

DATE: February 6, 2018

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Michael Janz

SUBJECT: Motion re: Transportation Funding, Regulations and Walk Limits

REFERENCE: [Trustees' Handbook – Section 5.2.2 – Notices of Motion](#)

ISSUE

Notice of motion was served at the January 23, 2018, Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

Our District is committed to using processes that are inclusive, transparent, responsive and accountable. When changes that affect families occur, we have a responsibility to ensure that families have enough information and time to make the choices that are best for them – and families have a right to expect this.

In June 2017, *Bill 1: An Act to Reduce School Fees* was passed. The changes to transportation funding, walk limits, instructional supply fees and reporting requirements had wide-reaching impacts for both school districts and the families and students they serve.

We welcome reduced fees for families and continually strive to ensure equitable access for all students. However, given the direction and timing of Bill 1, bus route changes, supply list revisions, and access to transportation changes had to be implemented without any consultation with families and at a time of year (summer) when the usual channels of communication with families were not available.

The Minister has signaled that further changes to reduce school fees are being contemplated. To this end, our Board has advocated to Alberta Education in the past year for:

- Language immersion programs to be included as designated schools for transportation purposes in the next iteration of school fee reductions.
- Walk limits that take into consideration the age of a student and the walkability of neighbourhoods.
- Consultation with families and school districts before any further changes are made.

Our District will begin our pre-enrolment process for 2018-2019 in March. We know that transportation options are an important factor when families are choosing programs and schools.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Edmonton Public School Board write a letter to the Provincial Government requesting that any changes to transportation funding, regulations, or walk limits, should be made no later than March 1, 2018, to allow school boards time for contingency planning with parents and provide clarity and fairness.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the recommendation.
2. Provide feedback and request changes to the recommendation for consideration.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation, the Board Chair will send a letter to the Minister of Education requesting that of any changes to transportation funding, regulations, or walk limits be made no later than March 1, 2018.

MJ:km