

DATE: April 25, 2017

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Nathan Ip

SUBJECT: Motion re Funding for the Design of Two High Schools

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

ISSUE

Notice of motion was served at the April 11, 2017, Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

According to the District High School Accommodation Framework presented to the Board of Trustees on February 14, 2017, student enrolment and the number of prospective high school students continue to grow at a significant pace. Assuming current demographic trends hold, the projected number of high school students will likely exceed the available space within the District by 2021-2022. Over the next decade, the District will require at least 8,000 additional spaces to accommodate the number of students, with enrolment expected to stabilize at 30,000. While the District is considering a number of strategies to ensure students are accommodated in the coming years, the construction of new high school buildings will be the only impactful solution to ease enrolment pressure across the city, particularly in growing areas of southwest and southeast Edmonton.

The projected shortfall of high school spaces by 2021 underscores the urgent need for new high schools to be funded by the provincial government. As it typically takes three years to complete the construction of a new high school building, the timing of any high school capital announcement can have a critical impact on whether the District is able to address the expected shortfall by 2021. Funding the design phase of two high schools this year would allow the District to realize efficiencies in the planning and design phases, avoid delays in construction once full high school funding is awarded, and ultimately ensure that the required spaces are available to accommodate students by 2021-2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees write to the Ministers of Education and Infrastructure requesting that funding be awarded for the design of two high schools this year, in advance of the next round of capital announcements.

NEXT STEPS

Prepare a letter for the Board Chair's signature, addressed to the Ministers of Education and Infrastructure, requesting that funding be awarded for the design of two high schools this year, in advance of the next round of capital announcements.

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