

Newsletter No. 7, May 2026

Hello Ward D Community!

May flew by and now we have less than three weeks to the end of the 2025/2026 school year.

On May 13, 2026, the provincial government passed Bill 25 - An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act. Also on May 13, 2026, the Alberta government announced \$200 million to support the hiring of 1,400 more teachers across the province targeted at elementary and junior high schools. Edmonton Public Schools will receive funding for an additional 296 teachers.

Congratulations to the 20 student Michael A. Strembitsky Award of Excellence nominees recognized at the May 26, 2026 Board Meeting. A special congratulations to this year's winners:

- Eastglen's Elizabeth Wolde - Gold Medallion
- Dr. Anne Anderson's Chloe Ge - Silver Medallion
- Victoria's Alyx Goddard - Bronze Medallion

Important Dates in June

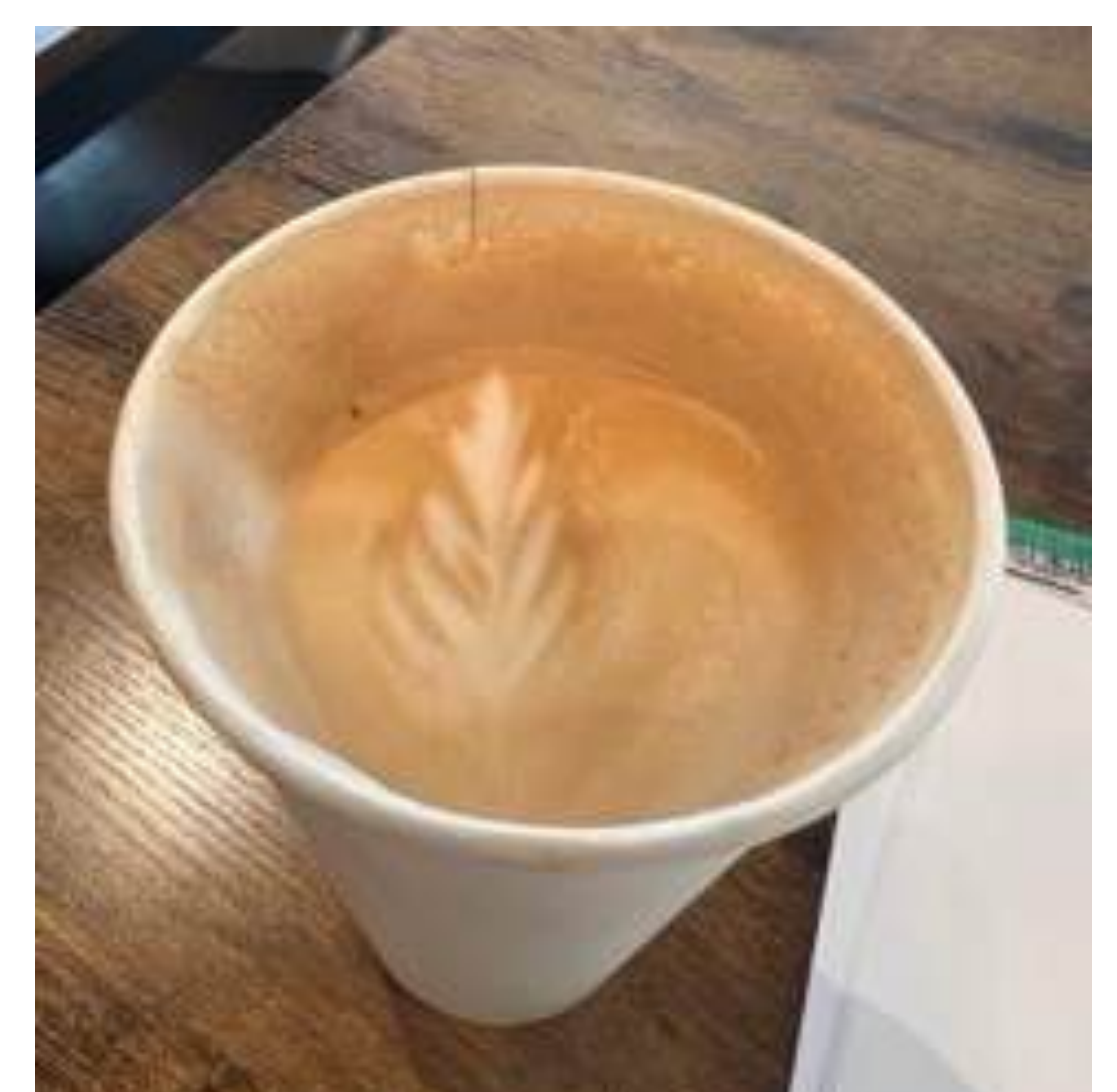
ANational Indigenous History Month and Pride Month

- June 9 - Board Meeting
- June 10 to 23 Alberta Education Diploma Exams
- June 15 - School Zone Survey closes
- June 16 - Board Meeting
- June 21 - National Indigenous People Day
- June 23 - LAST DAY of CLASSES
- June 24 - Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day
- June 27 - Canadian Multiculturalism Day

Beverly Heights Community League Inaugural Pride Celebration - June 27!

