

**DATE:** March 13, 2012  
**TO:** Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools  
**SUBJECT:** JUA Report (Response to Trustee Request #161)  
**ORIGINATOR:** Brian Smith, Executive Director  
**RESOURCE STAFF:** Josephine Duquette, Roland Labbe, Lorne Parker, Corrie Yusypchuk  
**REFERENCE:** January 31, 2012 Board Meeting (Trustee Cleary)

**ISSUE**

The following information was requested: Provide a copy of the report distributed by the JUA Ombudsman to FMC partners and stakeholders with a brief synopsis of the district’s main accomplishments, challenges and relevant statistical information on the use of schools and school-site status changes. Also provide details of the Summer Access Pilot Project specifically around the hourly rate for custodial costs and whether this expense is creating any access barriers for some community users.

**BACKGROUND**

Edmonton Public Schools is a partner in the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) and has been a strong supporter of this reciprocal agreement. The following chart is a three-year review outlining the Joint Use hours used in Edmonton Public Schools and the hours used by Edmonton Public Schools in City facilities (i.e. swimming pools, arenas, tennis courts, picnic sites).

Year	Total EPSB hours booked by Joint Use Community Groups	Total Joint Use hours cancelled by EPSB after allocation	Total hours used by EPSB students in City facilities
2008-2009	34,354.50	5,286.25	6,758.25
2009-2010	38,404.25	6,242.00	6,199.00
2010-2011	38,498.50	9,152.00	6,421.00

Concerns regarding the number of JUA school booking cancellations occurring were raised in the fall of 2010 by the City of Edmonton and by larger user groups. Edmonton Public Schools created the position of JUA Ombudsman to further support the JUA in Edmonton Public Schools. The Joint Use 2010-2011 Ombudsmen Final Report provides a summary of the work conducted in the 2010-2011 school year (Attachment I).

**CURRENT SITUATION**

District staff continue to identify, evaluate and address the complexities of the JUA and work with all stakeholders (schools, city staff and representatives from the community user groups) to improve the relationship between schools and the communities. The JUA is a dynamic partnership that requires input and attention from all stakeholders to maintain a successful operational agreement. Some of the current work focuses on reviewing district and school practices and procedures to better support all JUA stakeholders.

Work over the past two school years has included:

- working directly with individual schools;
- having regular meetings with representatives from the community user groups;
- meet with the Facility Management Committee each month;
- prepare a variety of presentations to different stakeholders;
- development of a new online program for schools to simplify and streamline all Joint Use bookings information and concerns.

For the 2011-2012 school year, over 50 per cent of schools have made adjustments to their Joint Use allocation. The decision to modify individual school Joint Use allocation would be based on many factors that may include but are not limited to changing school educational needs, custodial demands and budgetary limitations. Additional factors and considerations which impact significantly on the hours made available for community use through the JUA by schools are listed in Attachment II. It is important to note that the educational needs of a school are the first priority for all three school boards who partner in the JUA.

**KEY POINTS**

The following is the 2011-2012 Edmonton Public Schools Joint Use Agreement data:

Total Joint Use Hours Available in Edmonton Public Schools for the 2011-2012 school year	Total Joint Use Hours booked by Community Groups in Edmonton Public Schools (as of February 16, 2012)	Total Joint Use Hours Cancelled (as of February 16, 2012)
65,390.75	37,777.50	3,492.00

Significant Accomplishments for the 2011-2012 school year include:

- From September to December 2011, community user groups have seen an increase of 1,280.50 Joint Use hours used in Edmonton Public Schools as compared to the same time period for the 2010-2011 school year.
- As of February 16, 2012, there has been a decrease of 3,991.75 Joint Use hours cancelled by Edmonton Public Schools as compared to the same time for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Over 160 schools have Joint Use time available in their school:
  - Thirty-two schools have increased their Joint Use allocation
  - Twenty-six schools decreased Joint Use time by one hour or less
  - Fourteen schools deleted Friday Joint Use time
  - Five schools deleted weekend Joint Use time
- Of the 3,492 Joint Use hours cancelled this school year, the hours are broken down by the City of Edmonton into three categories:
  - Greater than five days notice      3,137.25 hours
  - Between two to five days notice    181.00 hours
  - Same day notice                            173.75 hours
- Of the 3,137.25 hours cancelled with greater than five days notice, over 2,600 hours were cancelled prior to September 30 as schools worked to complete their staffing, program planning and school calendars.

