

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 8, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Trustee Electoral Ward Boundaries
ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent
RESOURCE
STAFF: Michael Ediger, Lorne Parker, Anne Sherwood, Cindy Skolski

RECOMMENDATION

That the realignment of trustee electoral ward boundaries for Ward F and Ward H as outlined in Appendix II be approved.

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A trustee electoral ward realignment is proposed for the next general municipal election to be held on Monday, October 18, 2010. This realignment is to ensure that there is balanced electoral representation across the District. The realignment would shift the communities of Brander Gardens, Brookside, Bulyea Heights, Ramsay Heights and Rhatigan Ridge from Ward H to Ward F. Maps of the current and proposed alignments are attached (Appendices I and II).

A board motion and Ministerial approval is required to formally change the ward boundaries for electoral purposes. Ministerial approval must be obtained by March 1, 2010 in order to be implemented for the next general election.

In order for the City of Edmonton Elections Office to provide computerized compilation of electoral results, the public school board ward boundaries must conform to existing voting subdivision boundaries. The City of Edmonton has requested notification of ward boundary realignment prior to December 15, 2009.

Public Open House

A public open house took place on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at George H. Luck School. Parents/guardians of Brander Gardens, Brookside, Earl Buxton George H. Luck and Riverbend schools were invited in addition to Community League members.

There were two community members in attendance. Trustees Ripley and Fleming were also in attendance. The main concern was whether the ward boundary realignment would alter school attendance boundaries. This concern was shared by two other community members who did not attend the open house but contacted District staff by phone and email. Another concern was that the Riverbend-Terwillegar area would be split across two trustee electoral

wards by the proposed realignment and preferred that the Riverbend-Terwillegar area remain within one trustee electoral ward.

Current Trustee Electoral Ward Design Criteria as Passed by Board December 6, 1994; Amended November 7, 2006

The wards must:

1. have a resident population of public school supporters that is within +/- 15 per cent of the average for all wards (one ninth of the total district-wide public school supporting population);
2. reflect the potential for population growth or decline with the goal that school ward populations remain within +/- 15 per cent of the average through three municipal general elections;
3. encompass entire school attendance areas where possible;
4. be regular in shape, and be delineated by easily identifiable boundaries such as major roadways, railways, ravines, rivers, etcetera; and
5. ensure where possible that communities of common interests or characteristics are kept within the same ward.

A board motion is required to amend the current ward criteria.

Current Ward Boundaries

The data used to complete this review was provided by the City of Edmonton from the 2008 Municipal Census counts. This is the same data source the City of Edmonton used for the Municipal Ward Boundary Review. Due to a change in the census reporting process not all electors declared themselves as either public or separate supporters.

The data indicates the ‘balanced ward population’ criterion will not be met in 2010 in ward H (see table below).

| Current Ward Boundaries | Total City Population | Public Supporting Population | Difference from Optimum Public Population (+/- 15%) | Public Population Deviation |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| A | 101,249 | 68,706 | 4,383 | 6.81% |
| B | 90,268 | 64,503 | 180 | 0.28% |
| C | 73,980 | 58,110 | (6,213) | -9.66% |
| D | 72,600 | 58,086 | (6,237) | -9.70% |
| E | 75,742 | 56,036 | (8,287) | -12.88% |
| F | 71,123 | 61,566 | (2,757) | -4.29% |
| G | 88,087 | 70,869 | 6,546 | 10.18% |
| H | 100,915 | 79,656 | 15,333 | 23.84% |
| I | 78,448 | 61,380 | (2,943) | -4.58% |
| Total Population | 752,412 | 578,912 | | |
| Ward Average | 83,601 | 64,323 | | |

Population Deviation with the No response as 100 per cent Public Support

Potential Realignment

To meet the current criteria, voting subdivisions 506 (Brander Gardens), 507 (Brookside) 517 (Bulyea Heights), 519 (Rhatigan Ridge) and 518 (Ramsay Heights) could be moved from Ward H to Ward F. This area is north of Rabbit Hill Road, west of Whitemud Creek and east of the Saskatchewan River. This realignment would bring all nine wards back into the +/- 15 per cent range and provide flexibility for future population growth in Ward H.

