

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, May 12, 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 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.

The Board Chair also acknowledged that May 5 was Red Dress Day and May 10 was Mother’s Day. He highlighted the significant contributions of matriarchs and mothers to society and to a school division, emphasizing their invaluable role within the community.

B. O Canada

The Mill Creek School video version of O Canada was played.

C. Roll Call

2:06 p.m. – The Superintendent advised that all Trustees were present.

D. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:

That the agenda for the May 12, 2026, Board meeting be approved as presented.

The Board Chair advised that Trustee O’Keefe has stepped down as Audit Committee Chair, effective immediately.

MOVED BY Board Chair Sumar, the motion be amended:

That the agenda for the May 12, 2026, Board meeting be amended to add Item 6 - Nomination for Audit Committee Chair.

The Board Chair called the question on the amendment.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Board Chair called the question:

That the agenda for the May 12, 2026, Board meeting be approved as amended.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

E. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair shared that April 29 was the EPSB Student Artificial Intelligence Conference. He thanked the presenters for spending their time with Division students to inform them, to expand their knowledge, and to grow their base about artificial intelligence and how it can be used. Chair Sumar expressed gratitude to Ms. Bernice Pui and the Technology and Information Management (TIM) department for organizing this event and providing more 21st Century learning opportunities for Division students.

The Board Chair shared that he had the opportunity, on behalf of the Board, to attend the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA) annual award ceremony. Over 120 awards were distributed to students in the Mandarin bilingual program for their academic achievements, as well as their school and community contributions. He congratulated all the students who received awards and thanked ECBEA and the Chinese community for recognizing and supporting Division students.

The Board Chair noted that he and the Board had the opportunity to attend catchment conversations last week. He said that there's consensus from those who attended both now and in the past that there is incredible and valuable information shared within those forums. Chair Sumar thanked principals for taking the time to share their successes and their challenges. He also expressed thanks to the Assistant Superintendents for facilitating those conversations and allowing Trustees to be a part of those rich conversations.

F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent welcomed everyone in attendance today and those watching online. He also welcomed principals from the Superintendent's Community of Practice in Education (SCOPE), who also joined today's Board meeting: Damian Wilkinson from Overlanders and Mike Morison from Lillian Osborne Schools.

The Superintendent noted that the start of May marks the beginning of end-of-year activities, including concerts, exams, and high school graduation season. He emphasized that graduation is a significant milestone, marking the culmination of 13 years of learning and growth for students, their

families, staff, and support networks. Superintendent Thompson expressed his anticipation of attending graduations throughout May and June to celebrate student successes across the Division. He thanked all staff involved in organizing these massive events and offered congratulations to all Division graduates.

The Superintendent noted that the Division held its second Student Artificial Intelligence Conference at the end of April. He had the opportunity to see firsthand the power of AI, as well as some of the cautions students shared. Superintendent Thompson said the speakers were amazing, and was impressed by the insightful questions raised by students. This conference was an amazing experience for high school students to get hands-on experience with industry professionals. He expressed gratitude to the Technology and Information Management (TIM), the Technology Integration and Planning Supports (TIPS) and the Career Pathways teams for putting on such an incredible conference.

The Superintendent shared that he received a letter from the Terry Fox Foundation, which shared the massive difference Division students and schools are making in raising funds for cancer research. Last year was the 45th anniversary of the Terry Fox Run. More than 10,000 schools with more than 4 million students have raised \$15.7 million for cancer research across Canada. Many Division schools participate in the Terry Fox Run every year, continuing his legacy. Superintendent Thompson shared the top fundraisers among schools that participated:

- Avalon
- Donald Massey
- Holyrood
- Bessie Nichols
- Earl Buxton
- Roberta MacAdams
- Crestwood
- George H. Luck
- Westglen

Superintendent Thompson expressed gratitude to all schools in the Division who organized these impactful and meaningful events every fall.

G. Approval of the Minutes

1. Board Meeting - April 28, 2026

MOVED BY Trustee O’Keefe:

That the minutes of the Board meeting held April 28, 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. Locally Developed Courses
(Recommendation)

MOVED BY Trustee Nichol:
That the following locally developed courses be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools:
Senior High School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Version	Approval Period (School Years)
American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Three-year (3Y) 15 American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Three-year (3Y) 25 American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Three-year (3Y) 35	LDC1300 LDC2300 LDC3300	5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Arabic Language and Culture Three-year (3Y) 15 Arabic Language and Culture Three-year (3Y) 25 Arabic Language and Culture Three-year (3Y) 35	LDC1331 LDC2331 LDC3331	5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Astronomy 15 Astronomy 25 Astronomy 35	LDC1947 LDC2947 LDC3947	3 and 5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Drawing 15 Drawing 25 Drawing 35	LDC1859 LDC2859 LDC3859	5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Global Perspectives 25 Global Perspectives 35	LDC2207 LDC3207	5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Guitar 15 Guitar 25 Guitar 35	LDC1568 LDC2568 LDC3568	3 and 5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Indigenous Art and Ceremony 25	LDC2873	5 Credits (2023–2027)	2026–2027
Introduction to Educational Assistant 35	LDC3294	5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Learning Strategies 15 Learning Strategies 25 Learning Strategies 35	LDC1599 LDC2599 LDC3599	3 and 5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Métis History and Stories 15	LDC1873	3 Credits (2023–2027)	2026–2027