Activities start at 1 p.m., at the Beverly Heights Community League (4209 - 111 ave). This inaugural Pride Celebration, in support of Camp Dragonfly, will be a family friendly day of fun, including a silent auction and an all ages dance party at 6 p.m.

Happy to meet for
a coffee any time
- just send me an
email!





Out in the Community

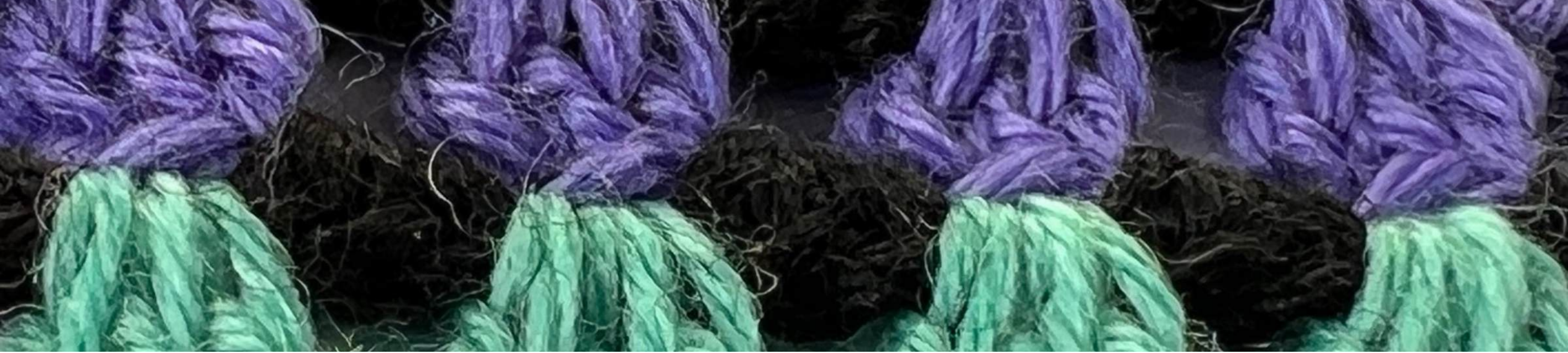
May, like April, was full of meaningful conversations across our schools and neighbourhoods. I'm very grateful to the school communities and groups that welcomed me and shared what is happening in their schools.

Highlights include visits to:

- Eastglen's Theatre Production of **Tick, Tick, Boom!**
- Ward D Council of School Councils
- Academy at King Edward
- Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton
- CUPE 474 Spring Party
- Beacon Heights School Council
- Public School Boards' Association of Alberta - Spring General Meeting
- Alberta School Boards Association - Spring General Meeting

Every visit reminds me how important strong, well-supported public education communities are.





Inside the Blue Building

The May Board meetings included several important reports and discussions.

At the **May 12 Board** meeting:

- Locally Developed Course, 23 subject areas, was approved for use in the division. The majority are high school course offerings that reflect the unique interests and needs of the school communities.
- Passed the motion:

“That Administration provides a recommendation report for the Board of Trustees’ consideration outlining objectives for public engagement with students, staff and family as to whether schools should continue to be required to provide instruction in a second language (in addition to English) in Grades 4 to 9 and support and encouragement to students to continue to build proficiency in a second language through the end of grade 12, as outlined in Board Policy GA.BP Student Programs of Study. Include a brief summary of Division considerations that informed these proposed engagement objectives.”

Attended **Diversity Day**, May 15, Edmonton Public Schools, in partnership with the Phoenix Society, hosted Diversity Day for high school students across the division. The theme was “One Vision, Many Voices-Students Unmuted”. Through a curated program of keynote speakers, interactive workshops, and collaborative breakout sessions, participants refined their leadership skills through the lens of Belonging, safety, voice, and unity.

At the **May 26 Board** meeting:

- Approved the 2026-30 Strategic Plan (See summary of engagement below)
- Approved the Four-Year Education Plan: Year one
- Approved the 2026-27 School Year Budget
- Passed the motion to Support the Policy Framework Review Project
- Discussed the Follow-up on Seclusion Reporting in the 2025 AERR





What I'm Hearing

This month, community members raised important concerns about:

- Mental health
- Bill 25 and Bill 28
- Infill and densification
- Supports for students with special needs
- Student Resource Officer program
- School Calendar

With support from Division staff, I am working to better understand these issues and explore possible solutions. Thank you for continuing to share your experiences. Your feedback helps guide the work I bring forward at the Board table.

I remain committed to staying connected with every school community in Ward D. I always welcome invitations to school council meetings, school events, tours, read to a classroom, and community conversations.

Looking Ahead

For the 2026 - 2027 school year, I will host three Ward D Council of School Councils - one each in October, February, and April. Thank you to everyone who joined the two Councils meeting this school year and a special shout out to Highlands School and Mc Nally School for hosting!

