

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 9, 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.

The Board Chair shared that he and Trustee Nichol attended miyo-kîsikâw, or “it is a beautiful day” in Cree, hosted by Aldergrove and Belmead schools yesterday. He asked the principals for their permission to share the land acknowledgement that students Taylin and Aaron provided, with a couple of slight edits.

Tânisi (TAHN-sih) and miyo-kîsikâw (mee-yo key-see-cow). Today, as we come together to celebrate National Indigenous Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day, we want to begin by acknowledging the beautiful land beneath our feet. We acknowledge that we are gathering on Treaty 6 territory. This is the ancestral and traditional home of the Cree, Blackfoot, Nakota Sioux, Saukteaux, Dene, Inuit, Métis, and many other nations who have walked these lands for generations before us, and who continue to walk with us today. We thank this land for everything it gives us, and we promise to cherish, respect, and protect it together.

Today is an incredibly important day for our school community. We believe that true reconciliation starts right here—by listening, learning, and opening our hearts to the truth and beauty of Indigenous cultures. Hosting an event like miyo-kîsikâw gives us the beautiful opportunity to connect directly with the vibrant history, teachings, and languages that belong to this land. By participating in these traditions, we are taking an active, meaningful step forward on the path of reconciliation together.

We look around today, and our hearts are completely full. We want to share a deeply heartfelt thank you to the incredible Knowledge Keepers, Elders, singers, dancers, and community members who are here with us. To those who are visiting our school for the very first time, we welcome you with open arms and hope this is the beginning of a long, beautiful friendship.

To the many Knowledge Keepers and Elders who have returned to be with us over the past three years, seeing your faces again means the world to us. Your return shows us just how much relationships matter. It teaches us that reconciliation isn't just a single day or a lesson in a textbook—it is about building real, lasting, and trusted friendships. Thank you for your patience, your kindness, and for generously sharing your sacred stories, beautiful languages, and traditional arts with us today.

As students, we promise to carry your teachings forward with respect and care. Thank you for helping us keep these traditions alive and for showing us how to walk together in a good way.

B. O Canada

The Ross Sheppard School Concert Band video version of O Canada was played.

C. Roll Call

2:09 p.m. – The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

D. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Nichol:

That the agenda for the June 9, 2026, Board meeting be approved as presented.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

E. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair shared that although June is a short month this year, it's an incredibly busy time of year for the Division and for Trustees. For high school students, today is the last day of classes before exam break. Elementary and junior high students are already in the thick of provincial achievement tests. Board Chair Sumar expressed well wishes to all students with PATs, diplomas, or end of term exams.

The Board Chair acknowledged that June marks Pride Month. The Division celebrated Pride Week last week from June 1st to 5th. He said it is an important time, dedicated to celebrating the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community, to advocating for equal rights, and reaffirming that students, staff, and community members have the right to express and identify themselves without fear of discrimination or violence. As part of Pride Week, the Board created and shared a video, and he thanked all of his colleagues for participating.

The Board Chair acknowledged that June is also National Indigenous History Month. During this month, the Division celebrates and recognizes the rich histories, diverse cultures, and vital contributions of First Nations, Metis peoples, and the Inuit. With Summer approaching, it's a time to reconnect with the land and continue to learn, reflect, and actively engage in the ongoing process of reconciliation or reconciliation.

The Board Chair shared that the Board has also been busy, with several Trustees attending the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta's Spring General Assembly and the Alberta School Boards Association's Spring General Meeting. He thanked the provincial associations for the rich discussion and the important professional learning offered through those general meetings.

The Board Chair shared that last week was also an opportunity to recognize the important work of the Educational Partnership Foundation, an organization that supports students with trades learning opportunities. Several participating students were recognized during the closing ceremonies. Board Chair Sumar thanked the foundation for championing these career path options for students.

The Board Chair recognized an important milestone for Escuela Mill Creek School. This year marks 25 years since the start of the Spanish Bilingual Program. In 2001, the school's enrollment had dipped to 48 students. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of a few staff and students and the support of the Board of the day and Administration, the school was able to remain open, and the program is now thriving. It's an important reminder of the incredible programs and opportunities that are offered through EPSB and the forward-thinking of staff, both past and present.

F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent thanked everyone in attendance and those watching online. He extended a warm welcome to a principal from the Superintendent's Community of Practice in Education (SCOPE), who also joined today's Board meeting Scott Markine from Donald R Getty School.

The Superintendent expressed congratulations to the Division's very own Ida Lucila, who was recently designated Edmonton's 2026-2028 Historian Laureate. The Historian Laureate designation is awarded to individuals who celebrate the heritage of the city through researching, documenting and interpreting the people, places and events that shape Edmonton. Many know Ida as a gifted storyteller who centres her work on arts and culture and shares her heritage as a Filipino-Canadian across different mediums and networks. She is also an integral part of the Division Support Services team.

The Superintendent shared that next week, along with the Board of Trustees, the Division will have an opportunity to celebrate the 2026 class of retirees. Everyone is looking forward to celebrating this massive milestone and all that the retirees have accomplished with the Division. He said goodbyes are hard, but knowing what an impact those staff members have made for thousands and thousands of students leaves him with so much gratitude. Superintendent Thompson and the Board of Trustees congratulated this incredible group and wished them well in their next adventures.

