EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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, 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, 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. Land Acknowledgement

The Board Chair called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we live, work, play, and enjoy the abundance that Treaty 6 land provides. This land, known by many names, has been cared for by the Siksikaitsitapi, Denesuline, nehiyawak, Anishinaabe, Stoney Nakoda, and the Métis from the North Saskatchewan River Territory. This land has also been imprinted by the footsteps of the Inuit.

The Board Chair said that June is the month of the Strawberry or Heartberry Moon, in Cree Ota'imin Pisim. During this moon, strawberries ripen in the wild, reminding us of the cycle of renewal and the sweetness of nature. It is a season of abundance and a time of connection, where the gifts of Mother Earth nourish spirit and body. It is a sacred time for many Indigenous peoples, a time for reconciliation, forgiveness, and healing. The Strawberry or Heart Berry represents love and the importance of emotional honesty, a message that Chair Sumar was reminded of on the weekend by Elder Russel Auger when he talked at an event this past weekend about the most important law for Indigenous people, that all of us, whether indigenous to the land or settler, is kindness. It is fitting that June also marks National Indigenous History Month and Pride Month and that, as a Division, we celebrate and honour our retirees, who have shown passion and dedication for students, colleagues, and community.

The Board Chair introduced Ms. Clarice Anderson, a First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Literacy supervisor; Ms. Sheila Williams, a First Nations, Métis and Inuit teacher consultant; Ms. Linda Wright, a Gwich'in artist; and Ms. Jana Angulalik (Jah-nah ANN-goo-la-lik), an Inuk Knowledge Keeper. He expressed appreciation for their time and presence at today's meeting.

B. O Canada

Ms. Sheila Williams, from the Cold Lake First Nations and a First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Consultant with Curriculum and Learning Supports, sang O Canada in Cree.

C. Recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day

Ms. Clarice Anderson, who serves as a Supervisor for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Literacy, spoke about the importance of National Indigenous History Month and the resources available to support this month. She introduced Indigenous Artist Linda Wright and invited Ms. Wright to discuss her inspiration for the 2026 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit graduate commissioned painting.

The Board Chair introduced Inuk Knowledge Keeper Jana Angulalik and her video "Welcome Back the Sun". The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Team in the Curriculum and Learning Supports department recently collaborated with Ms. Angulalik, originally from Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. The video shared the Inuit teachings on welcoming back the sun. The Board Chair invited Ms. Angulalik to share some words about the video.

There was a short break in the meeting at 2:21 p.m., and it resumed at 2:37 p.m.

D. Roll Call

2:37 p.m. – The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

E. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Vice-Chair Lindsay:

That the agenda for the June 16, 2026, Board meeting be approved as presented or amended.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair shared that he and Board Vice-Chair Lindsay celebrated retiring teachers last week, some of whom had been with the Division for almost five decades.

The Board Chair said that later this week, the Board will host the Division Retirement Banquet. Recognizing the work of 172 retirees who have 4,556 collective years of experience. Regardless of role or tenure, they have done incredible work supporting student success and building the foundation for a strong, vibrant community. Chair Sumar expressed thanks to the retiring staff for their incredible work, dedication, and passion.

The Board Chair shared that he and Trustee Doll attended the 18th Annual Africa Centre Gala, marking 20 years since the Africa Centre was founded. The theme of the evening was 20 Years of Empowerment, with a keynote address by Gaynel Diana Curry, who currently serves as the Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. Among other topics, she spoke about the erosion of the important concepts of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within our society that should be strengthened at a time when society seems to be more and more fractured. Chair Sumar expressed congratulations to the Africa Centre on 20 years of advocacy and upliftment of

Alberta's African, Caribbean, and Black communities and thanked them for their incredible partnership with the Division.

The Board Chair advised that he and several Trustees attended the Mayor's Pride Brunch in support of the Fyrefly Institute. He thanked Fyrefly for including the Board in the event and for supporting some of the Division's most vulnerable youth. Chair Sumar also thanked the Mayor and City Council for their bold vision and commitment, reflected in their new framework, Beyond Belonging: The 2SLGBTQIA+ Safe Spaces Action Plan. Chair Sumar also expressed thanks to the Mayor for recognizing the important work of schools in supporting queer youth.

