

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 12, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATOR: R. MacNeil, Assistant Superintendent
T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Will Deys, Roland Labbe, John Nicoll, Janice Talbot

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #40: JANUARY 29, 2008 (TRUSTEE HUFF) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE IMPACT OF HAVING LEASED SPACE INCLUDED IN THE PROVINCIAL UTILIZATION RATE ON THE VIABILITY OF CORONATION SCHOOL: School Plant Operating and Maintenance funding comes to school jurisdictions by the number of students. The size and area of the building is not factored in. The Province continues to monitor and assess school and overall district utilization rates based on area, capacity and weighted enrolment of a school. The provincial utilization rate for Coronation School this year, based on a capacity of 226 students, is 56.6 per cent.

Coronation School leases 244m² of space to a for-profit child care group. When space is leased to a for-profit group, as is the case in Coronation School, the Province categorizes leased space as non-exempt, and categorizes the space as un-utilized student space (as though it was empty). School capacity in an operating school building is reduced when there is a formal lease or license to a group that qualifies as exemptible. If the leased space at Coronation School qualified as exemptible, the school's utilization rate would be 64 per cent.

Student Space and Cost benchmarks in the District's School Profiles were adjusted this year to reflect a District interpretation of school capacity, based on the Alberta Commission on Learning (ACOL) class size recommendations. The provincial rated capacity for Coronation School is 226 students. The District has rated the capacity at 220 students based on ACOL class size recommendations. The funded student space remains at 45 per cent, given that 99 students are enrolled in a building with an ACOL capacity of 220 students. (R. Labbe, J. Talbot)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #42: JANUARY 29, 2008 (TRUSTEE COLBURN) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING HOW INDIVIDUALS ARE SELECTED FOR THE SCHOOL CLOSURE DEBRIEFING PROCESS: A written survey was designed to collect feedback on the School Sustainability Review Process, as well as the School Closure Process. On January 23 the survey was sent to parents, staff, and principals who were at schools involved in either of the processes during the 2006-2007 school year. The deadline

for returning the survey was February 8. Results will be shared with the Trustees once they are available.

Approximately 600 parents who have students who were enrolled in Kindergarten to Grade 5, and are currently enrolled in Edmonton Public Schools, were sent the survey via Canada Post. All parent surveys included a postage paid return envelope. Parents of students who left the District, and parents of Grade 6 students who were transitioning to junior high were omitted from the survey sample.

Approximately 130 staff who were at schools undergoing Sustainability Reviews last year, and who are currently listed as being on contract within an Edmonton Public School, were included in the survey. Staff were also invited to phone in additional comments or information if they so chose. Staff were asked to return the written surveys via District mail service.

Additionally, the nine principals who were at schools that underwent the Sustainability Review in the previous year were asked to participate in the written survey. The nine principals were also asked to participate in a personal interview. The three principals of the designated receiving schools were also asked to participate in the interview process. (W. Deys)

TRUSTEE REQUEST#44: THAT INFORMATION BE PROVIDED WITH RESPECT TO HOW PO&M FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR THE ASAP SCHOOLS GIVEN THE 30 YEAR MAINTENANCE DEAL. (TRUSTEE HUFF) PO&M funding is based upon per pupil enrolment in the district. There has been no information received from the Province that this method would change with the addition of the ASAP schools or that any reductions to PO&M would occur because the maintenance portion of the ASAP schools PO&M is being provided by the Province. (J. Nicoll)

TRUSTEE REQUEST#45: CLARIFICATION AS TO WHETHER P3 SCHOOLS WOULD INCLUDE ONLY THE BUILDING ENVELOPE LEAVING THE DISTRICT RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH THINGS AS FURNISHINGS, PLUMBING, ELECTRICAL, ETC. (TRUSTEE FLEMING) The ASAP schools are being provided to the District inclusive of all building maintenance and renewal for 30 years at which point they will be turned over to the district. The ASAP Contractor will be responsible for maintaining all building elements. The district will be responsible for maintaining the furniture and equipment that the district installs. This includes desks, whiteboards and communications wiring. The district will be receiving grants from Alberta Education to purchase the furniture and equipment. Funding for the maintenance of furniture and equipment will be covered under existing instructional funding grants as is the case in our other schools. (J. Nicoll)

RM:TP:cg