- Of the 173.75 same day cancellations, 128 hours were due to custodial illness in schools with a single evening custodian, and a spare custodian from the Custodial Supply pool was not available; therefore, the Joint Use booking was cancelled.

**ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES**

ATTACHMENT I Joint Use 2010-2011 Ombudsmen Final Report

ATTACHMENT II Additional Factors and Considerations for JUA Availability

ATTACHMENT III Summer Access Pilot Project

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## Joint Use 2010-2011 Ombudsmen Final Report

### **Introduction**

In February 2011, the Planning department began an investigation into community concerns related to the Edmonton Public School Board's facilitation of the Joint Use Agreement: Facilities (JUA:F).

Using community concerns as the primary driver for the investigation, a thorough review of community access to school facilities was completed. The findings of this research have been used to assess the validity of the community concerns and the implementation of the JUA:F at the school level. This investigation provides recommendations, supported by stakeholder feedback, designed to resolve the issues that exist between JUA:F community stakeholders and Edmonton Public Schools. A summary of the findings is provided along with short and long term recommendations for informed action.

### **Background Information**

The Board encourages use of district buildings by the community as long as this use does not conflict with activities within the Board's mandate. Under Schedule B-2 of the agreement, the following priorities for use are outlined:

1. Activities within the School Board's mandate
2. Joint Use

### ***Allocation of Hours***

Annually, in the spring, the District is responsible for identifying locations and time available to the City of Edmonton for community use. The District contributes time through two methods: "available time" and "additional time."

- "Available time" is time made available for Joint Use. This is time that does not conflict with educational needs and time during which a custodian is regularly scheduled to work to facilitate access.
- "Additional time" is Joint Use time, requested by the City of Edmonton, which was not originally made available for community use. A higher than normal rate is charged to the City in order to facilitate access. Custodial costs to facilitate this access are not paid by the school.

The City of Edmonton liaises with community groups and is responsible for the allocation of hours to user groups.

### ***Common Booking System***

Through extensive consultation with community and district stakeholders, a common booking system was developed for the JUA:F.

- This booking system, in place since 2007, facilitated the **transfer of responsibility** for booking community user groups from the EPSB to the City of Edmonton.

### ***Gymnasium Allocation***

In 2008, the City formed the **Gymnasium User Committee (GUC)**. This committee meets six to eight times a year to review and resolve issues associated with the community use of gymnasiums. The GUC also oversees the allocation process to ensure fairness and equity.

### ***Site-Based Decision-Making***

In keeping with the site-based decision-making model of the District, school facilities are made available for bookings at the discretion of the school's principal. Changes to Joint Use availability are also made at a school level.

### **Method of Investigation**

In order to research the challenges that exist around the JUA:F, a number of stakeholders connected to the agreement were contacted and interviewed. The research involved three distinct phases:

1. Documents and data related to the Joint Use Agreement and issues were compiled and assessed. Key stakeholders were interviewed as part of this data collection.
2. Presentations were made to stakeholders and initiatives to facilitate better communication. The City of Edmonton and gym users were also implemented with the support and assistance of Josephine Duquette, Senior Planner
3. Recommendations for both short and long term action were compiled.

Qualitative research consisted of the interview data and responses gathered from JUA:F stakeholders. Quantitative research was conducted with an assessment of JUA:F data on record from 2008-2009 to 2010-2011.

Stakeholder meetings included the following individuals and groups:

- Principals – Small group meetings held at schools (15 principals)
- Principal Network Groups (High School Network and Junior High Network 21)
- Principal Support Groups (Planning, Student Transportation and Budget – Basis of Allocation)
- District Consultants, Athletics and Physical Education
- Facilities Management Committee
- Senior Planner Joint Use Agreement (Josephine Duquette)
- High School Athletic Department Heads
- High School Physical Education Department Heads
- District Administration – Supervisor in Human Resources
- The Custodial Union President and High School Custodians
- Supervisor, Custodial Support Services
- Gym users – I presented to a meeting of 200+ gym users at a Joint Use allocation information meeting.
- Gym user committee members, which included representatives of the following groups: Basketball, Dance, Volleyball, Badminton, Soccer, Martial Arts and Edmonton Community Leagues

## **Limitations**

A number of limitations added to the complexity of this project. These included:

- Dealing with personal bias during the investigation
- Access to information from the City of Edmonton
- Access to groups of principals
- A lack of JUA:F awareness among many district staff affected the quality of feedback

## **Statistics**

To gain a deeper understanding of Joint Use issues, a review of cancellation and availability data was completed. The goals were to calculate the total number of cancellations, determine what availability was actually being provided by schools, determine how often schools were using City facilities, and better understand the reasons for cancellation of “available time.”

Data was used from the following sources:

- Data from contracts and agreements – Joint Use Agreement – Statistics, 2008-2009 to 2010-2011
- A review of email and faxed correspondence between schools and Rentals & Leasing – 2010-2011
- Gymnasium weekly report(s) - 2009-2011
- School availability data – 2008-2010
- School use of City facilities data – 2009-2011

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A summary of the data gathered is offered below:

- With the implementation of the new JUA (2007) – access to schools by the community has increased by 25 per cent.
- Seventy per cent of total Joint Use hours made available by the three school boards are from Edmonton Public Schools.
- 2009-2010 – 73 per cent of requests to the City of Edmonton for Joint Use hours are made by high schools (4512.1/6162)

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High school availability stats:

- Sixty per cent of high schools provide weekend access
- Fourty per cent of high schools provide Sunday access
- Twenty per cent of high schools provide three hour availability on weekdays (this includes Fridays)
- Ten per cent decrease in availability of high school gyms from 2009-2010 – 2010-2011

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**July 2010** – As a district we cancelled 6,082 hours – 9.3 per cent of the total originally made available.

**April 2011** – As a district we canceled 8,611 hours – 13 per cent of the total hours originally made available.

Of these cancellations,

- Ninety-one per cent of them were processed with at least five days notice.
- Four per cent of cancellations occurred on the same day.
- Five per cent of cancellations occurred with two to five days notice.

Based on a qualitative assessment of the reasons for cancellation:

- Seventy per cent of cancellations in 2010-2011 demonstrate that schools exercised due diligence in registering the cancellations and provided adequate notice.
- Twenty-six per cent of cancellations demonstrated that schools could have provided earlier notice to the City of Edmonton.

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#### 2009-2010 Joint Use Budget and Allocation to Schools

- District Total Revenue from City of Edmonton – \$451,877.50
- Total Expense to City of Edmonton – \$145,572.00
- Net Community Allocation from JU – \$306,304.00
- To provide a \$13.50 (per Joint Use hour) allocation to schools, the District adds \$228,855.69
- Total allocation to schools - \$535,160.25

#### **Key Findings – Challenges**

At times, this agreement makes for quite an awkward relationship; the different organizational structures of the City and the District create tension and conflict when internal policies and protocols do not align.

The most significant challenges facing Edmonton Public Schools regarding the JUA:F are rooted in a difference in perception between community users and schools. The agreement establishes a partnership between the City of Edmonton and the District, each of whom place a high value and priority on the agreement. These issues of perception are not between the City and the District so much as they are between the stakeholders represented by the City and the District – the community users and the individual schools.

