

Newsletter No. 9, September 2026

Month One of the 2026/2027 School Year Done!

It’s hard to believe we’re already a month into the school year. September always seems to fly by as students, families and staff settle into new routines, reconnect with friends and colleagues, and settle into their rhythm for the year ahead.

As I’ve visited schools and connected with people in our community over the past few weeks, I’ve been reminded of just how much goes into making a school year successful. From teachers and support staff welcoming students back, to families navigating new routines, to the many people working behind the scenes—there are so many people who contribute to our students’ experience each day.

As your trustee, I’m looking forward to another year of listening and learning from our community. I value hearing what is working well, where there are challenges, and what you think we should be paying attention to around the Board table. I’ll use this newsletter to share some of that work with you, along with updates on issues that affect our schools and public education more broadly.

There is a lot happening already, and I’m looking forward to keeping you connected along the way. Thank you for being part of our school community, and here’s to a great year ahead!

Key October Dates:

- October 1–31 — Women’s History Month; Canadian Islamic History Month; German Heritage Month; Latin American Heritage Month
- October 5 — World Teachers’ Day
- **October 6 – Board of Trustee Meeting starting at 2 pm**
- October 10 — World Mental Health Day
- October 12 — Thanksgiving Day — No School
- October 19 – No School, Professional Developement Day & Alberta Provincial Referrendum
- October 19–25 — National School Bus Safety Week
- **October 21 – Drop in for a coffee and chat at Felice cafe, 6:30, 10930 84st**
- Oct 23 – Take Back the Night March 6 p.m. Whyte Ave
- October 31 — Halloween

A special note for the Beacon Heights and surround communities, there will be a neighbourhood renewal engagement on Thursday, October 8, 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Beacon Heights School. An online survey can be found on the project page edmonton.ca/BuildingBeaconHeights (closing Oct 15).



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



Trustee Feedback Survey

In late June I invited Ward D families, students, staff, and community members to share feedback on my work as your Trustee through a short survey. The survey was open till September 11th. Thank you to the 49 people who took the time to respond and share your thoughts with me. Your input helps me better understand what is working well, where improvements can be made, and how I can best represent our communities.

A few highlights are:

- 72.5% of respondents who rated my overall performance gave a rating of 4 or 5 out of 5.
- 54% indicated they were not very familiar or not familiar at all with the role and work of their school trustee.

These responses offer both encouragement and an important reminder: continuing to build awareness, strengthen communication, and create opportunities for meaningful engagement matters. I appreciate your honesty, your suggestions, and your continued interest in public education.

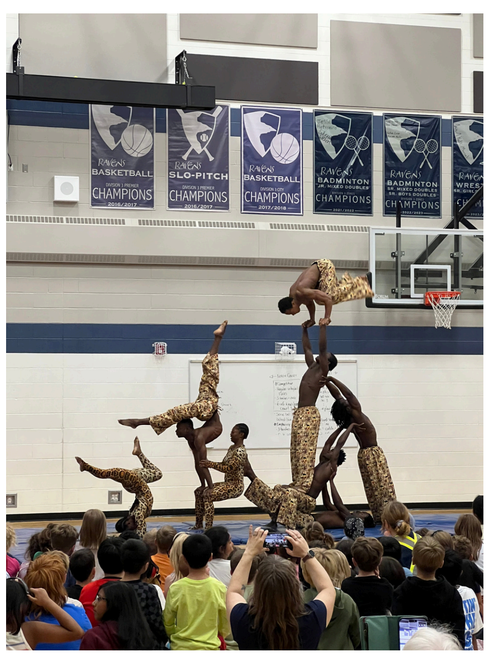
A Few Updates Coming Your Way

If you haven't had a chance to read my recent Bill 25 update, I encourage you to take a look. There are some significant changes underway, and I'll continue to share what I'm learning and how I'm thinking about the implications for our public education system and our role as trustees.

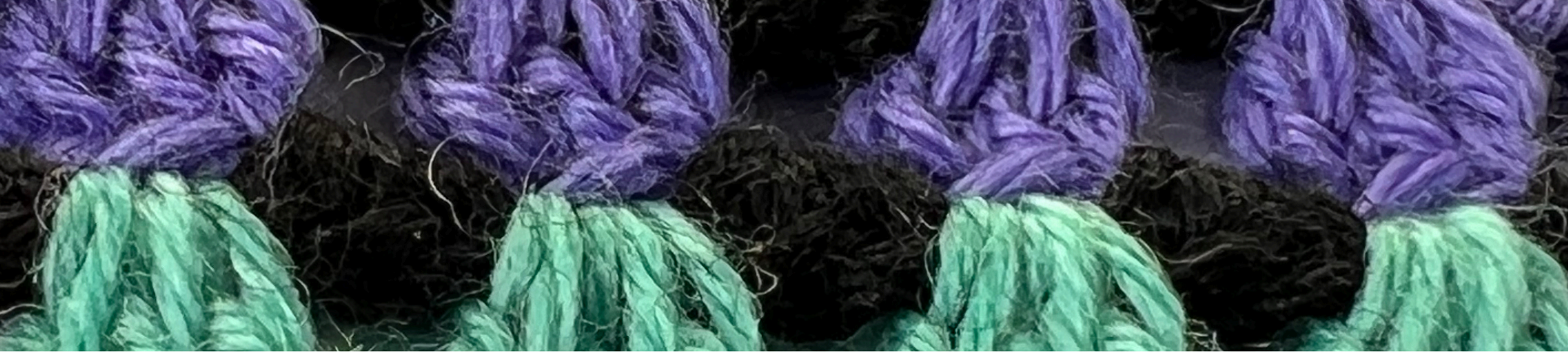
I'll also be putting together a separate newsletter about the upcoming Alberta referendum on October 19. There is a lot of information circulating, and I want to provide a place where you can find some straightforward information about the referendum, the questions being asked, and resources to help you learn more.

