming year.

7. ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee

The Board Chair advised that Trustees Hoffman, Lindsay and Sumar will serve as the Board's representatives on the ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee for the coming year.

8. Ad Hoc Committee and Board Representative Assignment:**a. Advocacy Committee**

The Board Chair advised that the Advocacy Committee is a committee of the whole, as affirmed on September 24, 2024.

b. Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (Foundation) Representative

The Board Chair called for nominations for one Trustee representative to serve on the Foundation's Board of Governors.

Trustee Nichol nominated Trustee Sumar. Trustee Sumar accepted the nomination.

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, declared the nominations closed.

The Board Chair declared himself elected to the Foundation's Board of Governors for the coming year.

D. Meeting Dates

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 2 p.m.

E. Adjournment

4:10 p.m. - The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Saadiq Sumar, Board Chair

Kelsey Duebel, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations