

March 26, 2015

Mayor Don Iveson
City Hall, 2nd Floor
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Iveson,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton Public Schools, I would like to formally request that the City of Edmonton increase both education about school zones and enforcement of traffic violations near schools.

As a Board, we were pleased to see Edmonton reintroduce school zones on September 2, 2014. School zones are an important step toward making streets safer for our kids, but further education and additional enforcement are needed to ensure drivers respect the lower speed limit. Speeding and dangerous driving near schools are still frequent concerns we hear about from parents—concerns that are backed up by data.

On January 26, 2015, there were 1,065 violations recorded in thirteen different school zones—the highest number of single-day violations since enforcement of 30 km/h school zones began in November 2014. That's roughly one-third of the 3,515 violations seen in the entire month of November, when enforcement of schools zones was still new. These numbers show that the situation appears to be getting worse and clearly illustrate the need for additional traffic safety initiatives around schools.

When it comes to traffic safety, Edmonton Public Schools' top priority is making sure kids can get to and from school safely. We also want to be good community partners and ensure that streets around our schools are safe for students and neighbourhood residents.

We believe increased enforcement and education initiatives around school zones will lead to a number of positive outcomes, such as:

- increased safety for school-aged children
- increased safety for residents living near school zones
- increased safety on all Edmonton roads, as drivers adopt safer driving habits

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you further. Our District is eager to work in partnership with the City of Edmonton to keep our youngest citizens safe as they travel to and from school each day. School zones are an important part of making this happen. With extra education and enforcement, we can make Edmonton a safer city for everyone who lives, works and goes to school here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Janz", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Michael Janz
Board Chair