

DATE: March 15, 2016

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Bridget Stirling

SUBJECT: Motion re Funding and Support for Syrian Students in Edmonton Public Schools

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

ISSUE

Notice of motion was served at the March 1, 2016, Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

The federal government has made clear its priorities regarding Syrian resettlement in Canada, which is now over 25,000 across Canada, more than 1,500 of whom are in Edmonton, Alberta. The majority of Syrian newcomers are families with several children under the age of 18, most of whom are attending or are expected to attend Edmonton Public Schools. Our District has excellent supports in place for students, both internally and with our community partners, but the large number of newcomers is placing additional demands on those resources.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees approve writing a letter of support requesting federal government funding and support for Syrian students in Edmonton Public Schools.

NEXT STEPS

A letter from the Board of Trustees will be sent to the Federal Government by March 31, 2016.

BS:sj