For gym users, guaranteed availability in school gyms is of high priority as their activities cannot occur without facility access. For school administrators and staff, however, facilitation of community access is a portfolio with a relatively low profile. The gym is only one of many facilities in a school; consequently, it receives attention from students and staff when it is required for school use. Community use of gymnasiums, which occurs in the evenings, is often an afterthought and of low priority when compared to the day to day demands of operating and maintaining an entire school.

Changes to *available hours* made by schools during the year results in cancellations for gym users and there is a distinct difference in perception about cancellations. For school staff, there is a marked lack of awareness of Joint Use issues and the impact of cancellations. For the community, there is a limited understanding of school realities and the reasons behind cancellations and limits to availability.

#### Key concerns for *the City and gym users*:

1. Cancellations of time previously made available and allocated.
2. Lack of availability in some schools.
3. Lack of consistency between schools in making time available.
4. Concern that it is a school responsibility to make decisions in regards to Joint Use cancellations and availability.
5. The allocation process (a greater issue for smaller user groups).

6. Loss of community connections with schools (particularly since centralization in 2007) resulting in a disconnect between groups and schools.
7. Gym allocation does not always correlate with the geographic location of groups.
8. At times, schools give short notice (less than five days) when they need to cancel a booking.
9. School “Go-Arounds” or “Back-Door Deals” – Groups bypassing the booking process and gaining access to school facilities directly at the school level.
10. Issues with custodial support during bookings, including access to the school, and equipment (standards, etc.).
11. Many events that occur in schools during the year are planned in close proximity to the events themselves, therefore not allowing these events to be identified during the availability process in the spring.

### ***School & Principal Concerns***

The District is partner to the agreement centrally; however, our schools make decisions related to Joint Use locally. Site-based management of budgets and resources results in principals supporting the JUA:F based on the specific needs and limitations of their schools.

1. Who are user groups? CLASS Calendar identifies a booking number and general activity to occur but specific information about the user group is not provided.
2. There is a lack of supervision of groups by the city during rental bookings.
3. At times, the City allocates activities different than those listed in CLASS Calendar.
4. Some groups use improper equipment, i.e. outdoor equipment and balls, wooden hockey sticks.
5. Some groups enter areas of the school that are identified as off limits.
6. Some groups bring children and guests who they do not supervise appropriately.
7. Principals have stated that the expectations for schools are unreasonable particularly in schools with two gyms and multiple bookings on a given night. As an example, walkthroughs with community groups often cannot be done due to the demands of the custodial cleaning and maintenance responsibilities.
8. Schools do not prioritize or focus on non-school events which occur during a time in the evening.
9. Security issues – some schools must leave their doors unlocked for long periods of time to facilitate community bookings.
10. The custodians evening workload can be a challenge. Very little can be done to manage user groups proactively during their stay due to limited evening resources.
11. Custodial illness and supply custodian availability can be a challenge.
12. Custodial stewardship is a concern for some schools.
13. The system is reactive; Joint Use is not closely managed by either the City or schools unless there is an issue.
14. In the case of many large groups, the individual(s) who organizes or administrates the group is often not present at the booking.
15. The current funding model for wear and tear to school equipment and facilities is not appropriate.
16. Some principals want the ability to allow direct access to their facility for community user groups, especially for one-time events. This facilitates neighbourly relations and connections to community groups. Known now as “back-door-deals”, these bookings allow for the school to connect with their immediate community and gain funds for discretionary school use.



17. Groups assigned to access schools are not always from the immediate school community.
18. Some schools would like to limit certain sports from occurring in their gyms. These sports include floor hockey, lacrosse, soccer, and kanga ball.
19. More quality time in city pools is needed for our students. Conflicts exist with community groups who are present at the same time.

## **Recommendations**

### ***Short Term***

Central to the following short term recommendations is the move to create greater communication between our schools and the District, and between the District and the City of Edmonton.

