

DATE: March 20, 2018

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Edmonton Student Transportation Authority (ESTA)

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Lorne Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE STAFF: Geoff Holmes, Christopher Wright

REFERENCE: January 23, 2018 Board Report – [Motion re: Joint Transportation Plan Feasibility](#)
January 23, 2018 Board Report – [Third Party Panel Study of Operational Services of School Jurisdictions](#)

ISSUE

Through motions in 2013 and 2014, the Board of Trustees requested that administration collaborate with the Edmonton Catholic Schools administration to explore the feasibility of establishing the Edmonton Student Transportation Authority (ESTA) in order to facilitate a shared student transportation system.

At the January 23, 2018, Board meeting, Trustees approved the motion, “That the Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees send a letter to the Edmonton Catholic School District Board of Trustees outlining our support for and the benefits of Edmonton Student Transportation Authority (ESTA) and request that they finalize their decision by March 15, 2018, in order to ensure that our districts can begin with Phase One of the joint busing initiative at the start of the 2018-2019 school year.”

BACKGROUND

On a broader scale, Edmonton Public Schools administration are currently engaged in collaborative initiatives with other jurisdictions, organizations and working committees in a range of areas to maximize Provincial education funding through the creation of shared efficiencies. This work is summarized in the January 23, 2018, Board report *Third Party Panel Study of Operational Services of School Jurisdictions*. The joint initiative in student transportation demonstrates how shared bussing will realize efficiencies in both service delivery and the expenditure of funds, ensuring financial resources provided for the education of students are maximized.

CURRENT SITUATION

Following the approved motion on January 23, 2018, student transportation administration from Edmonton Catholic Schools and Edmonton Public Schools jurisdictions met. The two parties are setting ESTA aside and pursuing a more informal shared transportation arrangement to expand shared bus routes and find efficiencies. Work is ongoing and administration has identified 20 routes where buses can be used by both jurisdictions effective September 2018. While students will ride separately, the busses operating these routes will be shared and the costs and efficiencies split between the parties.

KEY POINTS

- Nine of the 20 shared routes were implemented in September 2017. These shared routes will be maintained for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Eleven additional shared routes may be implemented in September 2018.
- To achieve the efficiencies, six Edmonton Public schools would need to shift their start time by 10 minutes.
- Engagement with stakeholders in these schools will commence immediately.
- Sharing these 20 routes with Edmonton Catholic Schools will result in savings, which will be shared equally between the two parties.
- District Transportation staff will continue to identify additional efficiencies through shared service with Edmonton Catholic Schools for September 2019.

GH:kk