

Thinking back, looking forward

2013-2014 BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The 2013 to 2014 school year was the first year of the new Board of Trustees' mandate, which runs from 2013 to 2017. Driven by their commitment to providing high quality public education, Trustees had a busy year of advocating, strategizing and collaborating to support student success.

In consultation with staff, students, parents and community partners, Trustees developed the District's new Vision, Mission, Values and Priorities. The district Priorities provides a framework for all Edmonton Public Schools policies, plans and initiatives:

PRIORITY 1

Foster growth and success for every student by supporting their journey from early learning through high school completion and beyond.

- Supported the work of the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation which has raised over \$600,000 to support and sustain six full-day Kindergarten programs in areas with high social vulnerability
- Approved the 2014-2015 district budget which sets aside an equity fund to support student success and increases staff levels by 339 (full-time equivalent) to support rising student enrolment
- Attended professional development sessions to gain insight into best practices to support students in overcoming challenges stemming from poverty
- Supported the provincial government's goal to commit to a five-year plan to end child poverty.
- Endorsed the Early Childhood Mapping Project in support of early learning and healthy child development for students in all communities
- Agreed on the merits of developing of a plan to engage provincial and federal governments to provide the District with more resources to strengthen the liaison between First Nations schools and Edmonton Public Schools

PRIORITY 2

Provide welcoming, high quality learning and working environments.

- Approved the revised school year calendar pilot project, which makes a shift to district-wide professional development (PD) days and gives one additional day off in lieu for teachers for time invested in parent-teacher conferences
- Responded to enrolment growth in developing neighbourhoods by using \$5.8 million of Capital Reserve funds to ensure six freestanding (portable) modular classrooms at Bessie Nichols and Elizabeth Finch schools and 10 modular classrooms at Bessie Nichols, Elizabeth Finch, Brander Gardens, Bisset and Ellerslie schools were purchased
- Supported student and staff physical and mental well-being by approving Board Policy AEBC.BP Wellness of Students and Staff
- Allocated \$750,000 to install security cameras at 64 elementary schools, four elementary/junior high schools and eight junior high schools
- Partnered with Edmonton Catholic Schools to plan a joint bus service to improve efficiency and reduce ride times and costs
- Established an Infrastructure Committee to assist Trustees in making decisions that respond to the needs of students and the public relating to school buildings
- Approved the Three-Year Capital Plan which identifies and prioritizes District-wide needs for new school construction, modernizations and replacement schools

PRIORITY 3

Enhance public education through communication, engagement and partnerships.

- Approved a student representative to the Board for the 2014-2015 school year, to ensure student voice is part of decision-making, increase student engagement in board policy and planning functions, and educate students about democratic governance
- Developed a consultation process and participated in several rounds of public meetings to gather community feedback and determine the best way to accommodate students in new and mature neighbourhoods
- Collaborated with school councils to address key concerns and invited the community to give feedback on new policies, including Draft Board Policy CO.BP Fiscal Oversight and Accountability which provides a framework to ensure the fiscal integrity of the District

WHAT'S NEXT?

- New school construction/expansion, including:
 - Lewis Farms (7-9) in Webber Greens; Windermere (K-9) in Ambleside, Terwillegar Heights (K-9); Heritage Valley (K-6); Lillian Osbourne, 600 student space expansion (10-12)
- Continued community engagement to encourage the public's involvement in student success
- Continued advocacy for full-day Kindergarten
- Addressing infrastructure challenges
- Modernization project planning for Ross Sheppard, Vimy Ridge, Belgravia and the Alberta School for the Deaf



Our Vision, Mission and Priorities are a road map for our District. They clearly outline the key areas we will focus on to support student success over the next four years. A welcome addition to our Vision, Mission and Priorities are the Cornerstone Values. For us, these are more than just words on a page. We live and breathe these statements through our initiatives.

VISION

Transforming the learners of today into the leaders of tomorrow

MISSION

We inspire student success through high quality learning opportunities, supported by meaningfully engaged students, parents, staff and community.

VALUES

Supporting the Vision, Mission and Priorities are the District's cornerstone values of accountability, collaboration, equity and integrity.

DISTRICT PRIORITIES

2014-2018

1. Foster growth and success for every student by supporting their journey from early learning through high school completion and beyond.
2. Provide welcoming, high quality learning and working environments.
3. Enhance public education through communication, engagement and partnerships.

Visit the Board of Trustees' section on the district website at epsb.ca to learn more about how we are guiding the work of public education on behalf of our constituents.