The Superintendent shared an important update regarding international travel. He made the decision to pause all international school trips and school-based exchanges for the 2026-27 school year. Some schools have already shared this information with families.

This was a decision that he did not take lightly. He understands that some of our students and families may be disappointed. These trips are often a highlight of a student's school year and something they plan and look forward to for quite some time.

After examining a variety of factors, including operational and security factors, this decision was made out of an abundance of caution. Reported global fuel shortages, recently reported public health concerns and ongoing military conflict introduce further unpredictability and risk to international travel for our students and staff. The goal is to avoid unnecessary risk and ensure the safety of everyone across our school communities.

As the Division looks to the next school year, schools are just now beginning to evaluate and shape their travel plans. This timeline allows the Division to look critically at the evolving global climate—including recent direct security incidents experienced by our students and staff abroad and projected international travel risks.

By making a decision right now, the Division is providing certainty and clarity for families and students. Our responsibility is to be proactive rather than reactive when it comes to the safety, security and well-being of our students and staff.

Schools with booked trips have been in touch with affected families as soon as possible regarding refunds and potential alternative arrangements. Families can also reach out directly to their child's principal for specific questions about what this means for them.

G. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting - May 26, 2026

MOVED BY Trustee Doll:

That the minutes of the Board meeting held May 26, 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. Student Senate 2025-26 Work Plan Summary
(Information)

Student Trustee Selina Lin presented the 2025-26 Student Senate Work Plan summary.

3. 2026-27 Non-Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees and 2027-28 International Student Fees
(Recommendation)

MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:

1. That the proposed 2026–2027 Non-Alberta Resident Fees and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees, as detailed in Attachment I, be approved.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

2. That the proposed 2027–2028 International Student Tuition Fee of \$13,500 and International Student Application Fee of \$250, as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.

Trustee Doll left the meeting at 3:05 p.m. and returned at 3:07 p.m.

MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek, the motion be postponed:

That recommendation 2 be postponed to the first board meeting in December 2026.

The Board Chair called the question on the motion to postpone.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Doll and Kusiek

**OPPOSED: Trustees Anderson, Hoffman, Lindsay, Nichol, O’Keefe, Sawyer, and Sumar
(DEFEATED)**

There was a short break in the meeting at 3:35 p.m., and it resumed at 3:48 p.m.

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman, the motion (recommendation 2) be amended:

That an increase of \$1,020 to the proposed 2027–2028 International Student Tuition Fee of \$13,500, in alignment with the increase to the 2026-2027 Non-Alberta Resident Fee, and International Student Application Fee of \$250, as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.

The Board Chair called the question on the amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Anderson, Doll, and Hoffman

**OPPOSED: Trustees Kusiek, Lindsay, Nichol, O’Keefe, Sawyer, and Sumar
(DEFEATED)**

The Board Chair called the question on the original motion (recommendation 2).

That the proposed 2027–2028 International Student Tuition Fee of \$13,500 and International Student Application Fee of \$250, as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Anderson, Doll, Hoffman, Kusiek, Lindsay, Nichol, O’Keefe, Sawyer, and Sumar

OPPOSED: Trustee Hoffman

(CARRIED)

4. Approval of the Policy Framework Review Project Plan and First Reading of Board Policy CH.BP Framework for Policy Development and Review
(Recommendation)

MOVED BY Trustee Anderson:

1. That the Policy Framework Review Project Plan be approved as presented in Attachment I.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Anderson:

2. That Board Policy CH.BP Framework for Policy Development and Review be read for the first time.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

5. Policy Review Committee 2026-27 Work Plan and 2025-26 Work Plan Summary
(Recommendation)

MOVED BY Trustee Anderson:

That the Policy Review Committee’s 2026-27 work plan be approved.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. Belonging and Safety Division Data
(Information)

An update was provided on the findings related to students’ sense of belonging and safety across the Division.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

No reports were submitted.

K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Lindsay submitted a Request for Information regarding **HEPA Filters**:

To obtain information regarding the current use, effectiveness, maintenance, and outcomes of HEPA filtration units in EPSB classrooms, in response to constituent requests for transparency on air quality and virus mitigation.

She requested the following information:

- What is the Division doing to support effective air filtration and ventilation in its schools and facilities?
- Does the Division meet all required ventilation system standards?

Staff Communication and Training

- What information has been communicated to staff regarding the use and purpose of HEPA filtration units?
- Are there resources available to staff explaining how HEPA units and extra run time of HVAC systems function and their role in improving air quality?
- What Occupational Health and Safety guidelines are in place related to indoor environmental and air quality?

Monitoring and Data Collection

- Has the Division explored the collection and tracking of indoor air quality data? What are the key considerations for implementing this practice?
- Has the Division explored the tracking of HEPA unit usage at the classroom or school level? What are the key considerations for implementing this practice?
- Are metrics such as air quality readings, maintenance schedules, and filter replacement costs systematically recorded?

Public Reporting and Standards Compliance

- Has the Division explored the sharing of specific air quality metrics with students, staff, and families? What are the considerations for implementing this practice?
- Has the Division explored the feasibility of meeting ASHRAE Standard 241- 'Control of Infectious Aerosols for Virus Mitigation'? What are the key considerations for potentially aiming to meet this standard?

L. Notices of Motion

None

M. Meeting Dates

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 2 p.m.

N. Adjournment

5:10 p.m. – The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Sadiq Sumar, Board Chair

Kelsey Duebel, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations