



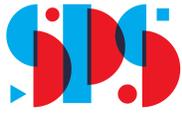
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Meeting held virtually

On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

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**Sturgeon
Public Schools**

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Meeting held virtually

On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance:

- *Tasha Oatway-McLay, Board Chair
- *Stacey Buga, Vice Chair
- *Cindy Briggs, Trustee
- *Irene Gibbons, Trustee
- *Janine Pequin, Trustee
- *Joe Dwyer, Trustee
- *Trish Murray-Elliott, Trustee
- *Shawna Warren, Superintendent
- *Jonathan Konrad, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services
- *Lisa Lacroix, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources
- *Sean Nicholson, Associate Superintendent, Corporate Services
- *Louise Loh, Principal, Landing Trail School
- *Michelle Wilde, Recording Secretary
- *Online Attendance

Left at 10:20 a.m.

Chair Oatway-McLay Opening Statement:

Welcome to the February 26, 2025, Public Board Meeting of the Sturgeon Public School Division Board of Trustees. We are pleased to have members of the public joining us virtually and we thank you for your interest in the work of the Board.

Before we begin, I would like to take a moment to clarify the role of the Board of Trustees and the expectations for all attendees during this meeting.

The Board of Trustees is a governance body responsible for making decisions in the best interest of our students, families, staff and community. Our meetings are held in public to ensure transparency and accountability in our decision-making processes. However, it is important to note that public board meetings are not public forums. Attendees are here as observers and cannot engage in discussions or pose questions during the meeting unless specifically invited to do so through designated processes.

In accordance with Board Policy, the Board Procedures Regulation and the Education Act, all individuals are expected to conduct themselves respectfully during this meeting. Any disruption, including improper conduct, will result in removal from the meeting. This ensures that the Board can fulfill its responsibilities efficiently and effectively.

I also want to address the fact that we are currently in the midst of labour action with one of our employee groups. As such, please be advised that questions or comments related to

CUPE labour action, negotiations, or other confidential matters will not be entertained during this public meeting. These topics are addressed privately during in-camera sessions, in alignment with Board Policy, the Education Act and related legislation to protect individual privacy and the Board's negotiating position. To keep everyone informed, we have updated our website to include a dedicated section for Labour Action Updates. This area is regularly refreshed with the latest information.

30% of our staff in schools are out on job action right now. For the duration of the strike, the Minister of Education has granted Sturgeon Public Schools, via Ministerial Order, an exemption from the In-Person Learning Regulation. Administration, in collaboration with our schools, have identified any students with complex needs that require additional support. If that student's continued attendance for in-person learning may risk the health and safety of that student or other students or staff, that student is exempt from in-person learning. Considering the health and safety at all times, our schools, in collaboration with the family, are trying to make every reasonable effort to have the student attend in person for part of a school day or part of a school week while keeping the health and safety of the student, other students and staff at the core. The Ministerial Order also requires the Board, in consideration of the health and safety of the student or other students or staff, to make reasonable efforts to continue in-person learning for the student by making reasonable efforts to hire qualified staff or enter into contracts for services with qualified third-party providers to perform the support or assistance for the student. There is some misunderstanding out there about the court decision last week regarding the In-Person Learning Regulation Ministerial Order. Last week, the Court of King's Bench awarded the Minister of Education one week to review the order and potentially issue a new one by tomorrow, February 27th. Our Exemption to the In-person Learning Regulation is still in effect. No changes at this time.

We know that this is putting a strain on families. We appreciate your patience and understanding. Our priority is in-person learning, however, the health and safety of all students and staff must take precedence. This is a very challenging time and we ask for your continued patience and cooperation. Please reach out to your school principal if you have any questions or concerns.

The Board remains committed to openness, transparency, and fostering public trust through sound governance practices. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we proceed with the business on today's agenda.

Call to Order

Board Chair Oatway-McLay called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Board Chair Oatway-McLay read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Approval of Agenda

[009/2025 - Moved by Trustee Murray-Elliott](#) that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

[010/2025 - Moved by Trustee Buga](#) that the following minutes be approved as presented:

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 29, 2025;
 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 3, 2025;
 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 5, 2025;
 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 12, 2025; and
 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 20, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Business Arising From The Minutes

No business arising from the minutes.