To this end, a Joint Use consultant position needs to be created to allow for continued, consistent progress on Joint Use concerns. This individual would collaborate with planners, and Planning staff, in order to:

- Meet with gym users and city officials on an ongoing basis and attend gym user committee meetings whenever possible.
- Present at GUC meetings at least twice a year.
- Create a communication timeline for the school year.
- Establish a JUA contact list and communicate regularly through this list. Key messages should include previous availability and cancellation numbers for each recipient.
- Conduct yearly in-services with key messages for new principals, administrative assistants, and custodians. Key messages should include: the value of the agreement to the District and community, hours made available, hours canceled, allocation received through Joint Use, school use of city facilities.
- Provide recommended availability and documents in Staff Room or on District Calendar in a format that lets schools see what their commitment and availability are at anytime.
- Send JUA key messages in September, January and May of every school year.
- Work with school athletic directors, through the District Athletic consultants, Andrew Morgan and Scott Sinclair, to update availability as league schedules are created.
- Follow up on all incidents with a Planning administrator/consultant when schools do not make time available or make significant changes to “available time.”
- Review acceptable community activities in schools with school staff.

Where possible, all schools need to participate in providing Joint Use time. A paradigm shift is needed here. At present, the system is set up for schools to make their availability for community use known without any input from the City, community, or the District. Therefore, when making time available, schools rely only on their own expected needs for the following year. At times, this availability is dependent on staff experiences and attitudes towards community use. This is an area where the system can be improved; but, in order to do so, a significant shift in perspective is needed. In conjunction with the City of Edmonton and the gym user committee, the Joint Use consultant should work to identify what are desirable hours of availability in schools for the community based on geographic, recreational, and sport requirements. Once the desired availability is established, it can be presented to schools for consideration. Under this proposal, schools would still have the authority to identify what time can and cannot be made available; however, this can now be completed with a more clear

understanding of the communities' needs. If a school is not able to meet the requests of the community, the District, through the JUA:F consultant, could communicate with the City about each case. If a school cannot be made available due to custodial availability, the District can work to provide a custodian to accommodate these community requests. This time could then be offered to the City as "additional time."

For AA, A Gyms and high demand B gyms – "additional time" requests by the City need to be accommodated as much as possible.

"Available time" – It is key that availability not change significantly after it is offered to the City. Once hours are made available we must protect these hours of access.

Rain-out days for cancelations – the City needs to block off dates, based on cancelations from the previous year, to allow for availability once cancelations are processed in the coming year.

Minimize "individual date" cancelations within three weeks (other than for custodial reasons). Any change in hours is strongly discouraged after June, every year. This commitment needs to be restated to schools every September and January through email and Need to Know News.

Requests for school availability need to continue to occur at the end of June, not in May as it has in previous years.

The City of Edmonton needs to purchase more "additional time" from the District to accommodate small user groups in neighbourhood schools that may not have made time available due to budget constraints and lack of a night custodian. This Joint Use time would be purchased at the additional rate by the City but could be provided to smaller community groups at a subsidized cost.

### ***Long term***

Collaboration between the Planning and Student Transportation department and the Communications department is necessary in order to streamline communication with schools. There also needs to be the creation of a new technology for communicating special events and all use of school facilities. This "new" District Calendar would allow for schools to go to one place to notify Planning and Student Transportation and the Communications departments of JUA:F availability and cancellations and would be readily available for schools to access and review throughout the year.

The responsibility for costs associated with Joint Use wear and tear on facilities must shift away from individual schools to the District, to mitigate site-based budget concerns. Currently, the District allocation to schools is sufficient for wear and tear on equipment but not on gym facilities. For example, the District could assume responsibility for all gym floor and gym wall maintenance costs. This would combat the perspective of some principals that community use occurs at a great cost to the school.

To enable weekend access in AA & A Gyms, a Class 4 or A-Class Boiler certificated custodian has to be present to do boiler inspections, security opening and closing as well as clean up after the group.

- Creative custodial allocation solutions are necessary to enable wholesale weekend access. Human Resources would need to coordinate a pool of custodians who are interested in picking up overtime hours to facilitate this.
- Set up a Rover system in which a Class 4 custodian could be assigned to more than one facility to facilitate weekend access.
- These issues need to be presented during the upcoming collective bargaining process.