As always, my goal with these newsletters is to keep the conversation going, share what I can from my perspective as your trustee, and make it easier for you to stay informed and engaged.









September Community Highlights

- Volunteered at the Edmonton District Labour Council's 35th annual BBQ in the McClauley Neighbourhood
- Attended the Highlands School Welcome Back BBQ
- Stopped by the Al-Ameen Mosque Community BBQ - Celebrating thier 25th anniversary
- Engaged with the North Central Community League at their quarterly meeting
- Checked out the Kalabenti Performance at Highlands School
- Attended several community league day events, including:
  - Highlands Pancake breakfast
  - Wîhkwentowin Lawn Sale
  - Bellevue BBQ
- Attended AMA's 'A Road Well Travelled', celebrating 100 years. This is a free exhibit and worth checking out, find more information here
- Celebrated the opening of the Norwood School playground
- Popped by the CUPE 3550 Open House, celebrating a refresh of their office space
- Enjoyed music and art at Edmonton Student Advocacy Association (ESAA) fundraiser for Care Closests.
- Attended the first Edmonton Public School Advocacy Network
- Joined in the division's Truth and Reconcilation Event

Inside the Blue Building

The September Board meeting included several important reports and discussions.

At the Septemebr 15 Board meeting:

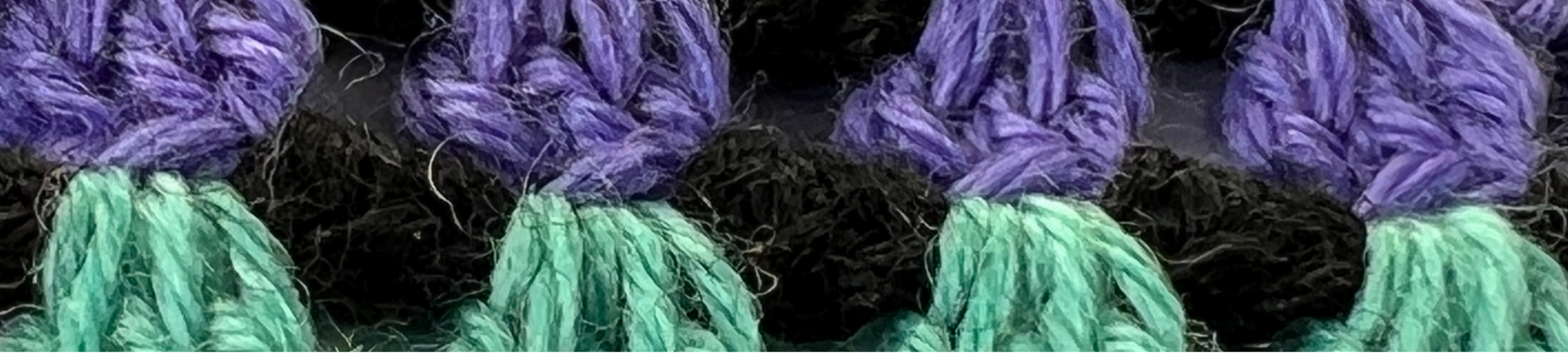
- At the September 15, 2026 Board meeting, Trustees approved the proposed process timelines for the 2025–26 Results Review, outlining how school-level results will be reviewed. This document outlines the who, what, where and when for Trustees' school level reviews of results for the 2025-2026 school year.
- The Ward Map Review has been deferred to the October 6 meeting, where questions and debate will resume on options for 7 or 9 wards. An amendment has also been proposed to include 11 wards and consider boundaries that align with other levels of government.
- Trustee Doll also provided notice of a motion asking the Policy Review Committee to review relevant Board policies in relation to every child's right to education under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. A recommendation report and vote will take place October 6.











What I’m Hearing
Over the summer and through September, community members, via email or at events, raised a variety important concerns and topics, including access to education, enrollment, playground building, and new school buildings.

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.

Connecting with Constiuents and School Communities
On Wednesday, October 21, stop by Felice Cafe starting at 6:30 p.m. for a coffee chat with your trustee. I’ll be hanging out till 8:30 p.m., pop in to discuss any top of mind issues or ideas.

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. I am currently organizing a Council of School Councils for mid to late Novemeber. Once details are confirmed information will be shared.

Staying 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



