

DATE: January 14, 2020

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Michael Janz

SUBJECT: Motion re: Class Size Reporting

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

ISSUE

Notice of motion was served at the November 26, 2019, Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

On October 24, 2019, Minister LaGrange changed the Alberta Education Funding Manual to no longer require school boards to report class size data.

RELATED FACTS

Knowledge is power. At Edmonton Public Schools, we take pride in our evidence-based decision making. Absent clear and consistent reporting tools, it is difficult to track and visualize the impact of funding to the classroom.

The previous Funding Manual required school jurisdictions to use an online reporting tool to consolidate their class size data and post their jurisdiction and school class size averages on their website by January 15th of each year. The Funding Manual issued on October 24th, 2019, no longer require school boards to report class size data. This change disarms accountability advocates of the evidence required to advocate against austerity and funding cuts.

Of greater concern is that funding for class size reductions was eliminated, resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars being cut from classrooms across Alberta. These cuts, combined with the other cuts in the government's 2019 budget, dramatically harm classroom education, especially in the context of greater growth as 15,000 students are added to Alberta classrooms.

What matters gets measured, and class size data is an imperfect metric of education funding across Alberta. Not having standardized reporting could be problematic, so the Board would be best to continue reporting in a consistent format that encourages other school boards and parents the ability to measure year over year averages.

RECOMMENDATION

That Edmonton Public Schools continue to collect and publish class size data consistent with previous reporting requirements by the Alberta government and report on this information annually at public Board meetings.

NEXT STEPS

Collaborate with the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) and the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) to advocate for common central reporting practices.

MJ:km