

September 4, 2020

Dear parents, guardians and families,

As we welcome students back to school, we want to provide you with an update about our School Resource Officer (SRO) program. In the spring, the Board of Trustees voted to formally conduct an external third-party research project on the program, which has police officers working and stationed inside some junior high and high schools across the city.

The Board also asked administration to look at alternative ways of how Edmonton Police Service could be involved with our schools while a formal review and research of the program is underway. When that review is complete the Board of Trustees, working with administration, will decide about the future of the SRO program in Edmonton Public Schools. We are committed to sharing the results of that review publicly.

Over the summer, staff within Edmonton Public Schools worked with Edmonton Police Service to develop an alternative to the School Resource Officer program.

A Youth Enhanced Deployment model was proposed. Our Superintendent, under his authority and with the Board's endorsement, has brought in this alternative to the School Resource Officers program for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board of Trustees was slated to vote on suspending the SRO program at the September 8 meeting. Given the SRO program will be replaced by an alternative model for this year, the motion to reconsider the vote to suspend the program will no longer take place.

Youth Enhanced Deployment Model

For the 2020-2021 school year, our Division will move ahead with the Youth Enhanced Deployment (YED) Model. The program will have officers who are trained to respond with youth. Officers will no longer be based in Edmonton Public Schools or assigned to specific schools. Officers will have community policing duties in addition to responding to calls involving youth.

The model will be part of schools for the 2020-2021 school year and we will be collaborating with the Edmonton Police Service to bring forward information later in the school year on the effectiveness of the model.

Keeping schools safe

Keeping schools safe is our shared responsibility. While your child may attend a school that has not had an SRO, we felt it was important for all of our families to be aware of this change. We are grateful to the Edmonton Police Service for co-creating a new solution to support our schools and our students as they return to school this year.

Sincerely,



Trisha Estabrooks
Board Chair



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools