

DATE: September 10, 2024

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Dawn Hancock, Chair, Infrastructure Committee
Trustee Julie Kusiek, Infrastructure Committee
Trustee Sherri O’Keefe, Infrastructure Committee

SUBJECT: Infrastructure Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan Summary

RESOURCE STAFF: Kim Holowatuk, Roland Labbe, Karen Mills, Carla Stolte, Cliff Richard, Christopher Wright

REFERENCE [Trustees’ Handbook](#), Section 6.1.2 – Board Committees, Infrastructure Committee

ISSUE

The Infrastructure Committee is responsible for developing and presenting to the Board of Trustees an annual work plan. This report summarizes the committee’s accomplishments over the past school year.

BACKGROUND

The Board of Trustees approved the formation of a Trustee Infrastructure Committee on April 10, 2014, to assist Trustees in further understanding the issues, impacts and next steps related to infrastructure over the course of their term. A Terms of Reference was developed and actions are informed through the development of an annual work plan. The Infrastructure Committee 2023-2024 work plan was approved at the November 7, 2023, Board meeting.

CURRENT SITUATION

The majority of the items on the 2023-2024 work plan have been completed. Advocacy for funding for high-quality, adequate learning environments that keep pace for growing student enrolment happened throughout the year through meetings with and letters to provincial Ministers and City officials, the committee’s input to the Three-Year Capital Plan and the sharing of an infrastructure fact sheet and slide presentation.

Following engagement with the provincial government, the options for alternative infrastructure funding model was significantly updated with a comprehensive plan addressing immediate-, interim- and long-term capital needs.

One of the committee’s most notable accomplishments is the update to the Real Estate Strategy values statement, which gives Administration a clear direction when recommending closed school sites and non-reserved sites as surplus.

Over time, building off previous committees’ work, a number of initiatives were identified and regular reporting to the Board of Trustees on infrastructure-related topics have been established as accountability measures. These include, but are not limited to, the documents listed below:

- 10-Year Facilities Plan

- Three-Year Capital Plan
- Energy and Environmental Strategy Update
- Transportation Update
- Student Accommodation Plan
- Operational Efficiencies Update
- Centre for Education Capital Plan
- Real Estate Strategy
- Playground Guide

Discussions with City Council around long-term city neighborhood planning and active transportation are yet to be scheduled, but can be planned through the Board chair and administration.

Given the completion of the work plan items and the significant number of reports on infrastructure-related issues that are regularly delivered to the Board, the committee recommended that the Infrastructure Committee be disestablished. That recommendation was approved at the May 28, 2024 Caucus meeting.

KEY POINTS

The Infrastructure Committee:

- completed the goals set out in their work plan
- reviewed the infrastructure-related reports delivered to the Board annually
- recommended the disestablishment of the Infrastructure Committee. This recommendation was approved at the May 28, 2024 Caucus meeting.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

Attachment I Infrastructure Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan

Attachment II Infrastructure Fact Sheet

DH:km

Infrastructure Committee 2023-2024 Work Plan

PURPOSE

The committee's purpose as outlined in the Terms of Reference is:

- Understand the impacts of infrastructure to students, families, communities, and the Division, both positive and negative.
- Assist Trustees in further understanding the issues, impacts and next steps related to infrastructure, over the course of their term.
- Recommend governance direction in matters related to the implementation of the Division's infrastructure strategy, as articulated through a suite of instruments including:
 - EA.BP Infrastructure Planning Principles
 - Student Accommodation Plan
 - Ten-Year Facilities Plan and Three-Year Capital Plan
 - Real Estate Strategy
 - Growth Control Model and Low Enrolment Program Model
 - Modular classroom plans and requests
 - Student transportation planning
 - Energy and Environment Strategy
- Advise and provide feedback on strategic infrastructure initiatives.
- Recommend governance direction in matters related to student transportation.
- Consider alternative funding approaches for school infrastructure and outline the feasibility of these approaches.
- Advocate for infrastructure and student transportation support through multiple interests such as the City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta and other school jurisdictions.

