

DATE: February 28, 2017

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Michael Janz

SUBJECT: Motion re Delegation of Education Property Taxes

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

ISSUE

Notice of motion was served at the February 14, 2017, Board meeting.

RATIONALE

Many Albertans have the perception that where they designate their education property tax that it makes a financial difference. It does not, and this perception is problematic for many reasons.

1. As the province reviews amendments to the Modernized Municipal Government Act, it is an opportune time to request that education property tax be more transparent and more efficient. This would be a very simple and straightforward amendment that would reduce paperwork for municipalities and clarify the misconception that designation of education property tax makes a financial difference in the operational or capital funding provided to school boards.
2. In 1994, the provincial government removed taxation controls of school boards. Schools are funded on a per-pupil basis and the responsibility for resourcing schools resides with the provincial government. It is important to note that the designation of education taxes has no bearing on whether funding is increased or decreased. Education property taxes from across Alberta are collected by municipalities and then pooled into general revenue of the provincial government and allocated on a per student funding formula to individual school boards.
3. Designation of property tax does not have an impact on the Edmonton Public School enrolment process.
4. The designation of education property tax data does not inform capital planning decisions or influence the awarding of new schools.

Raising understanding about education funding with parents and communities is an important step in the District's advocacy for predictable and sustainable funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That, the Edmonton Public School Board advocate to the provincial government to eliminate the choice of designation of Education property taxes.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation; a letter be sent to the Minister of Education requesting the elimination of designating education property taxes and to advocate for predictable sustainable funding and new schools that aligns with the capital plan.

MJ:sj