

Newsletter No. 8, June 2026

End of the School Year!

Congratulations to all—we made it to the end of the 2025–2026 school year.

This was an unprecedented school year for public education in Alberta. Few years have brought as many legislative, policy, labour, and operational changes to public education in such a short period of time.

In September, school staff were asked to implement amendments to the Education Act through Bill 27 regarding gender identity-related chosen names and pronouns, and Bill 29 regarding fairness in sports. These changes required significant work by school staff and generated many questions and concerns within school communities.

Staff were also required to review and remove materials from school and classroom libraries in response to Ministerial Order 034/2025, Standards for the Selection, Availability and Access of School Literary Materials. During the May 26, 2026 Public Board Meeting, I requested that Administration provide a report outlining the impacts these legislative and policy changes have had on students and schools across the Division.

On October 6, teachers across Alberta began strike action. Just days before I was sworn in as the Ward D Trustee, I attended proceedings at the Alberta Legislature as legislation was introduced affecting the collective bargaining process. The effects of this period continue to be felt throughout the education system.

In November, school staff collected extensive classroom data as part of the Government of Alberta's Classroom Complexity initiative. Then, in May, the Alberta Legislature passed Bill 25, An Act to Remove Politics from Classrooms. How this legislation will affect schools and classrooms is still being determined.

At the same time, there were positive developments. Overall funding for public education increased, and additional investments were announced to support classroom complexity teams, school infrastructure, and class size initiatives.

Despite the many changes and challenges, our schools remained focused on what matters most: supporting student learning, well-being, and success.

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





To Our Teachers and Staff

Thank you for your dedication, professionalism, and care throughout this extraordinary year. You navigated significant changes while continuing to create welcoming classrooms, build relationships with students, and provide meaningful learning opportunities every day. Your commitment to public education and to the success of every student does not go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do.

To Parents, Caregivers, and Families

Thank you for the countless ways you supported students and schools this year. Whether helping with homework, volunteering at events, serving on school councils, attending performances and celebrations, or simply encouraging your child through challenges, your involvement matters. Public education is strongest when schools and families work together, and your partnership helps students thrive.

To Our Students

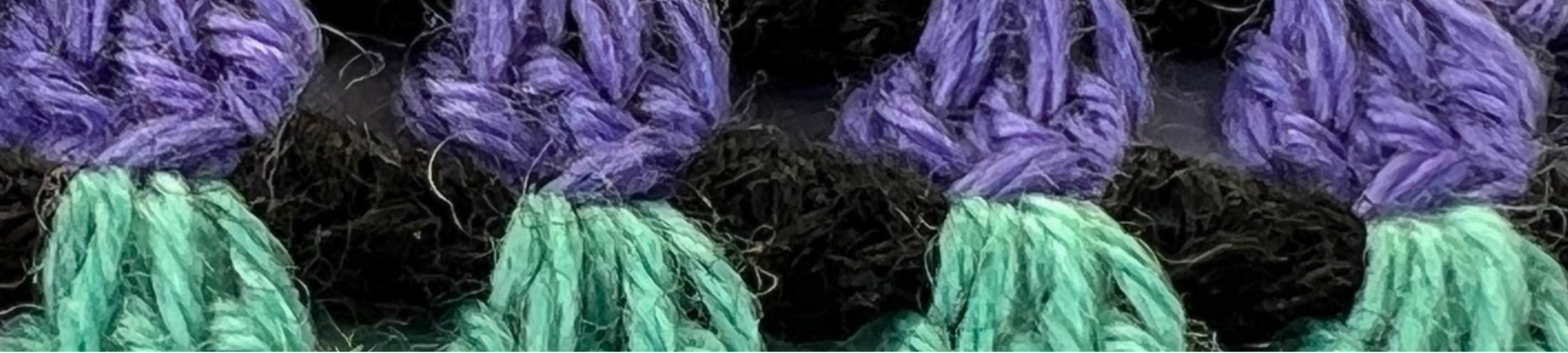
Congratulations on another successful school year! You demonstrated resilience, creativity, curiosity, and determination throughout the year. Whether you were learning to read, preparing for graduation, exploring new interests, competing in athletics, performing in the arts, or supporting your classmates, you helped make your school community stronger. I hope you take time this summer to celebrate your accomplishments and enjoy a well-deserved break.

Trustee Feedback Survey

I invite Ward D families, students, staff, and community members to share feedback on my work as your Trustee. Your input helps me better understand what is working well, where improvements can be made, and how I can best represent our communities.

The Feedback Survey is now available [here](#) and on my [website](#), remaining open throughout the summer. I encourage you to take a few minutes to complete it and share your thoughts.





Summer Break

This will be my final newsletter of the 2025–2026 school year. I will be taking a short break from publishing newsletters during July and August to recharge and prepare for the year ahead.

While there will be no newsletters over the summer, I will continue to monitor and respond to emails and remain available to support Ward D families and communities as needed.

I wish you and your family a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer.

