

Busy Fall! Big Decisions Looming! Stay Tuned!
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Fall is always brisk at Edmonton Public Schools with the start of school, reviewing our district-wide results (up in most areas -- wonderful), hosting evenings to applaud the stellar contributions and achievements of our students, parents, community members, and staff ...and the list goes on. This fall a couple of other items have been added into the mix!

School Act Review

It is expected that the Minister of Education will introduce new legislation to replace the current School Act in 2010. The Board's ideas for improvement revolve around three main themes: 1) The Need for a Definition of – and Support for -- Public Education (to include longstanding Edmonton Public values, such as local governance of education by elected trustees on behalf of the community, access for all students to quality education, choice, equity, respect for diversity, and the role of schools in citizenship and character development); 2) A Focus on Success for All Students, and 3) The Establishment of an Enabling Framework (rather the highly regulatory and restrictive framework currently in place). We asked for public input early in October and will be delivering our final thoughts to the Minister by October 30 as per his invitation. Stay tuned!

Preparing for Budget Reductions in 2010-11

Having received a rollback to its budget for the current year in early September, the Board anticipates major funding “tightening” for its 2010-11 Budget and is starting to prepare now. As it has done in the past, the Board is confident that it will make the necessary decisions to live within whatever means it is allocated by the province. But it won't be easy. On November 19 we will examine our fiscal realities as they relate to our key educational outcomes with our School Council reps. Within the overarching outcome goal of “success for all students,” what are the priorities? What creative ideas are there for handling budget cutbacks? If successful, we hope to repeat this town hall process with the broader community in the early winter. Again, stay tuned!

In the interim, if you have ideas to share on how we might deliver education differently or what priorities are at the top of your “must maintain” list, please let me know. You may also wish to express the view that education is “the” priority investment for the government. Find out more by visiting www.stopthecuts.ca.

Celebrating and Reviewing Ward H School Results

How, exactly, are our schools doing? Find out by joining Trustee Rice and/or Esslinger and me in our annual results review sessions for Ward H Schools. This review gives trustees a chance to celebrate the good work, ask questions about any challenges, and this year, to understand any impacts of the current budget cutbacks. Everyone is welcome. It's an eye-opener! Hope to see you there! Please contact me if you need directions to these schools or have questions about attending.

Friday, November 13 8:30 am @ location TBA (Earl Buxton, Greenfield, Harry Ainlay)

Friday, November 13, 10:30 am @ Westbrook (GP Nicholson, Steinhauer, Westbrook)

Friday, November 13, 1:30 pm @ DS MacKenzie (Brander Gardens, Brookside, DS MacKenzie, Duggan)

Monday, November 16, 8:30 am @ Riverbend (Riverbend, Sweet Grass, Vernon Barford)

Monday, November 16, 10:30 am @ Richard Secord (GH Luck, Keheewin, Lillian Osborne, Richard Secord)

(Rideau Park will be reviewed by an Assistant Superintendent this year.)