

WARD A *vacant*  
WARD B Michelle Draper  
WARD C Shelagh Dunn  
WARD D Trisha Estabrooks  
WARD E Ken Gibson  
WARD F Michael Janz  
WARD G Bridget Stirling  
WARD H Nathan Ip  
WARD I Sherry Adams

Darrel Robertson

Centre for Education  
1 Kingsway NW  
Edmonton AB T5H 4G9

T 780-429-8000

F 780-429-8318

E [info@epsb.ca](mailto:info@epsb.ca)

April 23, 2021

Mayor Don Iveson  
City of Edmonton  
City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW  
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Iveson:

### Neighbourhood Park Development Program (NPDP) Funding

On April 13, 2021, our Board of Trustees received information relating to the City of Edmonton Neighbourhood Park Development Program (NPDP), particularly in relation to funding availability for playground development at Soraya Hafez School. In 2017, the Horse Hill Community League received the entire NPDP 'Extensive Project' funding level grant to develop a playground at Christ the King Catholic Elementary/Junior High School. Due to the current NPDP grant fund distribution model, the Soraya Hafez School site is not eligible for an 'Extensive Project' grant for McConachie until 2032. Our Board is concerned that the structure of the NPDP grant program does not provide equitable access to grant funding across city neighbourhoods, particularly in larger neighbourhoods where there are two or more school sites that could qualify for the highest 'Extensive Project' funding level.

The highest 'Extensive Project' funding level within the existing grant structure limits projects at this level to one per neighbourhood and does not recognize that neighbourhoods can fluctuate significantly in area and population. For example, the McConachie neighbourhood is similar in area to the combined neighbourhoods of Schonsee, Crystallina Nera East and Crystallina Nera West, located immediately west of McConachie. McConachie has been determined to be eligible for only one 'Extensive Project' funded playground while the other areas would be eligible for up to three, given they are considered to be three separate neighbourhoods. The neighbourhoods of Matt Berry and Hollick-Kenyon to the south of McConachie are also roughly the same area and would be eligible for two 'Extensive Project' funding level projects.

The Board of Trustees is advocating for the City of Edmonton to reconsider limiting neighbourhoods the size of McConachie to one playground categorized as 'Extensive Project' eligible, particularly where multiple schools are proposed. Furthermore, our Board would like the City to reconsider limiting the NPDP funding available to Soraya Hafez School on the basis of equity, given the funding provided for the playground at Christ the King School.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I look forward to the results of your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Trisha Estabrooks  
Board Chair

- c. Michelle Draper, Trustee Edmonton Public School Board, Ward B
- Darrel Robertson, Superintendent, Edmonton School Division
- Aaron Paquette, Councillor, Ward 4
- Andre Corbould, City Manager, City of Edmonton
- Laura Cunningham-Shpeley, Executive Director, Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues

