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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Darrel Robertson

Centre for Education
1 Kingsway NW
Edmonton AB T5H 4G9
T 780-429-8000
F 780-429-8318
E info@epsb.ca

December 5, 2022

Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Education
204 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Honourable Kaycee Madu
Minister of Skilled Trades and
Professions
424 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Honourable Nathan Neudorf
Minister of Infrastructure
127 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Ministers LaGrange, Madu and Neudorf:

Invitation to tour Edmonton Public schools

The Board of Trustees would like to first of all thank you, Minister LaGrange, for your announcement at the recent Alberta School Boards Association meeting that public-private partnerships or P3 builds will no longer be the preferred method to build schools in Alberta. We appreciate you hearing the concerns from our Division related to the challenges we have experienced with P3 schools.

Edmonton Public Schools has a strong record of building schools on time and on budget using the integrated project delivery (IPD) model and we look forward to future school announcements that could rely upon our Division's expertise in capital project delivery.

As you are aware, our Division is one of the fastest growing school divisions in Alberta. This year we grew by almost 5,000 students. We are experiencing tremendous growth pressures in our schools; Division-wide we are at 80 per cent utilization. In the Southeast 2 sector, we are at 97.8 per cent utilization and in Southwest 1, we are at 91.9 per cent. According to our [10-Year Facilities Plan](#), we will soon be at 100 per cent or greater in three sectors.

We are forced to move additional schools to our lottery system, as they can no longer accommodate all the students within their neighbourhood accommodation area. We will have an additional two lottery schools next year, bringing the total to seven schools using the lottery system for pre-enrolment this spring. We are also running out of options for nearby schools to accommodate those who are unsuccessful in the lottery, meaning students are facing longer transportation times.

Our need for new schools is substantial, as we have discussed in previous meetings with you. We appreciate that Premier Smith's mandate letter to you, Minister LaGrange, mentioned working with the

Minister of Infrastructure to "develop a proposal to significantly increase the number of schools in our growing communities." Education with Edmonton Public Schools is in high demand by families, and we see this through the continued high pace of new student enrolment and resulting lottery and call-back lists.

In order to get a sense of the growth pressures we are facing and also to provide you with an opportunity to see some of the amazing things happening in our schools, we would be honoured if you could join us on a tour of some of our schools in the New Year.

Please contact Marilyn Johnman (780-429-8241, marilyn.johnman@epsb.ca) with mornings or afternoons that could work for you in mid-to-late February. If it's easiest for you to coordinate your calendars and let us know dates that work for all of you, please do so.

Sincerely,



Trisha Estabrooks
Board Chair

c. Darrel Robertson, Superintendent, Edmonton Public Schools