Pursue provincial funding with the idea that the Government needs to fund dollars per hour used for Joint Use. The current cost of facilitating Joint Use comes from educational dollars and is a significant cost to the District.

Host System – Pursue funding to facilitate the creation of a Host system in our schools. This person would be a district employee and would liaise with the principal, city, and community group. The Host model would allow us to proactively and more effectively manage Joint Use in our schools.

Whenever possible, all “additional time” requests by the City must be accommodated. Custodial costs or availability cannot be a limiting factor. There are great inconsistencies between schools with AA, and A gyms in their availability on weekends and these gyms are in high demand for the community. If needed, these requests need to be managed and custodial support allocated centrally.

An expectation that all schools will participate in providing Joint Use time must be communicated and supported by the District. The District needs to outline expectations then let schools make their availability known based on their school needs. If a school is not made available due to custodial availability, the District needs to work to provide a custodian to accommodate community requests.

When necessary, staffing for custodial support for Joint Use needs to be allocated and managed centrally. If a school does not have a custodian in place in the evenings for Joint Use, one needs to be provided by the District, whenever possible, at “additional time” rates.

Additional community use allocation should be tied to a budget allocation for custodial staff. This allocation, designed to cover custodial FTE, could be tied to availability and hours used in a school. Sustainable funding for the Joint Use Agreement must be secured from the Provincial Government.

A review of all leases and licenses that exist in district gymnasiums should be completed. The concern with those leases is that they may conflict with the priorities outlined in the Joint Use Agreement. The question needs to be asked, if a lease exists in a gym at a time that the community desires, should the community have priority of use?

## **Conclusion**

Some of the short term recommendations outlined in this report are already being implemented while others are achievable within the next school year. The long term recommendations presented are likely achievable in the next two to five years.

Because the District needs to continue to improve communication and increase awareness about Joint Use issues, this portfolio requires a dedicated consultant who can act as a liaison between

the schools, the City of Edmonton, and gym users. A key responsibility of this consultant would be to work with school administrators to create awareness of the Joint Use Agreement, and communicate schools' responsibility to facilitate community use of school facilities. This also needs to develop a strong relationship with city officials to problem solve and deal with challenges that arise, and also to engage stakeholders of the agreement in a more collaborative, instead of reactive, manner.

It is important to note that greater centralization of Joint Use was investigated as a possible recommendation to be made. There is a school of thought that greater centralization of Joint Use would be the most effective strategy for the District to ensure that all schools participated in Joint Use equally and that there could be greater consistency across the District. In this scenario, schools, depending on size and custodial allocation, would be required to provide Joint Use availability as measured by the District.

Centralization of Joint Use availability is not recommended, at this time, as there would still be two key challenges not addressed:

1. If the way forward is to increase understanding and appreciation of the importance of the Joint Use Agreement, any actions that take responsibility away from schools could be seen to be counterproductive. Centralizing Joint Use would effectively decrease the need for schools to take an active role in managing Joint Use in their schools. At the school level, the portfolio could have even lower priority than it does now. This works under the premise that increasing a school's understanding of Joint Use correlates to an increase in a school's responsibility to manage Joint Use appropriately and professionally.
2. The problem with any centralization of availability is that it will not directly decrease cancelations, which are the greatest issue for gym users and the City. While the District could centralize availability, schools would ultimately still be responsible for registering cancelations when school use of the gym facility was identified. In fact, you could surmise that with greater centralization you could have an overall increase in cancelations as schools would not have had individual say in what their availability should be.

While this report does not support mandating the provision of standard availability, it does support the District in identifying to schools what the "ideal" availability for schools should be. This still requires a significant shift in thinking and a change in the priority given to Joint Use availability by schools. The key change here is that, instead of asking schools what they can give, the District must let schools know what time has been requested by the community and the City, and what the standard availability should be for a school of a certain size, population, and custodial availability.