Presentations/Delegations

Passion Learning & Sparks presented by Louise Loh, Principal, Landing Trail School.

Action Items

No action items.

Administrative Reports

Alberta Education Assurance Survey Updates 2024-2025

Shawna Warren, Superintendent and Jonathan Konrad, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, presented the Alberta Education Assurance Survey Updates 2024-2025.

In December, the Sturgeon Public School Division Board of Trustees took a proactive step in advocating for improvements to Alberta's provincial data collection and reporting processes. The Board sent a [formal advocacy letter](#) to Minister Nicolaides, aligning with

concerns previously raised by Wolf Creek Public Schools. The letter emphasized the need for refinements to enhance the usefulness, accuracy, and timeliness of data collected through Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs), Diploma exams, and stakeholder surveys.

Key recommendations included:

- **Survey Design Improvements:** Addressing issues such as the misleading impact of “don’t know” responses in parental surveys and refining the ‘Parental Involvement’ measure to ensure more accurate feedback.
- **Survey Distribution & Accessibility:** Advocating for a modernized survey distribution process to increase parent participation.
- **Data Timeliness & Relevance:** Highlighting the challenges posed by the delayed release of PAT and Diploma data, which hinders school planning and Annual Education Results Reports (AERR) submissions.
- **Data Interpretation Clarity:** Calling for clearer thresholds for significance to prevent misinterpretations of minor statistical fluctuations.
- **Addressing Data Suppression:** Recommending strategies to ensure equitable representation in data collection, particularly for underrepresented groups such as Indigenous and English as an Additional Language (EAL) students.

In response to this advocacy, the Government of Alberta has implemented changes for the 2024/2025 school year, marking a significant step forward. A recent government email outlines improvements to the Alberta Education Assurance Survey, scheduled to run from February 18 to March 21, 2025. Notably, the government has introduced:

- **Online Distribution of Parent Survey Codes:** Schools can now access and distribute unique parent random access codes electronically through the Extranet, improving accessibility and participation rates.
- **Enhanced Access to Student and Teacher Survey Codes:** Schools can retrieve and request additional random access codes more efficiently via the Online Survey Admin application.
- **Continued Paper Survey Option:** To maintain inclusivity, paper surveys will still be available for school authorities that have requested them in previous years.

This development demonstrates progress in addressing the concerns raised by the Board, particularly in improving survey distribution and accessibility to enhance response rates and data reliability. These changes support more meaningful data collection, allowing school divisions to better assess educational outcomes and inform decision-making. Sturgeon Public School Division will continue to advocate for further refinements to ensure data collection and reporting processes provide the most accurate and useful insights for schools, students and families.

Joint Use and Planning Agreements Deadline Extension Order and Town of Morinville JUPA and City of St. Albert JUPA

Sean Nicholson, Associate Superintendent, Corporate Services presented on the Joint Use and Planning Agreements Deadline Extension Order and Town of Morinville JUPA and City of St. Albert JUPA.

The Division received a letter on February 13, 2025, from the Minister of Education that included the Ministerial Order #009/2025 that extended the date until June 10, 2026, for the Board to enter into JUPA with a municipality.

The Division is currently working on Joint Use and Planning Agreements and the two agreements that are closest to completion are with the Town of Morinville and the City of St. Albert. These agreements have been attached for reference.

A status update on all agreements is below:

- The Town of Morinville
 - Close to completion
- City of St. Albert
 - Close to completion
- Sturgeon County
 - Agreement has been sent and a preliminary review done. Waiting to receive a response for review from the county.
- The Town of Redwater
 - Waiting on a response from the town
- The Town of Gibbons
 - Waiting on a response from the town
- The Town of Legal
 - Town is sending an agreement
- The Town of Bon Accord
 - A draft copy was sent and waiting for feedback.

Summary of Gibbons Community Engagement Report

Shawna Warren, Superintendent and Sean Nicholson, Associate Superintendent, Corporate Services presented the Summary of Gibbons Community Engagement Report.

On October 23, 2024, administration gave a report on Gibbons School and Landing Trail School and the Board made the following motion:

THAT the Board of Trustees approve the process required to initiate the proposed closure of Gibbons School and Landing Trail School for the amalgamation of both schools into one new K-9 school on a new school site and direct the Superintendent to start the notification process as per Board Policy 600.

