

Let's Dig Deeper! Join the Conversation on January 14, 2010!  
Catherine Ripley, Trustee, Edmonton Public Schools  
[Catherine.Ripley@epsb.ca](mailto:Catherine.Ripley@epsb.ca) or 780-887-1002

In May, at the end of a community conversation titled "Let's Talk the Future," participants identified 34 actions "we" ("the village") need to take to achieve the schools and community we want in 2030. "Make kids realize the importance of education and voicing opinions... Share and highlight success stories..." are a couple of the 34 ideas, which mainly fall into three themes: 1) Strengthen Families, 2) Improve Communication, 3) Enhance Innovative Citizenship Education.

Great conversation, great ideas, but now what?

I'm not sure! And so I invite you to dig deeper into these three themes with me on January 14, 2010, 7 pm, at Greenfield School. What is already being done in these areas? What can we celebrate? What else could we be doing? What can we work on together? What can we do in our own respective areas of work or influence? Please read the "Let's Talk the Future!" report on <http://catherineripley.ca> (under Ward Work) and then join the conversation on January 14th. Please RSVP by January 8.

In the interim, I am proud to share two examples of Edmonton Public Schools action that demonstrate that a couple of the stumbling blocks identified in May (namely, "working in separate silos" and "a lack of shared vision between school and community") are crumbling. The first example is Partners for Kids. The Partners for Kids group has been established for over 10 years and involves various social agencies and the district in working collectively to meet the needs of kids in the City Centre. The group recently committed to responding to a recommendation from the Mayor's Taskforce on Community Safety around expanding after-school programs. Great news!

The second example is a new sector review planning process launched this fall that invites all community members to develop a shared vision on the issue of using school space wisely in their part of the city. This input will assist the Board in making decisions about its buildings and long-term program planning. The initiative is being started in the City Centre and Hardisty areas, and eventually the southwest sector will be reviewed but not right now. For more detail, see <http://sectorreview.bangthetable.com/>

Questions? Fantastic ideas? Please contact me!