ACTIVITIES

- Continue advocacy for funding for high-quality, adequate learning environments that keep pace for growing student enrolment, including sustainable, predictable infrastructure funding
 - Highlight the need for both new spaces and modernizations
 - Continue advocacy for incorporating space for mental health services within schools
 - Raise awareness of the benefits of making space within existing inventory or building new spaces to enhance career-focused programming
 - Bring attention to need for modularity, as well as a more transparent process for their acquisition
- Explore advocacy opportunities and supportive governance direction for environment-related infrastructure developments
 - Participate in the review of EA.BP Infrastructure Planning Principles, with an environmental active transportation lens
 - Follow up with federal government on proposed carbon tax strategy for school divisions
- Explore advocacy opportunities and governance around student transportation
 - Work in collaboration with the City of Edmonton and other partners to improve active transportation options for students and staff to Division buildings

- Champion improvements to the playground construction and renewal process
 - Work with the partners including parent groups, the City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta and advice of Division staff to streamline processes and overcome challenges to the current playground construction and renewal process
- Explore options for alternative infrastructure funding
 - Revisit, and update where necessary, the foundational work done by previous Infrastructure Committees
 - Collaborate with other metro school divisions to see if there is common ground for advocacy
- Recommend an implementation plan for Real Estate Strategy

SUPPORTING ACTIONS/INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM ADMINISTRATION

- Plans and reports as highlighted in the Purpose section above
- Periodic verbal updates on the Energy and Environment Strategy
- Updated information in the committee's Background Reading Google Folder

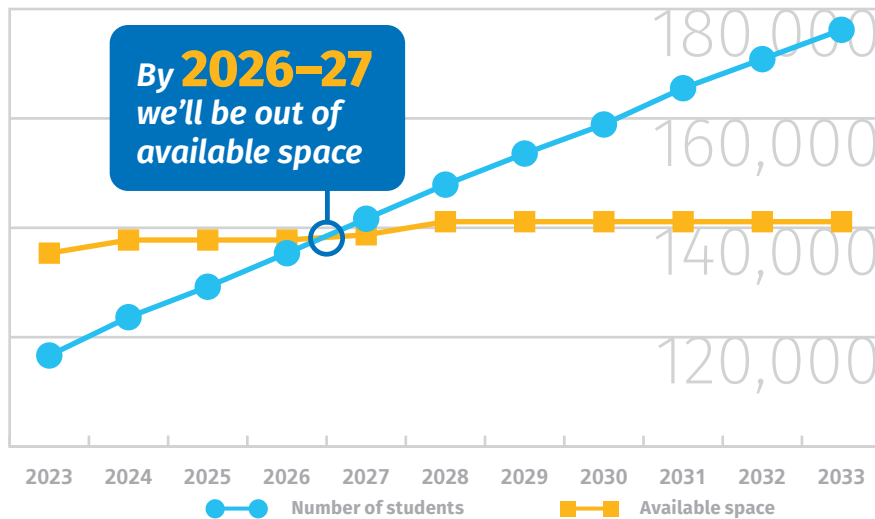
REQUESTED RESOURCES

- Continued support of the Infrastructure department and Director Board and Superintendent Relations
- No funding needs are anticipated at this time

Space to learn is critical to a good education.

Every year, more students enrol in Division schools. With this growth and few new school announcements, there is more pressure on existing school space.

Number of students vs. available space




It takes
3-5
years to
build and open
a new school.

When space is limited, so are parents' options.

As school space fills up, families will have fewer options when schools close boundaries and implement lotteries for registration.



