

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 11, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: City Centre Education Project

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RESOURCE

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INFORMATION

The City Centre Education Project (CCEP) encompasses seven schools (Delton, Eastwood, John A. McDougall, McCauley, Norwood, Parkdale, Spruce Avenue) in the city centre serving approximately 1600 students from preschool to grade 9.

A CCEP instructional focus on literacy and numeracy was developed prior to September 2002. This was important in laying the groundwork for the work ahead. The CCEP instructional focus is to have all CCEP students show measurable growth in their ability to speak, read, and write for a variety of audiences and to improve their literacy skills through the implementation of a CCEP focus on comprehension and numeracy as measured by the Highest Level of Achievement Tests (HLATs) in reading and writing, CCEP performance based assessments and Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs).

Essential to fulfilling the instructional focus of both the collective and individual schools, all principals participate in the district's Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning training. It enables CCEP schools to move forward in setting goals, to uncover underlying instructional issues regarding the focus area, to select assessment strategies, and to make the instructional focus come alive at the school level. As a result of collaborative effort, all seven schools have further refined their focus under the CCEP literacy umbrella.

Individual School Instructional Focuses

Delton's instructional focus is to increase student growth in all subject areas: Delton has identified "Reading for Meaning" as the target of their Instructional Focus. All students will show measurable growth using school wide reading strategies. This growth will be measured by school-based assessments, district HLATs and PATs.

A school-wide focus to have all Eastwood students using the writing process to improve writing across the curriculum as measured by PATs, HLATs and performance based assessments.

A school-wide collaborative effort to have all John A. McDougall students demonstrate measurable growth in reading for meaning by implementing best practices in a literacy balanced environment as measured by interim school-based assessment, district HLATs and PATs.

A school-wide focus to have all McCauley students show measurable growth in their ability to communicate understanding through writing.

A school-wide effort to have all Norwood students be able to gather and synthesize information and make inferences from a variety of sources through the implementation of a school-wide research process program as measured by HLATs, PATs and teacher administrated assessments.

At Parkdale School the teaching focus is "Reading for Meaning" and all students will show measurable growth as measured by teacher performance assessments, HLATs and PATs.

Spruce Avenue's instructional focus is that all students will demonstrate measurable growth in their ability to communicate using complete and correct sentences.

Throughout the year, all CCEP staff meet on a monthly basis to determine how to share resources and support the instructional focus work in order to bring direction to the three pillars of the CCEP model:

- enhanced programming
- interagency and business collaboration to enrich and extend student's experiences
- a multi campus model

The creation of positive learning environments and enhanced school experiences are crucial for our children. It is these on site and off site experiences that are integral to expanding our students' success. The many collaborative partnerships have been imperative in helping the seven schools focus on teaching and learning. CCEP has successfully partnered with those responsible for community development, recreational opportunities and social work activities to align work with their mandates as we focus on ours: student achievement.

Expectations have increased, each site has been supported and challenged to make improvements that will achieve the superb results we desire for students in the city centre. As we are now "living our focus" within the seven city centre schools, each school reports improvement in student attitudes and achievement in the instructional focus areas.

Schools use a variety of means including school bulletin boards, newsletters, Parent Councils, Open Houses, telephone on-hold messages, outside signs, and staff monthly collaborative activities to build understanding of and support for the instructional focus.

HR:nw