

DATE: April 19, 2022

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Kusiek

SUBJECT: Motion re: Funding to Support Ukrainian Refugee Students

REFERENCE: [Trustees' Handbook – Section 5.2.2 – Notices of Motion](#)
[Motion re: Funding and Support for Syrian Students at Edmonton Public Schools](#)
[Canada working to find out which Ukrainians fleeing Russia's war need most help: Fraser](#)
[Temporary 'homestays' in Canada could be a risky but necessary solution for Ukrainians fleeing war](#)
[Prime Minister Co-Convenes the Stand Up for Ukraine Pledging Event](#)

ISSUE

Trustee Kusiek served notice of motion at the April 5, 2022, Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The invasion has resulted in more than 4.2 million Ukrainians leaving the country and a quarter of the population displaced. Given the sizeable Ukrainian community in Edmonton and surrounding area, displaced families and refugees have already started to arrive here and many more are expected. Edmonton Public Schools anticipates that many of the newly arrived families will want to enrol their children in our schools.

Edmonton Public has a long history of welcoming refugee families into our school division. For example, in 2016, there were 520 Syrian refugee students who joined EPSB after fleeing civil war.

RELATED FACTS

Our Division has excellent supports in place for students, both internally and with our community partners, but a large influx of new students places additional demands on those resources. In addition, Provincial funding under the weighted moving average model does not accommodate funding for large fluctuations in student enrolment within a given year.

We know that students coming to Edmonton Public Schools, and particularly those arriving as refugees and adjusting to their new home, require support. While we will always do our best to welcome and support every student who comes to our schools, timely funding is an important tool to help Edmonton Public Schools provide that support.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Edmonton Public School Board advocate to the Province of Alberta for a per student special allocation granted immediately upon registration (retroactive to February 24, 2022) to support globally displaced children and refugee students being welcomed into our schools and that the Board advocate to the Government of Canada, requesting federal government funding and support for globally displaced children and refugee students in Edmonton Public Schools.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the recommendation as presented.
2. Provide feedback and request changes to the recommendation for approval.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of the motion, the Board Chair would write to Alberta's Minister of Education to advocate for a provincial per student special allocation of funding to support globally displaced children and refugee students and write to the federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to request support and funding for globally displaced children and refugee students being welcomed into Edmonton Public Schools.

JK:ca