

DATE: April 11, 2017

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Michelle Draper

SUBJECT: Motion re Funding for Playgrounds - Government of Alberta 2020 Fiscal Plan

REFERENCE: [Trustees' Handbook – Section 5.2.2 – Notices of Motion](#)
[Government of Alberta Fiscal Plan – Page 42](#)

ISSUE

Notice of motion was served at the March 21, 2017, Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

Playtime contributes to a child's development and enhances learning. Playgrounds are an important asset of our schools and gathering place for communities. A 2015 Edmonton Sun article states, "Playgrounds are not a requirement for new school construction in Alberta, leaving area residents responsible for building them. It can take years for community leagues or parent groups to raise enough money to get the projects off the ground, even with access to grants from government." The article further explains, "Typically, parent groups liaise with school administration and community leagues to form a committee that seeks government grants and raises funds from the community before tendering the project. The entire process can take up to three years as it's hard work tackled by working parents and volunteers." Funding has been identified by the provincial government to support the construction of playgrounds alongside new schools. Additional funding could ensure playground construction occurs prior to the school opening and reduce the burden on parent fundraising.

Excerpt from the Government of Alberta 2020 Fiscal Plan:

The Government is committed to ensuring Alberta students have a quality education in order to learn, grow and succeed. The Capital Plan includes \$500 million for new school projects over the next four years, and an additional \$488 million for future school projects to start in 2018-19.

Additional funding of \$20 million will go towards playgrounds for new schools, which will provide a place for kids to explore and develop, and will benefit all families in the local community.

RECOMMENDATION

Be it resolved that the Edmonton Public School Board advocate for funding of playgrounds committed to in the Government of Alberta's 2020 Fiscal Plan that is proportional to the new schools announced.

NEXT STEPS

That a letter be sent to the Government of Alberta advocating for the proportional funding of playgrounds for new schools.

MD:sj