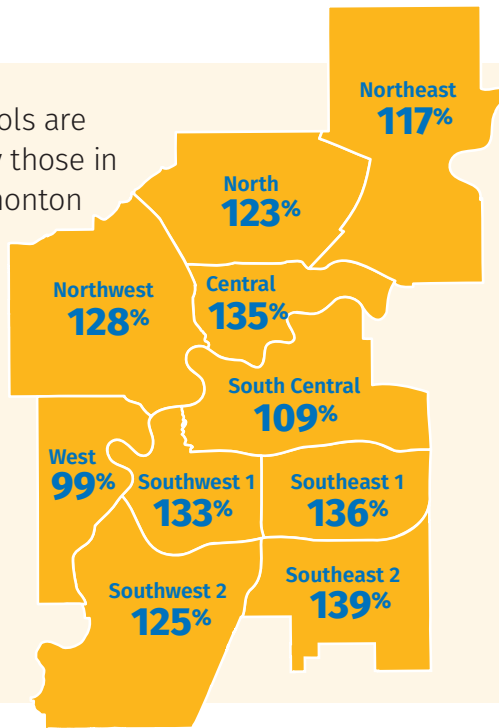
In 2024-25 there will be 7 lottery schools.



We introduced growth control measures in 2020. A **lottery system** is the final stage.

Many Division schools are filling up, especially those in growing, south Edmonton communities.

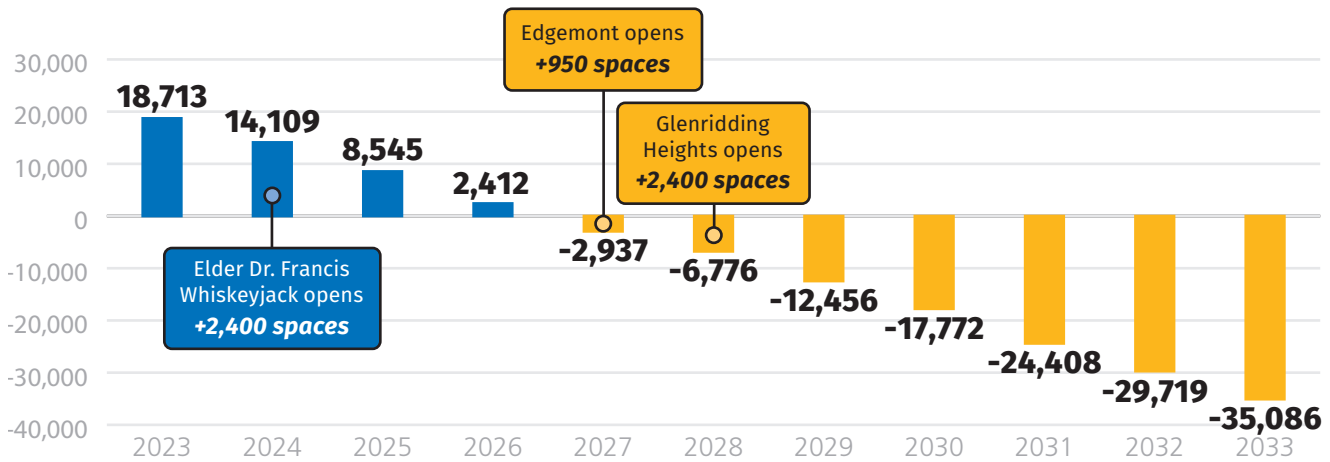
School space usage by 2033



When space is limited, schools prioritize classrooms, so:

- ✓ common areas that benefit students, such as learning commons and art rooms, are turned into full-time classrooms
- ✓ schools reclaim leased space from community partners, such as childcare providers

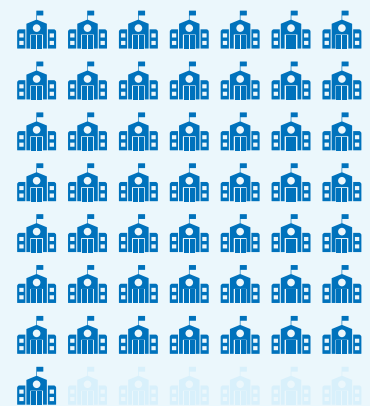
The **growth in Edmonton Public Schools** continues to **outpace the number of student spaces** being added.



By **2033** there will be almost **60,000 more students** than we have spaces for.

115,176 → **176,106**
 Students in 2023 Students in 2033

We need **50 new schools** in the next **10 years** to accommodate our growth.



Visit epsb.ca/schools/spaceforstudents for more information.

