

DATE: June 23, 2020

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Michael Janz

SUBJECT: Motion re: Anti-racism and Curriculum Redesign

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

ISSUE

We need the provincial government to make explicit anti-racism outcomes in the new provincial curriculum.

BACKGROUND

The genesis of this motion was responding to parent feedback that school boards and the provincial government must collaborate on eliminating racism. We know racism exists in all our institutions, including our schools, and all of us have a role in working towards eliminating it. It is not enough to not be racist; we must explicitly be anti-racist and take an active role in standing up against racism. The new curriculum-- the prescription for what must be taught in all classrooms across Alberta-- is a perfect opportunity for action to create lasting societal change.

Furthermore, the motion advocates for funding, professional development, and anti-racism training for teachers.

We know that public education is the cornerstone of our democratic system and that eliminating systemic racism, hate and ignorance in our communities requires making anti-racism an explicit curricular outcome across Alberta. This is one of many approaches we need to take as a province and school boards play a key role in this. While it is unfortunate that the [UCP cut funding for anti-racism initiatives](#), supporting this motion and thus including anti-racism in the curriculum, could be seen as a win-win for them.

Over the last two years to better support students, staff, and families, Trustees have been engaging community advocates in a rewrite of our EPSB Multicultural Education policy using an anti-racist lens. Our Policy Committee will be engaging the broader community as part of the policy development process and sharing details this fall.

RECOMMENDATION

Be it resolved that the Edmonton Public School Board advocate for anti-racism to be included in the curriculum redesign by the provincial Ministry of Education to ensure consistent outcomes across Alberta towards the elimination of racism. Furthermore, that the Edmonton Public School Board advocate for funding from the province for professional development for staff and coursework for pre-service teacher training in the Division's post-secondary institutions to support the implementation of these outcomes in Alberta's curriculum.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the recommendations.
2. Provide feedback and request changes to the recommendations for approval.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Board Chair would write to the Minister of Education asking that anti-racism to be included in the curriculum redesign by the provincial Ministry of Education to ensure consistent outcomes across Alberta towards the elimination of racism.

The Board Chair would also write to the Minister of Education and Minister of Advanced Education asking that the province provide funding for professional development for school staff and coursework for pre-service teacher training in the Division's post-secondary institutions to support the implementation of these outcomes in Alberta's curriculum.

MJ:km