Following this motion, administration began the process outlined in *Board Policy 600, School Closure*. A public information evening was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibbons School allowing the public to learn more about the proposed project and provide feedback.

The Division's number one priority on its capital plan is proposing to combine Gibbons School and Landing Trail School into one new Kindergarten to Grade 9 school building. In an effort to strengthen the project proposal to the government and provide effective stewardship, the Division engaged with their school communities as part of informing any future decisions.

Between December 3rd and 20th, 2024, almost 50 community members and 325 student submissions were received to provide feedback on the proposed Gibbons and Landing Trail School Solution. Community members were given the option to provide feedback either through in person participation at the December 3 workshop or through an online survey.

A multi-channel communication strategy was used to encourage participation, targeting families and stakeholders in the Gibbons and Landing Trail School communities:

- Direct Email Invitations
- School Newsletters:
- Personal Invitations:
- Dedicated Web Pages:
- Take-Home Flyers:
- Social Media and Digital Advertising:

At the end of the Community Engagement evening, evaluations of the session were completed by participants and results were very positive:

- 88% of respondents believe the Division is listening
- 96% of respondents felt this was a good use of their time
- 96% of Respondents felt the information was openly shared
- 100% of respondents felt they had an opportunity to provide their thoughts
- 80% of respondents believe that the Division will consider their input
- 61% of respondents felt they had a better understanding about how the Division works and how decisions are made

The findings from this feedback showed similarities in hopes, concerns and ideas among students, parents and the broader school community. A summary of the information was compiled into six key areas:

1. What people currently appreciate
2. Opportunities
3. Concerns
4. Considerations for amalgamation

5. Programming considerations
6. Recommendation to consider moving forward

Communications Report - January & February 2025

Jonathan Konrad, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services presented the Communications Report - January & February 2025.

Superintendent Report

Shawna Warren, Superintendent presented the Superintendent Report.

Reports from Trustees and Standing Committees

Chair's Report

Below is the Chair's submitted report.

Chair Oatway-McLay (Cardiff/Garrison)

Chair Oatway-McLay reported that she attended:

- Agenda Review (*Feb. 21 & Feb. 28*)
- ASBA's Speaker's Corner - Trustee Code of Conduct (*Feb. 24*)
- Board Professional Development (*Feb. 10*)
- Budget Speech (*Feb. 27*)
- Committee of the Whole (*Feb. 12*)
- Chairs Meeting (*Feb. 5 & Feb. 20*)
- Meeting with MLA Nally & GSACRD Chair (*Feb. 21*)
- Meeting with the Vice Chair and Superintendent (*Feb. 3, Feb. 6, Feb. 13, Feb. 14 & Feb. 18*)
- Negotiation Committee Meeting (*Feb. 10 & Feb. 18*)
- Policy Committee Meeting (*Feb. 24*)
- Public Board Meeting (*Feb. 26*)
- Special Board Meeting (*Feb. 3, Feb. 5, Feb. 12 & Feb. 20*)

Trustees' Reports

Below are the submitted Trustee Reports.

Trustee Briggs (Bon Accord/Legal)

Trustee Briggs reported that she attended:

- ASBA Speaker's Corner (*Feb. 24*)
- Board Professional Development (*Feb. 10*)
- Committee Meeting (*Feb. 10, Feb. 12, Feb. 14 & Feb. 18*)
- Committee of the Whole (*Feb. 26*)
- Discipline Hearing (*Feb. 25*)
- Negotiation (*Feb. 13*)

- Policy Committee Meeting (Feb. 24)
- Public Board Meeting (Feb. 26)
- Public School Boards Association Conference (Feb. 6 & Feb. 7)
- Special Board Meeting (Feb. 3, Feb. 5, Feb. 12 & Feb. 20)
- Superintendent Evaluation (Feb. 12)

Trustee Buga (Morinville Area)

Trustee Buga reported that she attended:

- Agenda Review (Feb. 21 & Feb. 28)
- ASBA Speaker's Corner (Feb. 24)
- ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting (Feb. 21)
- Board of Trustees Professional Development (Feb. 10)
- Committee of the Whole (Feb. 26)
- Policy Committee Meeting (Feb. 24)
- Public Board Meeting (Feb. 26)
- Special Board Meeting (Feb. 3, Feb. 5, Feb. 12 & Feb. 20)
- Superintendent Evaluation (Feb. 12)

