

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 16, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Tawa School Site

ORIGINATOR: G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Robert Craig, Seth Crook, Beatrice Denboer, Michael Ediger, Andrea Furness, Roland Labbe, Sheri-Lee Langlois, Manfred Malzahn, Faye Parker, Cindy Skolski

RECOMMENDATION

That the surplus declaration of the vacant elementary school site in Tawa neighbourhood be approved.

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The City of Edmonton has requested that the district review its need for a public elementary site in Tawa neighbourhood in Mill Woods (Appendix I). The City's request arises from the need of the Edmonton Police Service to acquire land in Mill Woods for the construction of a new facility. This report provides an analysis and the rationale for declaring the site surplus to the district's needs.

There is no community league in Tawa neighbourhood. However, the community is represented by the Mill Woods Presidents Council, an umbrella organization consisting of all community leagues in Mill Woods. The administration has provided information to the president of this council, both verbally and in writing, regarding the possibility that the school site may be declared surplus to the district's needs. The council has not expressed concern about this plan.

A public elementary site was reserved in the Tawa neighbourhood in Mill Woods in 1978 based on development information provided at that time by the City of Edmonton. The information showed that the planned neighbourhood would have a population of over 11,000 people living in approximately 4,000 residential units. At the time, district planners calculated that 430 elementary students would be generated from the neighbourhood, and included Mill Woods Town Centre as part of the elementary attendance boundary. The site was approved by City Council through adoption of the neighbourhood plan and has since been held by the City pending approval of school construction on the site.

Since the 1970's, two major changes have been made to the neighbourhood plan that limited the number of students living in Tawa. The first was to rezone a large tract of residential

land in order to build the Grey Nuns Hospital. The second change was to relocate the planned LRT station to another location, thus reducing the likelihood of high density units being built in Tawa neighbourhood. As a result, the total population of Tawa had only reached 1,644 persons in 2001, and is projected to increase by only 50 people over the next five years. The neighbourhood is almost completely developed with only two small commercial sites undeveloped and one apartment building under construction.

The total number of students living in the Tawa neighbourhood is 174, of which 73 attend Edmonton Public Schools and there are no elementary age children living in Mill Woods Town Centre. The designated receiving school for Tawa and Mill Woods Town Centre is Meyokumin Elementary School, which is located directly south of Mill Woods Town Centre. The rated capacity of Meyokumin is 450 and the September 30, 2001 enrolment was 241. Thus the school will be able to accommodate all students from Tawa and Mill Woods Town Centre in the long term. Based on the number of pre-school age children currently living in Tawa, the number of public school students is expected to increase from 73 in 2001 to 89 in 2005 and then stabilize. This increase is marginal and shows that the neighbourhood is not expected to ever reach the 300-student threshold for considering a new school.

Conclusion

With a settled district enrolment of fewer than 100 elementary students, Tawa neighbourhood does not meet the district's criteria for building an elementary school and adequate existing space in the receiving school can accommodate students in the long term. Therefore, this site will not be required for a future school.

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APPENDIX I – Map of Tawa Neighbourhood and Surrounding Area