

Newsletter No. 10, October 2026

We are already two months into the school year, and there has been no shortage of activity across our schools and communities!

One of the highlights of October was getting to take part in Read-In Week and spend time in classrooms celebrating the joy of reading. Thank you to the schools that welcomed me, not only during Read-In Week but also for school visits, events, and other opportunities to connect with students, staff, and families. I always appreciate being invited into your school communities and getting a closer look at the wonderful things happening across our division.

In this newsletter, I'll share some of the work happening at the Board level, along with updates on issues affecting our schools and public education more broadly. There is a lot happening, and I look forward to keeping you informed and connected along the way.

A Note About Legislative Updates:
You may notice a small change in how I share updates on provincial education legislation and policy. Rather than publishing separate special issues for every legislative development, I'll be incorporating regular updates into this monthly newsletter. This will allow me to provide a more consistent picture of what's happening across the provincial education landscape, what changes may mean for our schools and communities, and what I am continuing to monitor as your trustee.

When a significant issue warrants a deeper look or more timely communication, I'll still share a dedicated special issue.

Thank you for taking the time to stay engaged in our public education community!

Key November Dates:

- November 1–30 — Hindu Heritage Month and Lebanese Heritage Month
- **November 10 – Board of Trustees Meeting starting at 2 pm**
- November 11 — Remembrance Day – No School
- November 12 & 13 — Board Approved Non-Instructional Days — No School
- November 16 – Teacher Day in Lieu – No School
- November 19 – Ward D & G Council of Councils, 6:30 @ Hardisty School
- November 20 — National Child Day and Transgender Day of Remembrance
- **November 24 – Board of Trustees Meeting starting at 2 pm**
- November 28 - Constituent Coffee 9 am - 11 am @ The Columbian - Forest Heights (8204 106 Ave)

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





Provincial Education & Legislative Updates

There has been considerable legislative activity affecting Alberta's education system, and I want to make sure our school communities have opportunities to stay informed about what is changing and what it could mean for public education.

Bill 25 – Implementation Updates

The province has released the long-awaited Flag Display Regulation, which takes effect January 4, 2027. The regulation establishes which flags may be displayed on school property. While certain additional flags are permitted under specific circumstances, other displays will require ministerial approval.

These requirements introduce new responsibilities for school divisions that were not requested by our school communities. At the October 27 board meeting, I made a Request for Information that will support monitoring the operational implications and advocacy efforts for appropriate clarity and support for implementation.

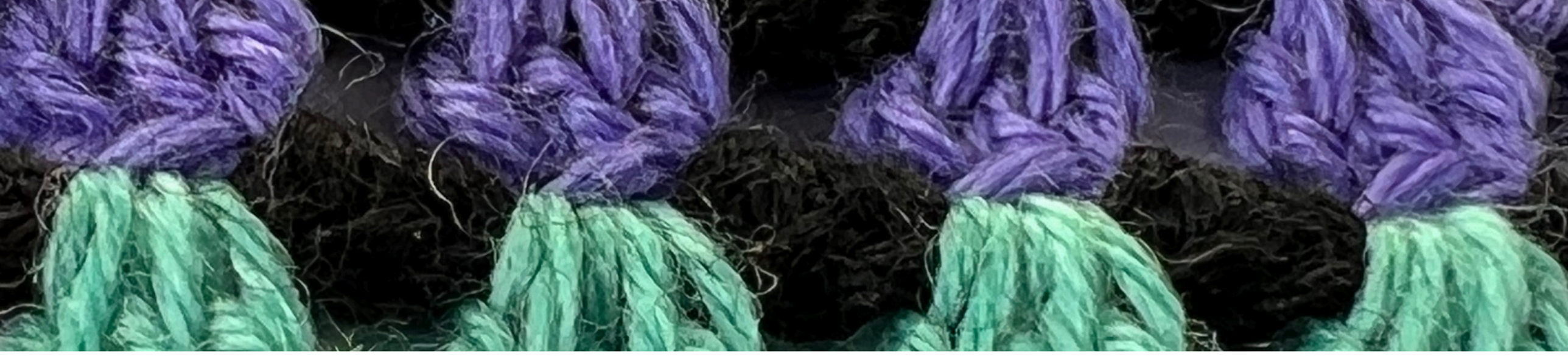
The province has also established its Provincial Strategic Priorities for Education, effective October 31. These identify three priorities for school authorities: strengthening foundational reading, writing and mathematics skills; focusing on academic mastery; and developing engaged citizens who understand democratic institutions. How these provincial priorities align with our locally established strategic priorities is under review.

New Legislation and Policy Developments

Bill 35, the Education and Childcare (Securing Parental Involvement) Statutes Amendment Act, 2026, was introduced October 29. Proposed changes include provincial report card standards, public reporting on professional development and other non-instructional days, and new processes for parents to raise unresolved concerns. These proposals are still moving through the legislative process.

Given the potential implications for school boards, educators, families and students, I will be taking a closer look at this legislation in a dedicated special issue to help explain what is being proposed, what it could mean for our school communities, and what questions remain.