Trustee Dwyer (Alcomdale/Villeneuve Area)

Trustee Dwyer reported that he attended:

- Board Professional Development (Feb. 10)
- Committee of the Whole (Feb. 26)
- Discipline Hearing (Feb. 25)
- Public Board Meeting (Feb. 26)
- Special Board Meeting (Feb. 3, Feb. 5, Feb. 12 & Feb. 20)
- Superintendent Evaluation (Feb. 12)

Trustee Gibbons (Gibbons/Lamoureux)

Trustee Gibbons reported that she attended:

- ASBA PD - Code of Conduct with Michael Solowan (Feb. 24)
- Committee of the Whole Meeting (Feb. 26)
- Negotiations (Feb. 13)
- Negotiation Committee Meeting (Feb. 10 & Feb 14)
- Policy Committee Meeting (Feb. 24)
- Public Board Meeting (Feb. 26)
- Special Board Meeting (Feb. 3, Feb. 5, & Feb. 12)
- Superintendent Evaluation (Feb. 12)

Trustee Murray-Elliott (Sturgeon Valley/West St. Albert)

Trustee Murray-Elliott reported that she attended and submitted her report:

- ASBA Speaker's Corner (Feb. 24)
- Board Professional Development (Feb. 10)

- Committee of the Whole (Feb. 26)
- CUPE Negotiation Committee Meeting (Feb. 10, Feb. 12, Feb. 13, Feb. 14 & Feb. 18)
- Discipline Hearing (Feb. 25)
- Policy Committee Meeting (Feb. 24)
- PSBC PD/Dinner and Council Meeting (Feb. 6 & Feb. 7)
- Public Board Meeting (Feb. 26)
- Special Board Meeting (Feb. 3, Feb. 5, Feb. 12 & Feb. 20)
- Superintendent Evaluation (Feb. 12)

Trustee Pequin (Redwater/Coronado Area)

Trustee Pequin reported that she attended:

- Board PD (Feb. 10)
- Committee of the Whole (Feb. 26)
- Policy Committee Meeting (Feb. 24)
- Public Board Meeting (Feb. 26)
- Special Board Meeting (Feb. 3, Feb. 5, Feb. 12 & Feb. 20)
- Superintendent Evaluation (Feb. 12)

Committee of the Whole

The Board of Trustees received as information the unapproved minutes of the meeting from the January 29, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Policy Committee

Trustee Pequin shared a verbal report.

Reports from Special Committees/Task Groups

Alberta School Boards Association Representative

Trustee Gibbons and Trustee Buga shared a verbal report.

Public School Boards Associate of Alberta Representative

Trustee Briggs shared a verbal report.

Rotary Report

Trustee Dwyer shared a verbal report.

Chamber of Commerce Meetings

No Chamber of Commerce meetings were attended.

Community Services Advisory Board

Trustee Briggs shared a verbal report.

Meeting recessed for break at 10:51 a.m. Meeting resumed at 11:01 a.m.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

Comment and Question Period

Chair Oatway-McLay Statement:

We will now take a 10 minute recess so we can review the questions submitted by the public during this meeting. A reminder that questions or comments must be respectful and aligned with our policies. Negative statements about individuals, schools, or entities will not be acknowledged.

Please note that questions or comments regarding certain sensitive matters, such as labour relations, including the ongoing CUPE strike, employee negotiations, or other restricted topics as outlined in policy, cannot be addressed in this forum. These restrictions are in place to protect the integrity of ongoing processes and ensure compliance with privacy and legal obligations.

For matters outside the scope of this meeting, I encourage you to direct your concerns to the appropriate channels, such as the Division's administrative office, where they can be addressed more effectively.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we strive to maintain a respectful and productive dialogue today.

No comments or questions from the public.

In Camera

[011/2025 - Moved by Trustee Briggs](#) that the Board of Trustees move to In Camera at 11:01 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[012/2025 - Moved by Trustee Gibbons](#) that the Board of Trustees revert to a public meeting at 12:41 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

Trustee Gibbons adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

Chair

Date

Associate Superintendent,
Corporate Services

DRAFT