

DATE: November 7, 2023

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Dawn Hancock, Chair, Infrastructure Committee
Trustee Julie Kusiek, Infrastructure Committee
Trustee Sherri O’Keefe, Infrastructure Committee

SUBJECT: Infrastructure Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan

ORIGINATOR: Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations

RESOURCE STAFF: Roland Labbe, Cliff Richard, Christopher Wright

REFERENCE: [Trustees’ Handbook](#), Section 6.1.2 – Board Committees, Infrastructure Committee

ISSUE

The Infrastructure Committee is responsible for developing and presenting to the Board of Trustees an annual work plan. The Infrastructure Committee 2023-2024 work plan is being submitted for Board approval.

BACKGROUND

The Board of Trustees approved the formation of a Trustee Infrastructure Committee on April 10, 2014, to assist Trustees in further understanding the issues, impacts and next steps related to infrastructure over the course of their term. A Terms of Reference was developed and actions were informed through the development of an annual work plan. At their meetings on September 21 and October 27, 2023 the Infrastructure Committee developed the 2023-2024 work plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the Infrastructure Committee 2023-2024 work plan.

OPTIONS

Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:

1. Approve the proposed Infrastructure Committee 2023-2024 work plan.
2. Provide feedback and request changes be made to the work plan.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

Attachment I – Infrastructure Committee Terms of Reference
Attachment II – Infrastructure Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan

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Infrastructure Committee Terms of Reference

PURPOSE

The committee's purpose as outlined in the Terms of Reference is:

- Understand the impacts of infrastructure to students, families, communities, and the Division, both positive and negative.
- Assist Trustees in further understanding the issues, impacts and next steps related to infrastructure, over the course of their term.
- Recommend governance direction in matters related to the implementation of the Division's infrastructure strategy, as articulated through a suite of instruments including:
 - EA.BP Infrastructure Planning Principles
 - Student Accommodation Plan
 - Ten-Year Facilities Plan and Three-Year Capital Plan
 - Real Estate Strategy
 - Growth Control Model and Low Enrolment Program Model
 - Modular classroom plans and requests
 - Student transportation planning
 - Energy and Environment Strategy
- Advise and provide feedback on strategic infrastructure initiatives.
- Recommend governance direction in matters related to student transportation.
- Consider alternative funding approaches for school infrastructure and outline the feasibility of these approaches.
- Advocate for infrastructure and student transportation support through multiple interests such as the City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta and other school jurisdictions.

Terms of Reference

The Infrastructure Committee will assist Trustees in further understanding the issues, impacts and next steps related to infrastructure, over the course of their term.

Parameters

- All recommendations arising from the committee will be presented as a recommendation to the Board of Trustees at a public Board meeting.

Outcomes

- Recommendation(s) to the Board on advocacy and implementation of that advocacy to support the outcomes of the Infrastructure Strategy
- Increased level of public trust/confidence in the Board
- Increased awareness of current pressures and realities and a focus on issues related to infrastructure
- Broader community interest and involvement in the infrastructure development process

Infrastructure Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan

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ACTIVITIES

- Continue advocacy for funding for high-quality, adequate learning environments that keep pace for growing student enrolment, including sustainable, predictable infrastructure funding
 - Highlight the need for both new spaces and modernizations
 - Continue advocacy for incorporating space for mental health services within schools
 - Raise awareness of the benefits of making space within existing inventory or building new spaces to enhance career-focused programming
 - Bring attention to need for modularity, as well as a more transparent process for their acquisition
- Explore advocacy opportunities and supportive governance direction for environment-related infrastructure developments
 - Participate in the review of EA.BP Infrastructure Planning Principles, with an environmental active transportation lens
 - Follow up with federal government on proposed carbon tax strategy for school divisions
- Explore advocacy opportunities and governance around student transportation
 - Work in collaboration with the City of Edmonton and other partners to improve active transportation options for students and staff to Division buildings

ATTACHMENT II – Infrastructure Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan

- Champion improvements to the playground construction and renewal process
 - Work with the partners including parent groups, the City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta and advice of Division staff to streamline processes and overcome challenges to the current playground construction and renewal process
- Explore options for alternative infrastructure funding
 - Revisit, and update where necessary, the foundational work done by previous Infrastructure Committees
 - Collaborate with other metro school divisions to see if there is common ground for advocacy
- Recommend an implementation plan for Real Estate Strategy

SUPPORTING ACTIONS/INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM ADMINISTRATION

- Plans and reports as highlighted in the Purpose section above
- Periodic verbal updates on the Energy and Environment Strategy
- Updated information in the committee's Background Reading Google Folder

REQUESTED RESOURCES

- Continued support of the Infrastructure department and Director Board and Superintendent Relations
- No funding needs are anticipated at this time