The Board Chair congratulated all students on their accomplishments this year. He wished all students a great summer.

G. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent welcomed everyone in attendance today and those watching online.

The Superintendent expressed disbelief that it was the final Board meeting of the 2025-26 school year. He thanked staff, students and families for their support throughout the year. Superintendent Thompson said that student success requires community support. He noted that he remains humbled by the contributions of all those who prepare the next generation of students to be kind, observant, and critical-thinking citizens.

The Superintendent congratulated the Class of 2026 and wished them well in their future endeavours.

The Superintendent thanked the Board. He said it has been a busy year for the new Board of Trustees, learning what it means to be a Trustee, from Board meetings to school visits and more. Superintendent Thompson thanked the Board for their dedication, enthusiasm, inquisitiveness and love of public education.

The Superintendent shared some reflections on his first year as Superintendent. He mentioned the word humbled earlier, and he thinks it summarizes how he feels, looking back at his first day on the job. He continues to be in awe of the many hands it takes to help students each and every day. He said we all play an essential role in creating the conditions for students to be at their best. We listen to them, invest in them, lift them up and encourage them throughout their journey with us. Superintendent Thompson expressed thanks to everyone who plays an integral role in this work. He hopes both the Board and staff have a great summer recess. He also thanked all staff who continue to work throughout the summer to make sure schools are ready for staff and students in August.

H. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting - June 9, 2026

MOVED BY Trustee Anderson:

That the minutes of the Board meeting held June 9, 2026, be approved as presented.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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

There were no registered speakers for this item.

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

The live stream of the Board meeting was suspended at 2:47 p.m. to hear from registered speakers.

The Board of Trustees heard from five registered speakers for this item.

The live stream of the Board meeting resumed at 3:02 p.m. after all registered speakers had been heard.

K. Reports

2. Locally Developed Courses
(Recommendation)

MOVED BY Trustee Nichol:

That the following locally developed courses be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools:

Elementary and Junior High School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Approval Period (School Years)
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) K	KGN0226	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 1	ELM1226	
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 2	ELM2226	
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 3	ELM3226	
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 4	ELM4226	
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 5	ELM5226	
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 6	ELM6226	
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 7	JHS7382	
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 8	JHS8382	
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 9	JHS9382	

Senior High School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Version	Approval Period (School Years)
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 15 Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 25 Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 35	LDC1325 LDC2325 LDC3325	5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Competencies in Math 15	LDC1515	3 and 5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

Trustee Doll left the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

3. Governance and Evaluation Committee 2025-26 Work Plan Summary
   (Information)

A summary of information was provided on the work accomplished by the Governance and Evaluation Committee over the 2025-26 school year.

4. Delegation of Authority - 2026 Summer Recess
   (Recommendation)

Trustee Doll returned to the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

MOVED BY Trustee Anderson:

That in accordance with Section 3 of the Education Act Board Procedures Regulation, any special Board meetings during the 2026 summer recess be at the call of the Board Chair or, in their absence, the Board Vice-Chair.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Doll:

That in accordance with Section 52(1) of the Education Act, effective immediately following the June 16, 2026, Board meeting, delegation of authority to the Superintendent of Schools to make decisions during the 2026 summer recess on behalf of the Board be approved.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

That a report of all such decisions be brought to the first public Board meeting in the fall of 2026.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

L. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

None

M. Trustees and Board Requests for Information

None

N. Notices of Motion

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

Given that:

1. There has been a 5% cut to Edmonton Public Schools' System Administration Grant provided by the Province that is used to fund the Board of Trustees, alongside other Division administrative functions,

2. The duration of time required to complete a ward boundary review and subsequent bylaw changes is substantial,

3. Edmonton has experienced rapid population growth over recent years, and

4. Ward boundaries are regularly reviewed, and the last changes to boundaries were made in 2021.

Trustee Kusiek provided notice of motion for Division Administration to prepare a report for the Board of Trustees that outlines updated ward boundary maps for the 2029 election with two options - one with seven wards and one with nine wards.

O. Meeting Dates

Next Board Meeting: The Organizational Board meeting will commence immediately following the adjournment of this Board meeting.

P. Adjournment

3:25 p.m. – The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Saadiq Sumar, Board Chair	Kelsey Duebel, Director Board and Superintendent Relations