



Ward D Trustee Newsletter No. 2

Greetings Ward D community,

As we return from the winter break, I hope you and your families were able to find moments of rest, connection, and joy. December was a month filled with events, gatherings, and festive cheer across our schools and communities.

No matter what you celebrated—Christmas, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Yalda, Dongzhi, or Yule—I want to reaffirm this: as your EPSB Trustee, I am committed to ensuring every student, family, and staff member feels **safe, welcomed, and celebrated** in our school communities.

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

December was an action-packed month in our schools and neighbourhoods. Thank you to all the schools that shared their day-to-day realities and welcomed me into your special events.

- **Riverdale Elementary School** and **Beacon Heights Elementary School** showcased their deep community roots, working alongside families and partners to foster belonging and opportunity for students.
- **Norwood Elementary School** highlighted the power of community partnerships through collaborations with EPCOR, United Way, and All in for Youth.
- **Delton Elementary School's Winter Carnival** brought laughter and togetherness.
- **Virginia Park Elementary School's Caroling** united us through music.
- **Eastglen High School's Makers Market** showcased student creativity and talent.
- **McNally High School's Holiday Pancake Breakfast** gathered community through food and friendship.

I also attended **Hold My Hand's online session on Standards for Special Education**, where parents shared their struggles, successes, and hopes for the future while supporting their diverse children.

INSIDE THE BLUE BUILDING

I attended the beginning of a working meeting of the **Student Senate**, where students shared updates on their work and offered thoughtful insights into their high school experiences.

Early in December, I participated in the **Division Leadership Meeting (DLM)** and the **Centre Day United Way fundraiser**, which was a tremendous success.

At the final board meeting of the year, we:

- Received a formal presentation from the Student Senate.
- Discussed and approved the [**Annual Education Results Report \(AERR\)**](#).
- Approved the 25/26 School Calendar (here's a link to a [printable version](#)).
- Approved the release of 24/25 school surplus funds back to school to create immediate change.

Full details of the board meeting can be found [here](#).

Division Recognition Night was a wonderful evening celebrating the incredible staff, parents, and community members who work tirelessly to support our students.

Congratulations Ward D recipients!

Recognition of Service Awards:

- Corey Whaley – Argyll Centre
- Stephan Rinn – Centre High Campus
- Heida Arnason – Windsor Park
- David Gurnett – Wîhkŵêntôwin School

Recognition of Teams Awards:

- Culinary Arts Cookie-Off Committee – Highlands School
- Highlands School Council and Parent Society – Highlands School

Recognition of Merit Award:

- Monica Dear – Virginia Park (and York) School

WHAT I'M HEARING

In December, constituents raised concerns about transportation challenges and aging infrastructure. With support from division staff, I am digging into these issues to better understand them and explore possible solutions.

Thank you for sharing your experiences—your feedback helps guide the work I bring forward.

I'm committed to staying connected to every school community in Ward D. I welcome invitations to attend school council meetings, school events, school tours and community conversations.

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

The province's budget survey is still open. <https://www.alberta.ca/budget-2026-survey> - consider adding your voice to this survey by January 15th.

KEY UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- January 10th, 2 - 4 pm: Public Interest Alberta, Edmonton Public Schools Advocacy Network, Save our Students, and YEG Parents Protecting Public Education are hosting a Provincial Day of Action For the Love of Education at Forest Heights Park
- **CANCELLED**: January 20th at 2pm, first board meeting of 2026 attend or watch the live stream on You Tube (details will be posted [here](#)).
- January 20th at 6:30 pm Forest Heights School Council meeting
- January 21st at 5:30 pm Abbott School Council meeting
- February 10th at 2pm Board meeting
- March 5th at 6:30 Ward D Council of School Councils meeting (details to sent out in the coming weeks)

Connect with me anytime!

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Survey: [Listening Survey](#) (also can be found on my website)

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

Warmly,

Nickela Anderson

Ward D Trustee