| Current Ward Boundaries | Total City Population | Public Supporting Population | Difference from Optimum Public Population (+/- 15%) | Public Population Deviation |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| A | 101,249 | 68,706 | 4,383 | 6.81 % |
| B | 90,268 | 64,503 | 180 | 0.28 % |
| C | 73,980 | 58,110 | (6,213) | -9.66 % |
| D | 72,600 | 58,086 | (6,237) | -9.70 % |
| E | 75,742 | 56,036 | (8,287) | -12.88 % |
| F | 86,077 | 73,320 | 8,997 | 13.99 % |
| G | 88,087 | 70,869 | 6,546 | 10.18 % |
| H | 85,961 | 67,902 | 3,579 | 5.56 % |
| I | 78,448 | 61,380 | (2,943) | -4.58 % |
| Total Population | 752,412 | 578,912 | | |
| Ward Average | 83,601 | 64,323 | | |

Population Deviation with the No response as 100 percent Public Support

History of Trustee Wards

Prior to 1989, all public and separate school trustees were elected city-wide. In 1989 the Minister of Education required trustees to be elected by wards. Nine public and seven separate school trustees were elected from within the existing City of Edmonton's six ward system. For the Edmonton Public School Board, the highest vote recipient from each of the six wards was elected, along with the second highest vote recipient in three of the six wards.

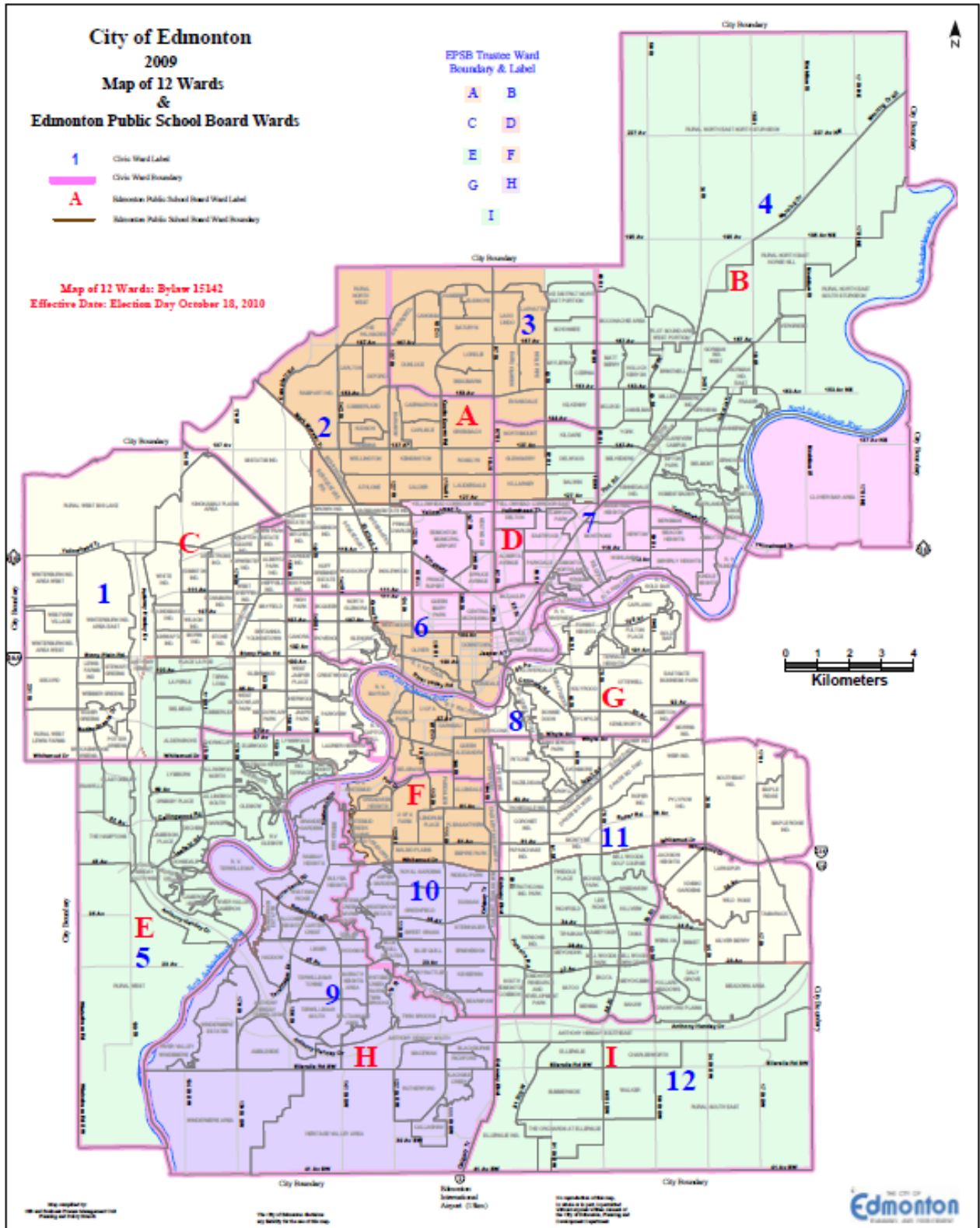
In 1995, nine public school trustee electoral wards were implemented which were distinct from municipal wards. Boundary alignments were chosen in order to distribute future urban growth and to ensure that the ward populations would remain within a +/- 10 per cent of average public school supporting population for at least three elections. Wards were designed on the basis of achieving a balance of total public school supporting population among wards as a priority over seeking to achieve a balance in the number of schools or students within a ward. The potential for population growth or decline within each ward was also considered. In November 2006, a motion was passed by the Board to amend the trustee electoral ward design criteria to have a balance of ward population of +/- 15 per cent.