A Few Important Dates:

- July 1 – Canada Day
- July 8–17 – K-Days
- August 5–9 – Edmonton Folk Music Festival
- August 28 – First Operational Day for EPSB Staff
- September 1 – First Day of Classes
- September 7 – Labour Day (Schools Closed)

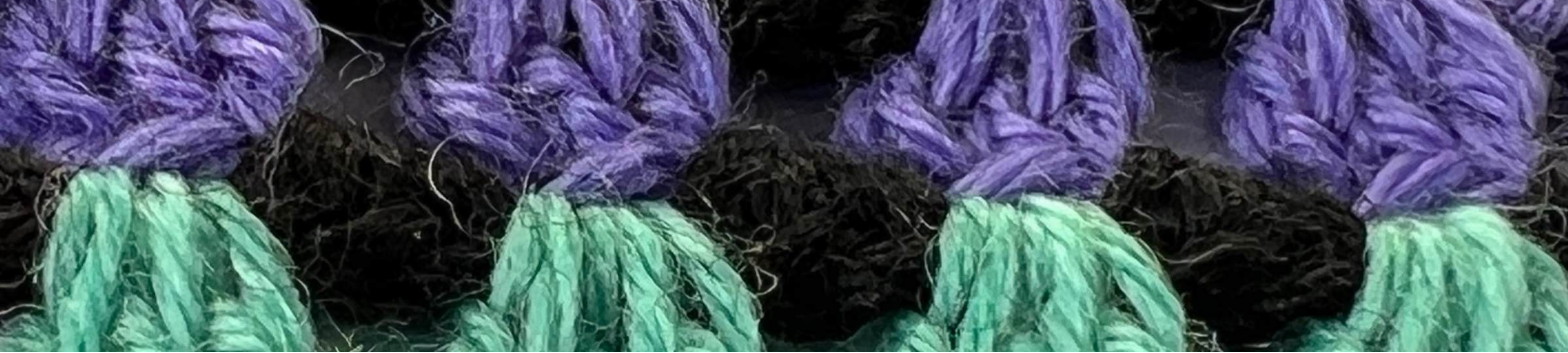
June Community Highlights

June was full of meaningful conversations across our schools and neighbourhoods. Highlights include:

- Celebrations at Garneau School for the Sciences Program and the Bike Bus,
- Wihkwentowin Cultural celebration and family event,
- Indigenous Student Convocation at Centre High,
- Highlandia,
- Mayor Pride Brunch,
- Conversation with the Edmonton Student Advocacy Association,
- Anti-hate training at Norquest,
- Beacon Heights Indigenous Healing Garden Blessing,
- Division Retirement Banquet,
- Delton Grade 6 Farewell,
- Alberta Youth Theatre Collective Gala,
- Eastglen Convocation,
- Video convocation greetings for Argyll Centre Students, and
- Old Scona Academic Convocation.



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



Inside the Blue Building

The June Board meetings included several important reports and discussions.

At the June 9 Board meeting:

- Student Senate 2025 – 26 Work Plan Summary
- Approved the 2026 – 27 Non-resident and the 2027 – 28 International Student Fees
- Approval of the Policy Framework review Project Plan and first reading of the revised Board Policy CH.BP Framework for policy Development and Review
- Presentation of the Policy Review Committee 2026 – 27 Work Plan & 2025-26 Work Plan Summary
- Reviewed and discussed the Belonging and Safety Division Data

At the June 16 Board meeting:

- Approved Locally Developed Courses
- Reviewed the Governance and Evaluation 2025-26 Work Plan Summary
- Approved the 2026 – 27 School Year Budget
- Delegation of Authority – 2026 Summer Recess

What I’m Hearing

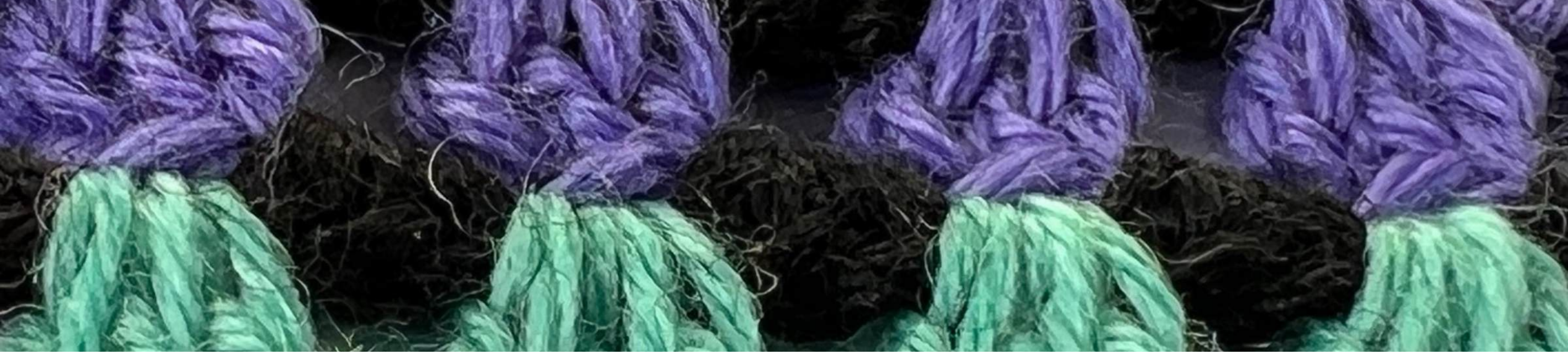
This month, community members, via email or at events, raised a variety important concerns and topics, including infill and densification, report cards, and cancellation of International Travel through the division.

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!



Stay Connected

You can reach me anytime:
 Email: trustee.nickela.anderson@epsb.ca
 Website: nickelaanderson.ca
 Office: 780-429-8079
 Social: @nickelaanderson
 Listening Survey: [Available on my website](#)

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