On June 10 I will be sending out two short surveys: one to the Ward D parent associations regarding fundraising and another open to everyone seeking feedback on my work as Trustee. Keep an eye out for these in emails, School Zone and social media.

Stay Connected

You can connect with me anytime:

- Email: trustee.nickela.anderson@epsb.ca
- Website: nickelaanderson.ca
- Office: 780-429-8079
- Social: @nickelaanderson
- Listening Survey: Available on [my website](#)
- [Sign up for emailed newsletters](#)

Thank you for your continued engagement and support. It is truly an honour to represent Ward D, and I look forward to continuing this work with you.

Warmly,
Nickela Anderson
Ward D Trustee

THANK YOU, SCHOOL COMMUNITY!



The Board of Trustees would like to extend a **massive thank you** to students, staff, families and the community for taking the time to complete the strategic plan survey.



11,900+
SURVEY RESPONSES
including over 1,000 open ended
comments to the final feedback.



Both the vision and mission
statements received average
scores of over **7.5** out of 10.



The final strategic plan and additional engagement results
will be shared at the **May 26, 2026**
public board meeting.

*Stay
Involved!*

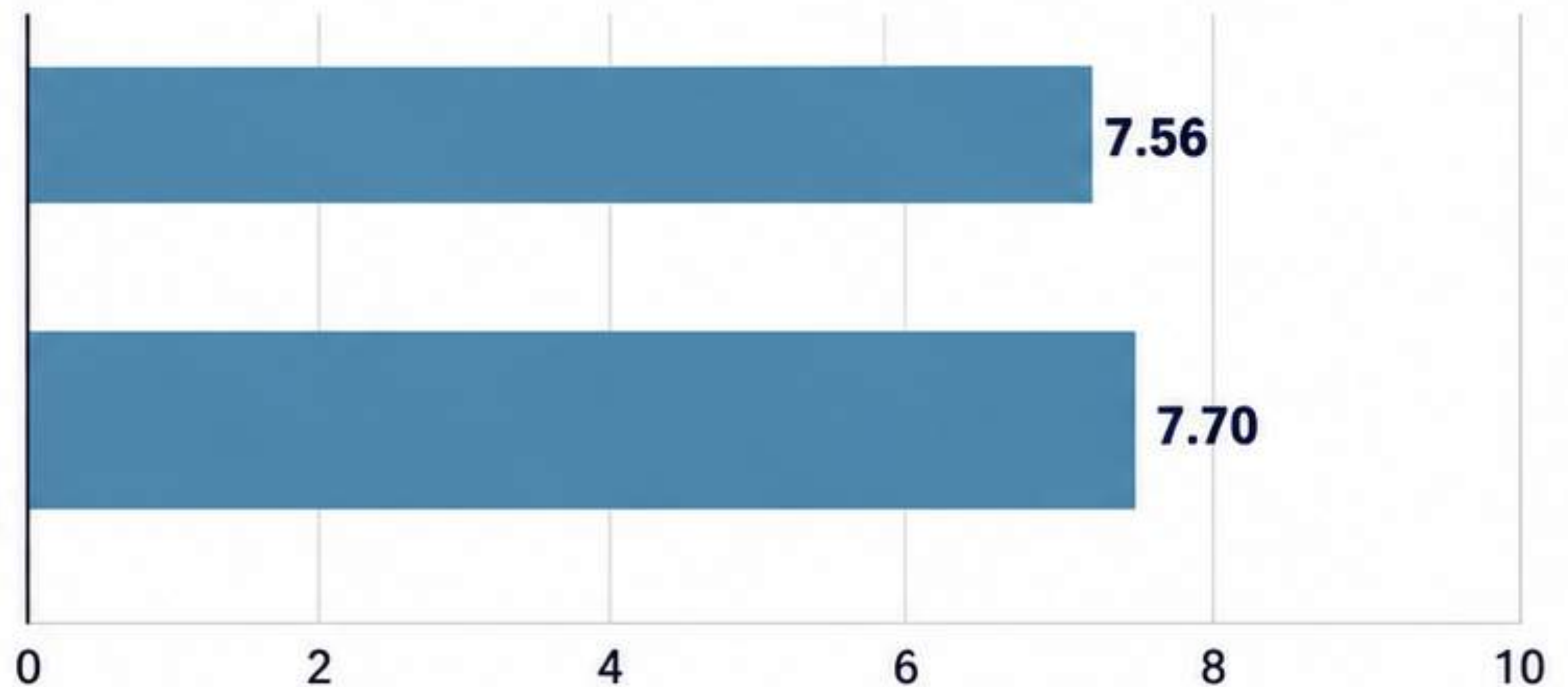
VISION AND MISSION: AVERAGE SCORE OUT OF 10



VISION: Students are
empowered to shape
their futures and
communities.



MISSION: We provide
high quality public education
that supports students to
develop academic success,
empathy, lifelong learning, and
critical thinking skills, and
social well-being.



 *Together, We Shape Brighter Futures.*



STRONG SCHOOLS.
STRONG COMMUNITY.
STRONG FUTURES.