CS:gm

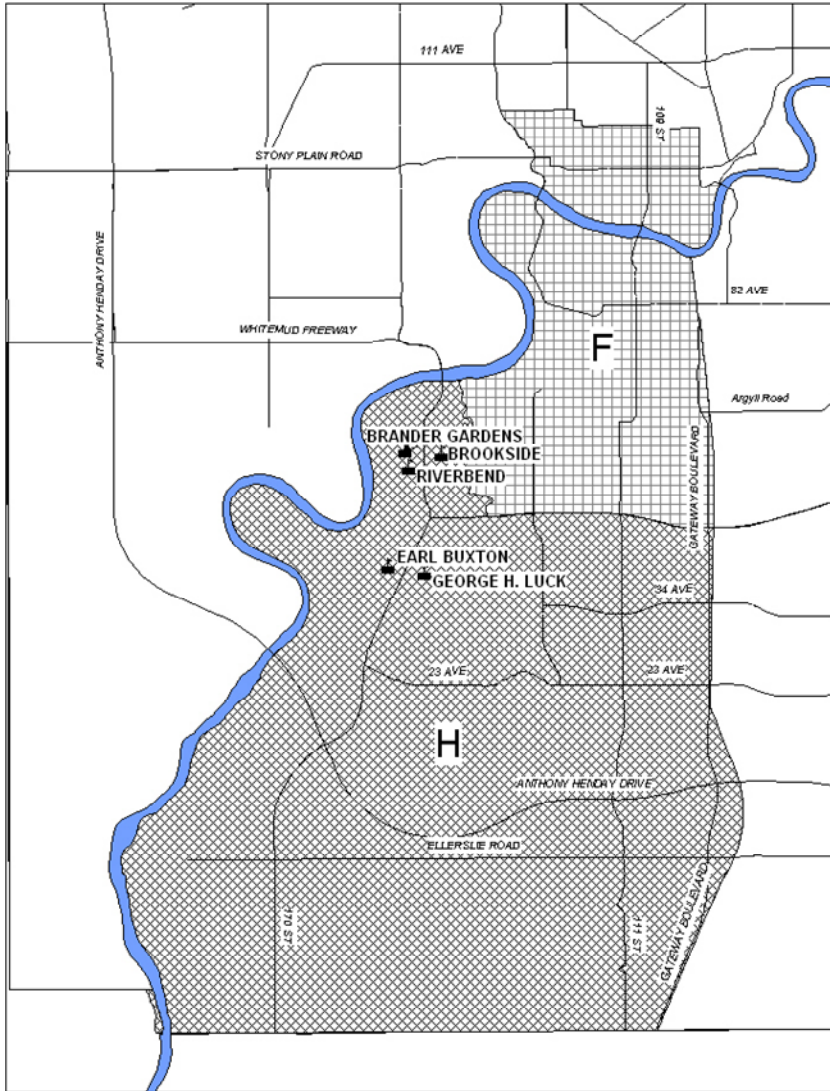
Appendix I - Map of Current Electoral Boundaries

Appendix II - Map of Current Ward F and Ward H and Map with Proposed Realignment

Current Electoral Boundaries



Current Edmonton Public School Board
Ward F and Ward H



Proposed Realignment of Edmonton Public School Board
Ward F and Ward H