The province also released a new Student Support Policy Framework on October 22. The framework provides guidance on identifying student needs and determining appropriate supports, with an emphasis on early identification and a needs-based approach. It is intended to support more consistent practices across Alberta while allowing school divisions to respond to their own communities.



What's Still to Come?

While several Bill 25 changes are now in place, additional regulations and implementation requirements are still forthcoming. By December 1, school authorities must update student codes of conduct to include the new statement prohibiting violence and reinforcing students' roles in preventing violence. Changes to the language around safe and caring school environments must also be reflected by this date. We are also expecting further provincial direction, including:

- A Ministerial Order establishing principles for school board trustee codes of conduct.
- Changes to the Teacher Code of Professional Conduct addressing objectivity, balanced perspectives and diverse student viewpoints.
- Provincial oversight regulations for naming and renaming public school buildings.

The province's current timeline identifies December 1, 2026, for the trustee and teacher conduct changes, while timelines for the remaining regulations are still to be determined.
I will continue to monitor these developments and share updates as further details become available.

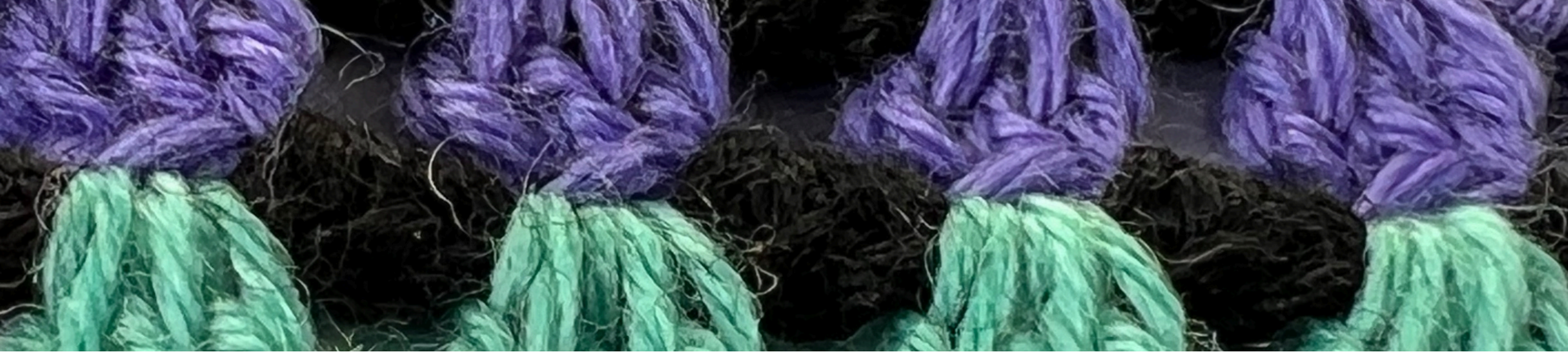
Inside the Blue Building

At the October 6 Board meeting:

- Trustee Linda Lindsey was confirmed as the Board's director to the provincial executive for the Alberta School Board Association (ASBA).
- The motion passed to direct the Policy Review Committee to complete an alignment review with recommendations to create alignment between Board policies and the United Nations Convention's Right of the Child to education.
- Board policy CH.BP Framework for Policy Development and Review passed second and third reading (details can be found here). The changes are the first part of a bigger project to clarify and streamline all board policies.

At the October 27 Board meeting:

- Received Trustee Kusiek’s resignation - we wish her all the best at her next chapter,
- Trustee Doll will be providing ward coverage while Trustee Hoffman is on medical leave,
- I submitted a Request for Information regarding the Flag Display Regulation to monitor operational costs, implications, and process impacts.
- Approved:
    - The motion to have administration prepare a report exploring ward boundaries for 7 or 9 wards,
    - The motion regarding the Joint Election Agreement with the City of Edmonton,
    - Board Policy CO.BP Fiscal Oversight and Accountability,
    - Ad Hoc Trustees’ Handbook Committee terms of Reference, 2026-27 Work Plan, and
    - The Caucus Committee Report.



October Community Highlights





- Read In Week
  - Delton
  - Rutherford
  - Beacon Heights
  - Garneau
  - Abbott
  - Highlands
  - Wihkwentowin
- Attended the Highlands Community League Meeting
- Stopped by RAYE Conference
- Attended the PSBAA Fall Annual General Meeting
- ASBA Zone meeting
- Take Back the Night March

What I’m Hearing

In October, community members, via email, raised a variety of important concerns and topics, including bussing, campus EPSB programs, 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 Constituents and School Communities

On Thursday, November 19, at 6:30 p.m. Chair Sumar and I will be hosting a Ward D and G Council of School Councils at Hardisy School. Please RSVP here if you wish to attend.

On Saturday, November 28, 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 always welcome invitations to school council meetings, school events, tours, read to a classroom, and community conversations.

Staying Connected

You can reach me anytime:
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Listening Survey: Available on my website

