

Hello to all those on my “Insights” email list!

It’s now official. Last evening I, along with the other eight trustees, were sworn in, and now the real work begins! So, today, I am delighted to be writing to you as your new trustee for Ward H. First, thank you to all who supported me during the election. Second, I wish to reiterate my desire to serve you and to hear from you. All ideas and comments are welcomed at any time. My contact information is below.

UPDATE ON BOARD WORK TO DATE

As a new Board, we have already had some initial meetings to discuss common values and goals, and this work will ongoing until the end of January when we will finalize our goals as a Board and set priorities for the district – just in time for the creation of the 2008-089 budget. As of last evening, our new Board Chair is Bev Esslinger, and I have taken positions on the Board Evaluation and Community Relations Committees, plus I will be the alternate representative for Zone 2-3 of the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) that encompasses 29 school boards in north central and northeast Alberta, and the board representative on the ASBA Languages Education. In regard to district priorities, I will be back in touch with some questions once the District Priorities Committee has established an action plan for this work to take place in the very near future.

RESULTS REVIEW

In parallel with discussing and finalizing ideas and plans for the next three years, another major task on the Board’s calendar is to review the results of all the schools (specifically those in our own wards) and Central Services. These meetings are open to the public, and I ask you to consider putting one or more on YOUR calendar.

I would be delighted to have you join me, specifically, on the dates below, and then after the meeting, to share your thoughts on what you heard. As you will see, the scheduling is tight, so there won’t be time to chat for long in person on these dates, but I would be glad to either meet for a coffee or chat by phone at a later date.

THE INS AND OUTS OF FUNDRAISING

There will be a special “Parents as Partners” meeting on the topic of Fundraising on November 28 from 7-9 p.m. at the Centre for Education –open to all parents, staff and community members. You can see the complete details at this web page: <http://partners.epsb.ca/CF/index.cfm> I will be there and there will be a chance to discuss the fundraising topic in a ward breakout session after some initial presentations. Hope to see you there.

With best wishes,

Catherine

Catherine Ripley

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SCHEDULE

Monday, November 5, 8:30 – 10 a.m.
Schools Attending: Harry Ainlay, Keheewin, Richard Secord
Keheewin School, 1910 – 105 Street

Monday, November 5, 10:30 – Noon
Schools Attending: Rideau Park, Riverbend, Vernon Barford
Rideau Park School, 10605 – 42 Avenue

Monday, November 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Central Services (A.M. , all trustees: Superintendent's and Board Office, Consulting Services, Student Achievement and Assessment, Leadership Services; P.M. with Trustees Gibson and Gibeault: Technology, IT, Planning, Property Mgt, Transportation, Personnel, Professional Improvement, Information Security)

Tuesday, November 13, 8:30 – 10 a.m.
Schools attending: Brander Gardens, D.S. MacKenzie, Duggan, Earl Buxton
Brander Gardens School, 14865 – 56 Avenue

Tuesday, November 13, 10:30 – Noon
Schools attending: George H. Luck, George P. Nicholson, Greenfield
Greenfield School, 3735 – 114 Street

P.S. I will also be attending some results review sessions in Ward A (north central) on November 5 & 6 and Ward D (central) (November 7) and if you would like to join at those sessions, please let me know. Perhaps we can travel together.