

Date	September 15, 2026
To	Board of Trustees
From	Trustee Julie Kusiek
Subject	Motion re: Ward Map Review Including Options for Seven Wards or Nine Wards in 2029 Election
Originator	Trustee Julie Kusiek
Reference	<u>Education Act;</u> <u>Trustee Representation Ward H;</u> <u>Anticipated 2025 Election Costs RFI;</u> <u>2026 Response for Request for Information Trustee Election Costs;</u> <u>May 26, 2026 Recommendation Report to the Board of Trustees for 2026-2027 Budget;</u>

ISSUE

At the June 16, 2026 Board meeting, Trustee Julie Kusiek provided the following notice of motion:

Given that:

- There has been a 5% cut to Edmonton Public Schools' System Administration Grant provided by the Province that is used to fund the Board of Trustees, alongside other Division administrative functions,
- The duration of time required to complete a ward boundary review and subsequent bylaw changes is substantial,
- Edmonton has experienced rapid population growth over recent years, and
- Ward boundaries are regularly reviewed and the last changes to boundaries were made in 2021,

I provide notice of motion for Division Administration to prepare a report for the Board of Trustees that outlines updated ward boundary maps for the 2029 election with two options - one with seven wards and one with nine wards.

RECOMMENDATION

That Division Administration prepares a report for the Board of Trustees that outlines updated ward boundary maps for the 2029 election with two options - one with seven wards and one with nine wards - be approved.

BACKGROUND

Ward boundaries are regularly reviewed ahead of the election and no motion from the Board of Trustees is required for this review to take place. However, this motion is being brought forward to allow for discussion among Trustees as to whether the Board of Trustees would like to provide direction to Division

Administration to explore two options for a ward boundary review ahead of the 2029 Trustee election - one with nine wards and one with seven wards.

RELATED FACTS

- Ward boundaries are regularly reviewed based on a range of criteria including changes in population trends and school attendance areas.
- The ward boundaries for Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustee elections changed for the 2021 municipal election; those boundaries remained in place for the 2025 municipal election.
- In the 2021-2025 Trustee term, three Trustees resigned (one in 2023, two in early 2025) resulting in six Trustees taking on the work of all nine wards for the remainder of the term.
- Costs associated with the Board of Trustees, including elections, are allocated under the System Administration Grant. The System Administration Grant is a targeted, capped fund outlined in the Alberta Education Funding Manual. It is structured specifically to ensure that administrative spending is tightly regulated so that funding prioritizes the classroom.
- The Board is responsible for the effective and efficient stewardship of public funds.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

All other Metro Boards in Alberta have seven Trustees. This includes Calgary Board of Education, Edmonton Catholic School Division and Calgary Catholic School Division. Calgary Board of Education is Alberta's largest school division. Edmonton Public Schools is Alberta's second largest school division.

In the previous term, Edmonton Public School Board functioned for most of its term with just eight Trustees and for a portion of the last year with just six Trustees. All work continued to be completed at both the Board and Ward levels. Approving the recommendation allows for Administration to provide Trustees with two options when considering ward boundary reviews - an option with the status quo of nine Trustees and an option with a reduced number of Trustees to seven wards.

Defeating the recommendation means that Administration will still prepare a Ward Boundary Review, but with options pertaining to nine wards only. Trustees will not be provided an opportunity to reduce the system administration costs associated with an additional two Trustees.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of the recommendation, administration will prepare a Ward Boundary Review, including options for seven wards and nine wards. The report will also include information on bylaw update steps, timelines, and impacts to system administration costs due to changes in total Trustee remuneration levels should the number of wards be reduced.

JK: jk