Finally, as the District works to improve communication and increase awareness about Joint Use issues with key stakeholders, this portfolio will increase in importance amongst schools of the District. Hopefully, with this increased awareness and understanding, issues that currently exist will be managed appropriately and a shift in perspective will occur, ensuring that future issues are managed proactively, with the best interest of all partners in mind.

## **Additional Factors and Considerations for JUA Availability**

### Allocation Timeline

Every spring, each school works to plan the next school year and build their school calendar prior to submitting the Joint Use allocation and omit dates in mid-June. The City of Edmonton requires Edmonton Public Schools to send the complete District Joint Use allocation data and omit dates by mid-June of the previous school year. *Omit Dates* are those dates in which a school will reserve or black out a specific date or time period for school needs; therefore, it is not available for Community Joint Use booking. This allocation timeline creates challenges for schools which can lead to Joint Use booking cancellations, as there are school changes that take place over the summer, at the beginning of the new school year and throughout the school year. *Cancelled hours* are those hours in which schools have cancelled their Joint Use community access after the June 15 deadline due to educational needs or custodial illness. Two factors that will continue to have significant impact on Joint Use allocations are:

- 1) The City of Edmonton's requirement for Joint Use allocation and omit dates at a time that does not align with the fall organizational timeline of schools, and which is based on a preliminary operating budget that is adjusted to actually September 30 student counts;
- 2) The dynamic nature of school operations to support the educational needs of the students will continue to require schools to modify their school calendar throughout the school year.

### Peak Joint Use Time

The City of Edmonton has indicated that the most demand for community access into schools is weekday evenings and weekends. Schools allocate Joint Use time to community groups during periods when the building is staffed with a custodian and is not being used for school needs. Each school has a different custodial complement depending on the schools size, needs and budget. Some schools do not have an evening custodian; therefore, they do not offer evening Joint Use time. A majority of schools do not have regular weekend custodians and therefore do not offer regular Joint Use access on weekends.

### Custodial Duties

The main work responsibility for school custodians is to have the school ready and fully operational for the next school day. When community user groups are present it can create some challenges and additional duties for the custodians. Many schools have multiple timeslots booked in a single evening that are allocated to different community groups. Since the custodian is the single school host, the result of multiple group bookings can impact the custodian's ability to complete their work in a timely manner. In some cases custodians are required to perform duties outside of the JUA user group guidelines and these duties can impact the time they have to perform their regular school duties. When determining the Joint Use allocations, schools have to balance support for the JUA while maintaining custodial limitations and the impact on school operations.

### **Summer Access Pilot Project**

Last summer, there were 549 hours used under the Summer Access Pilot Project. The objective of the Summer Access Pilot Project is to provide community access to school facilities during the summer months. Priority of access will be given to community groups who do not normally access Joint Use time in schools. Operational requirements of individual schools, such as summer school and scheduled maintenance, will limit the availability of school access. The project timeline runs four weeks from mid-July to mid-August with schools available from Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Last summer, there were a total of six sites offering summer community programs under the Summer Access Pilot Project. Edmonton Public Schools provided seven schools to participate in the Summer Access Pilot Project.

The Summer Access Pilot Project runs during non-operational time periods; therefore, custodians are not regularly scheduled. Since there are no regularly scheduled custodians, community user groups will be responsible to cover all custodial costs at a rate of \$48 per hour. This type of request is referred to as “additional time.” Under the JUA, this rate is the same cost model that all community groups are charged for any “additional time” requests throughout the school year. The \$48 per hour rate is based on custodial wage information from the three JUA partners: Edmonton Public Schools, Edmonton Catholic Schools and Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord.

The priority of school access focuses on new, emerging and high needs community groups. The feedback from city and community representatives is that the \$48 cost will be an access barrier; but as groups have not yet been identified as potential users, it is unclear the extent to which costs will be a barrier. As a result, various sources of funding are being discussed and explored by different city and community agencies to support the Summer Access Pilot Project. In the 2011 post implementation review, it was recommended community user groups be required to contribute partial monies towards the rental costs to ensure some responsibility for the time booked.