Course Name	Course Codes	Version	Approval Period (School Years)
Musical Theatre Performance 15 Musical Theatre Performance 25 Musical Theatre Performance 35	LDC1858 LDC2858 LDC3858	3 and 5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Pathways to Reconciliation 35	LDC3873	5 Credits (2023–2027)	2026–2027
Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 15 Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 25 Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 35	LDC1555 LDC2555 LDC3555	5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Speech and Debate 15 Speech and Debate 25 Speech and Debate 35	LDC1209 LDC2244 LDC3244	3 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Technical Theatre 15 Technical Theatre 25 Technical Theatre 35	LDC1987 LDC2987 LDC3987	3 and 5 Credits (2026–2030)	2026–2027 to 2029–2030

Elementary and Junior High LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Approval Period (School Years)
Art and Design: Ceramics 7 Art and Design: Ceramics 8 Art and Design: Ceramics 9	JHS7311 JHS8311 JHS9311	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Art and Design: Drawing 7 Art and Design: Drawing 8 Art and Design: Drawing 9	JHS7312 JHS8312 JHS9312	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Art and Design: Painting 7 Art and Design: Painting 8 Art and Design: Painting 9	JHS7313 JHS8313 JHS9313	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Art and Design: Photography 7 Art and Design: Photography 8 Art and Design: Photography 9	JHS7314 JHS8314 JHS9314	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Exploration of Film 7 Exploration of Film 8 Exploration of Film 9	JHS7055 JHS8055 JHS9055	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Indigenous Studies 7 Indigenous Studies 8	JHS7250 JHS8250	2026–2027 to 2029–2030

Course Name	Course Codes	Approval Period (School Years)
Indigenous Studies 9	JHS9250	
Learning to Lead 7 Learning to Lead 8 Learning to Lead 9	JHS7058 JHS8058 JHS9058	2026–2027 to 2029–2030
Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) K Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 1 Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 2 Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 3 Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 4 Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 5 Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 6 Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 7 Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 8 Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 9	KGN0280 ELM1280 ELM2280 ELM3280 ELM4280 ELM5280 ELM6280 JHS7387 JHS8387 JHS9387	2026–2027 to 2029–2030

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

3. Motion re: Engagement on Second Language Instruction Requirement in Board Policy GA.BP (Recommendation)

MOVED BY Trustee Sawyer:

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 and that the results of this engagement be reported back to the Board of Trustees.

MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek, the motion be amended:

That Administration **bring forward a proposal to the Board of Trustees to 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 and that the results of this engagement be reported back to the Board of Trustees.**

There was a short break in the meeting at 3:19 p.m., and it resumed at 3:31 p.m.

Following questions and discussion by the Board of Trustees, Trustee Kusiek advised the Board Chair that she was withdrawing her amendment.

MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek, the original motion be amended:

That Administration **provides a recommendation report for the Board of Trustees' consideration outlining objectives for public engagement** ~~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 ~~and that the results of this engagement be reported back to the Board of Trustees.~~ **Include a brief summary of Division considerations that informed these proposed engagement objectives.**

The Board Chair called the question on the amendment.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Board Chair called the question on the amended motion.

(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

4. Caucus Committee Report
(Information)

Information was provided regarding the actions taken at the March 3, 2026, Caucus Committee meeting.

6. Nominations for Audit Committee Chair

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

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

The Board Chair, seeing no further nominations, closed the nominations and declared Trustee Anderson elected by acclamation as Audit Committee Chair.

5. Bereavements
(Information)

Vice-Chair Lindsay reported the passing of Mr. Ross Duncan Fraser.

J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports

Board Chair Sumar shared an Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (Foundation) update:

- The Foundation celebrated World Book Day on April 23 by acknowledging a special gift. The Westman Charitable Foundation (the Family Foundation for Jayman BUILT) donated \$300,000 to the Foundation - a new three-year commitment that provides \$100,000 annually to purchase new books for classroom libraries in 45 schools (15 each year) and also supports the Top-ups for Tummies nutrition program. An event was held last week at Callingwood School with

students and staff to celebrate. Following a cheque presentation, students presented a thank you to the donor, and Westman Charitable Foundation President Diana Joseph read to the group. Jayman BUILT even surprised each student in attendance with a brand new book to keep - extending the impact of their commitment to literacy even further.

- For 16 years, Foundation Board Chair, Dr. Linda Miller, has been more than just a member of the Foundation; she has been its cornerstone. As the CEO and Founder of EWI Works International Inc., Linda has spent over three decades dedicated to the science of how the Foundation moves and thrives. Her professional life as an occupational therapist and an adjunct professor at the University of Alberta has always been rooted in empowerment. Through her role as the Chair of the Foundation, she channels that expertise into the heart of our community. As Linda says, "If you have the opportunity to grow up in a good public education system, you can go anywhere." As Linda's time on the board comes to a close later this year, the Foundation wanted to thank her for her time and dedication to supporting students across our city.
- As Linda nears the end of her tenure with the Foundation, the Foundation is launching Move for Kids: a spring campaign inspired by Linda's lifelong philosophy that movement is the ultimate catalyst for mental health, social connection and academic success. Move for Kids is a community-wide challenge where schools, central departments and the greater community can get active - and collect donations for the Foundation while doing so. The theme Spring Into Action encourages everyone to embrace the warmer weather and move to build a brighter future for every learner. Throughout May, every step you take helps the Foundation level the playing field for students across Edmonton Public Schools. Visit the Foundation website to learn more and get involved.

K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information

None

L. Notices of Motion

None

M. Meeting Dates

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 2 p.m.

N. Adjournment

3:51 p.m. – The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Saadq Sumar, Board Chair

Kelsey Duebel, Director Board and
Superintendent Relations