

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 14, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Executive Director
C. McCabe, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Meredith Colgan, Stuart Wachowicz

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #155, JANUARY 17, 2006 (TRUSTEE GIBEAULT) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING A LIST OF SCHOOLS THAT DO NOT PROVIDE COMMUNITY ACCESS AND THE REASONS WHY. The following chart identifies forty-one-district schools that do not provide access to their gyms for 2005-06, and the reasons why. Information was provided by school principals.

SCHOOL	NOT AVAILABLE 2005-06 DUE TO:	FOLLOW UP
Afton, T.D. Baker (n=2)	Gym is used for school purposes in the evenings.	Meet with school principal to discuss availability.
Alberta School for Deaf	Leased property; the province provides an evening commissionaire in lieu of an electronic security system.	Discussions are underway to determine if gymnasium can be made available as were the playing fields last year.
Beacon Heights	Accommodates use from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. No custodial staff after 6:00 p.m.	Include provision of early use in JUA reports
Belgravia, Belvedere, Capilano, Clara Tyner, Delton, Forest Heights, Garneau, Glendale, Glenora, Grovenor, Hazeldean, High Park, Horse Hill, James Gibbons, Kameyosek, Menisa, Mill Creek, Montrose, Mount Royal, Princeton, Rutherford, Rideau Park, Satoo, Sherwood, Virginia Park, Windsor Park. (n=26)	Single custodian schools. These schools do not have custodial or other staff coverage after school hours to provide appropriate supervision for community access. NB: Garneau School is in the process of hiring for evening coverage. Rideau Park School has recently hired a custodial assistant to work until 7:30 p.m. to supervise community use.	The issue of alternative supervision and staff coverage for community use of schools is being discussed extensively within the current review of Joint Use Agreement. The issue will also be discussed on February 21, 2006 with the custodial union Local 474, to seek input and advice.

Centre High, Old Scona, Woodside (n=3)	There is no gym in these leased or district owned facilities.	None required
Eastwood	The condition of the gym floor is poor, and the school awaits renovations.	Refer to Facilities Services
Edmonton Christian School, Millwoods Christian School (n=2)	Leased properties.	Request availability and amend lease agreements accordingly
Fulton Place	Small gym, limited access due to stairs.	Request availability and control types of activities.
Kennedale	Service contract location, no gymnasium, no public access.	None required
McCauley	Historically not used by community, coverage until 8:00 p.m.	Meet with school principal to discuss availability.
McNally	Time temporarily withdrawn due to fiscal limitations.	Monitor for 2006-07
Rosslyn	Custodian cannot open and/or supervise gym. Unable to find suitable host. Staff safety, OHS, cost of damage to equipment also cited.	Meet with school principal to discuss availability.

(M. Colgan)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #157, JANUARY 17, 2006 (TRUSTEE KEIVER): WHAT HAS BEEN THE DISTRICT'S EXPERIENCE OR WHAT IS THE FEASIBILITY OF OFFERING A COURSE, PERHAPS AT THE SENIOR HIGH LEVEL, EXPLORING ASPECTS OF MAJOR WORLD CULTURES AND RELIGIONS? ARE THERE EXAMPLES OF THIS TYPE OF COURSE BEING OFFERED IN OTHER ALBERTA SCHOOL DISTRICTS?: The provincial Social Studies curriculum, especially at the secondary level does provide some exposure and study of aspects of global cultural diversity including that resultant from differences in religious beliefs and philosophy. Specific study of world religions or world history is complemented by the existence of a number of courses, some of which are provincially developed and some locally developed.

Courses presently offered in the district, which enhance knowledge of world history, culture and religion are as follows:

Religious Ethics 20	Provincial
Religious Meanings 20	Provincial
World Religion 30	Provincial
Philosophy of Man 30	Provincial
Western World History 30	Provincial
Black History Studies 25	Locally Developed
Military History 25 (Ancient History)	Locally Developed
Philosophy 35	Locally Developed

There are a few additional similar locally developed courses in use in the province, but they largely overlap other courses presently in use in the district.

In September 2005, 624 students in Edmonton Public Schools were registered in the above listed courses. There appears to be no request or requirement to develop an additional course at this time. (S. Wachowicz)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #161, JANUARY 31, 2006 (TRUSTEE COLBURN): PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE RETENTION OF STUDENTS IN THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM MOVING FROM JUNIOR HIGH TO SENIOR HIGH: One of the primary issues identified in the preparatory study that lead to the French Language Renewal Project was the attrition in enrolment in French Immersion between grade 9 and grade 10. The following represents the change in retention rate over the past three years. Indications, drawn from teachers and students, are that this rate will continue to improve.

	Number and percentage of grade 9 French Immersion students who have enrolled in grade 10 French Immersion	
2003-2004	26 of 154	16%
2004-2005	50 of 164	30%
2005-2006	67 of 150	45%

(S. Wachowicz)

DB:CMcC:cg