

# Newsletter No. 6, April 2026

## Hello Ward D Community!

Finally some spring weather seems to be settling. It's hard to believe there is just over 7 weeks (or 33 school days) left in the 2025/2026 school year. I would like to extend a thank you to all students, staff, family and community members who took the time to complete our strategic plan survey - your input was impactful!

In late March the provincial government introduced Bill 25 - An Act to remove politics and ideology from classrooms and amend the education act. There is still time to write to me or your Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) about this bill. It is expected to pass third reading in the first week of May. You can learn more about Bill 25 in my [special issue newsletter](#).

At the end of February, the provincial government tabled its budget in the Alberta Legislature. Edmonton Public Schools Board (EPSB) has received its funding profile. Several key funding grants were increased, however with changes to maintenance and administration funding the overall increase for EPSB works out to a 0.7% increase.

Congratulations to Francisco Gaviria, Forest Heights School, and Tamara Franko, Virginia Park School, on their principal confirmations!

Delton School Replacement construction is set to start this spring! Stay up-to-date on the project [here](#).

## Important Dates in May

Asian Heritage Month - Canadian Jewish Heritage Month - Polish Heritage Month

- May 3 to 10 - Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6 - Ward B and Ward D Coffee, 6:30 at Roots of Columbia Coffee (5203 149 ave)
- May 7 - Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- May 9 - Helping Kids When Things Feel Hard (detail below)
- May 12 - Board Meeting
- May 13 - Ward D Coffee, 6:30 at Felice Cafe (10930 84 street)
- May 14 - Ward D School Councils meeting, 6:30 at Mc Nally (8440 105 ave)
- May 17 - International Day Against Homophobia, transphobia and Biphobia
- May 18 - No School, Victoria Day Long Weekend
- May 22 - International Day for Biological Diversity
- May 24 - National Accessibility Week
- May 26 - Board Meeting
- May 27 to 29 - No School

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





## Out in the Community

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:

- L.Y. Cairns School - tour
- Beacon Heights - Marvelous Machines Competition with students from Abbott School and Ivor Dent School
- McNally High School – Bike-a-thon Fundraiser
- École Wîhkwêntôwin – School Council meeting
- Highlands School –
  - Chermoosh Ukrainian Dance Presentation
  - Grade 6 and 9 presentation with MLA Janis Irwin
  - Culinary Arts Cookie - Off
- Caraway School - Yawarac Market
- Forest Heights School - Parent Engagement Night.

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





## Helping Kids When Things Feel Hard

Community Information Fair & Symposium Saturday May 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Stanley A. Milner (downtown) library.

“Curious about how kids handle feelings, friendship, and stress? Wondering about your child’s behaviour or ability to cope? Parents and caregivers are welcome to drop in to hear short talks from local experts and connect with organizations offering resources and services to support children of any age with diagnosed or undiagnosed needs. Find out more information [here](#).

## Inside the Blue Building

April Board meetings included several important reports and discussions.

At the **April 14** Board meeting:

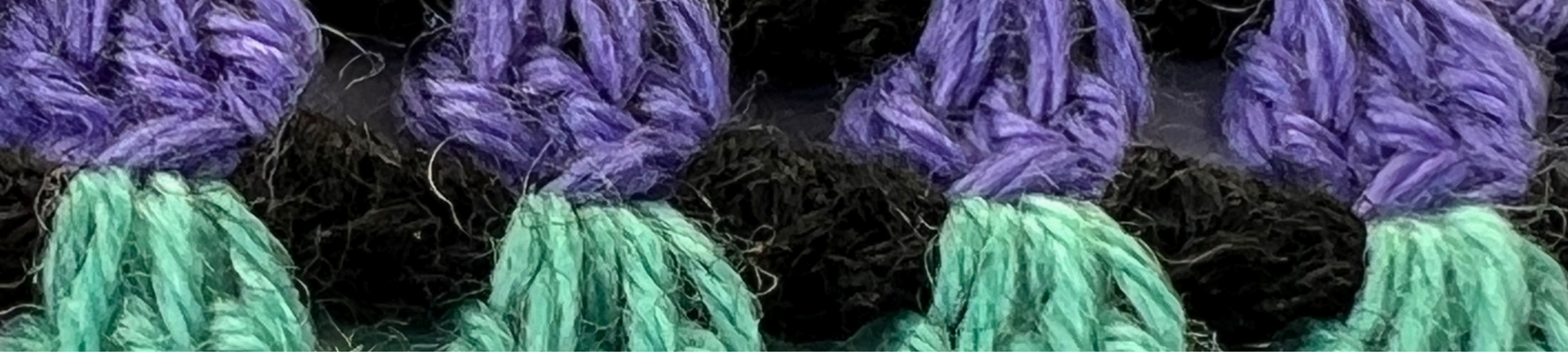
- Principal confirmations across the division were announced
- An omnibus Update to Board Policies regarding updates to privacy legislation was approved
- The 2026-2027 budget timeline and distribution of funds was approved
- The Three- Capital Plan 2027-30, was debated and an amended version was approved

At the **April 28** Board meeting:

- The request to revise the 2026-27 school calendar to change the October 13 Professional Learning day to October 19 to accommodate the provincial referendum on Oct 19 was debated and approved.
- The Division Energy and Environment Strategy Update was discussed

These reports are available on the Division website.





## What I'm Hearing

This month, community members raised important concerns about:

- Mental health
- Bill 25 and Bill 28
- Infill and densification
- Student enrolment pressures
- Yellow bus transportation
- Supports for students with special needs

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.

## Stay Connected

You can connect with me anytime:

- Email: [trustee.nickela.anderson@epsb.ca](mailto:trustee.nickela.anderson@epsb.ca)
- Website: [nickelaanderson.ca](http://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

Stress Releasing Chicken and  
eggs donated to Bids for Kids  
in support of the  
Edmonton Public School Foundation.  
Reach out if you are in need  
of a silent auction donation!

