

Changing Public School Ward H Boundaries Up for Discussion This Fall

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Due to the burgeoning population in Ward H, the Edmonton Public School Board will vote on a motion to realign some ward boundaries this fall. Currently Ward H's boundaries are Calgary Trail (east), City Limits (south), Saskatchewan River (west) and Whitemud Drive (north), and the recommended realignment may see the voting areas of Brander Gardens, Brookside, Bulyea Heights, and Rhatigan Ridge moved into Ward F (university area). When the information was first presented in June, Trustee Shipka also wondered if adding these voting areas into Ward E (west of the river, south of the Whitemud) would be a better idea.

The current nine-ward system was implemented in 1995 and designed on the basis of achieving a balance of public school supporters among wards. Each trustee thus serves plus or minus 15% of the average public school supporting population. The 2008 Municipal Census showed that with 79,656 public school supporters in Ward H, it is almost 24% above the ward average of 64,323 supporters. The realignment would bring all wards back into the preferred plus or minus 15% range and provide flexibility for future population growth in Ward H.

The preliminary information report can be accessed online at www.epsb.ca/board/june09_09/item06.pdf, starting on page 3. If you have thoughts to share on the proposed realignment, which will not affect designated school attendance areas, and/or on the current nine-ward system, please contact me at Catherine.Ripley@epsb.ca or 780-887-1002.