

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 27, 2007

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: B. Holt, Acting Superintendent
SUBJECT: Delegation re Sports Programs in Schools
ORIGINATOR: A. Sherwood, Board Secretary

INFORMATION

Ms Glynis Dorey, parent Strathcona School, has requested an opportunity to make a presentation to the board regarding her concerns about sports programs in schools.

Arrangements have been made for Ms Dorey to make her presentation to the board on **Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 7:15 p.m.** (APPENDIX I)

Ms Dorey has provided the attached information in advance of the board meeting with respect to her presentation (APPENDIX II).

AS:mmf

- APPENDIX I – Correspondence from Anne Sherwood, Corporate Board Secretary
- APPENDIX II – February 21, 2007 Correspondence from Ms Glynis Dorey
- APPENDIX III – November 20, 2006 Correspondence from the Board Chair referred to in Ms Dorey's February 21, 2007 correspondence

From: Anne Sherwood
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2007 1:42 PM
To: Glynis Dorey
Subject: Confirmation of Presentation at Tuesday, February 27, 2007 Board Meeting

Dear Ms Dorey:

Thank you for your e-mail requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to the board regarding club athletes on public school teams. I have scheduled your presentation for the **Tuesday, February 27, 2007** board meeting at **7:15 p.m.**

Attached for your information is the link to the board's procedures with respect to formal delegations and presentations to board <http://www.epsb.ca/policy/jab.bp.shtml>. You will note that you may have two spokespersons. We ask that your presentation not exceed 10 minutes in length and that you or your spokesperson(s) be prepared to clarify issues and answer trustee questions.

I understood that you will be providing information in advance to the trustees with respect to your presentation. Would you please submit one reproducible copy to my office no later than 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2007. The information will be included with agenda material being sent to trustees on Friday, February 23, 2007. Please note that the agenda and related reports for the February 27, 2007 board meeting will be posted on Friday, February 23, 2007 at <http://www.epsb.ca/board/agenda.shtml>.

The board meeting commences at 6:00 p.m. and is held in McCauley Chambers on the second floor of the Centre for Education at 102 Street and Kingsway. Underground parking is available. Two seats will be reserved for you and/or your spokesperson(s) in McCauley Chambers where you may be seated until called by the board chair.

Sincerely,



cc: Bob Holt, Acting Superintendent
Tanni Parker, Executive Director
Corinne McCabe, Executive Director

Anne Sherwood
Corporate Board Secretary
Phone: 429-8020
Fax: 429-8383

From: Glynis Dorey
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2007 2:38 PM
To: Anne Sherwood
Subject: Re: Making Presentations to Board

Hi Anne,

Yesterday I met with leadership services and I now would like to address the meeting of the Trustees, hopefully at the next meeting, concerning club athletes on public school teams.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Glynis Dorey

February 21, 2007

Edmonton Public School Board
Board of Trustees
Centre for Education
One Kingsway
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 4G9

Dear School Trustees:

Thank you for your letter of November 20, 2006 which responded to my email of November 12, 2006.

The discussion concerned how the evolution of inter-school sports has lead to an unbalanced competitive environment where a large number of students involved in sports teams outside the school occupy most of the positions of the school teams in large schools, thus:

- knocking out many other students whose only access to sports development (self-discipline, self confidence, exercise) and group participation has been in the schools;
- creating an unequal inter-school competitive environment where the large schools stacked with club team members continually win, never giving a chance for smaller schools to win. For example, Strathcona's track& field, swimming and football teams have won the city finals for 10--23 consecutive years!

Your response was basically:

- schools control the number of teams in their school, depending on their abilities to provide support;
- Edmonton Public schools is a district of choice where students can choose there school, consequently resulting with some schools having students flock to it for their strength in sports; and
- The ASAA stipulates that sports clubs players cannot play on both clubs and school teams in the same season.

Firstly, I am surprised that your letter did not show concerned about the current situation and its effect on the many student athletes who are not on club teams.

While schools control their sports teams this is a policy issue which must be addressed at the school board or provincial level since no school will give up their competitive edge if other schools don't also, at the same time. Competition extends to the provincial level, so support for change must come from all administration levels of the school system.

While Edmonton Public Schools' "district of choice" policy may allow athletes to flock to particular schools, it does not mean the other athletic students in that school who are not sport club members should be pushed out;

Restricting sports club players from playing on both sports clubs and school teams in the same season, has resulted in the clubs shutting down during the school team season (3 months) ensuring that most sports club members use the period to compete on the school teams. The club then resumes for the rest of the year. The restriction would be effective only if **a sports club player can not play on a school team if they played on a sports club team that year, of the same sport.**

Furthermore, during my meeting with the EPSB superintendent's representatives, I was told that the philosophy of the Edmonton Public schools is one of "inclusion". However, the current situation definitely creates "**exclusion**". We provide multiple programs in our schools for our academics (general, matriculation and IB/AP) but facilitate for the equivalent of the only IB/AP sport athletes.

If the sports club players cannot be excluded from playing their sports in the schools, then the only alternative I can suggest is to alter the structure of the school teams. Instead of large schools having senior and junior teams, they now switch to having A teams where club teams can participate and B team in which they are excluded.

I greatly welcome any other ideas and plead for support so that a positive change will result.

Please acknowledge that we have a serious issue with our inter-school sports teams and ascertain what must be done to resolve this problem.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Glynis Dorey
Parent, Strathcona High School

Board of Trustees
Bev Esslinger, Chair
George Nicholson, Vice-Chair
David Colburn
Don Fleming
Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Svend Hansen
Wendy Keiver
Don Williams

Superintendent of Schools
Lyll M. Thomson

Centre for Education
One Kingsway
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 4G9
T 780 429-8000
F 780 429-8318
info@epsb.ca
www.epsb.ca

November 20, 2006

Ms. Glynis Dorey

Dear Ms. Dorey:

I am responding to your e-mail dated Sunday, November 12, 2006 which was addressed to Edmonton Public Schools Trustees and myself.

In your letter you express concerns regarding the participation of students in our extra-curricular sports programs and specifically those participating on interschool teams. As you indicate in your letter, many of the issues you state are related to the evolution of athletics in our province.

For your information, I am including in this letter our district's policy, *HGJD.BP Participation in Athletic Activities* and newly revised administrative regulation, *HGJD.AR Participation in Interschool Athletic Activities*.

Each school is given the authority to determine the number of interschool teams. Consideration for the number of interschool teams a school can support is based on a number of factors:

- **Facilities:** For some sports, the availability of gymnasium space or appropriate venue is the determining factor.
- **Qualified staff:** Most schools have difficulty in finding appropriate personnel to support school teams and the competition schedule, including qualified coaches, supervisors, assistants, and officials, and rely heavily on community volunteers for support.
- **Governing policies and regulations.**
- **Budgetary resources.**
- **Student interest.**

.../2

Since Edmonton Public Schools is a district of choice, students have the option to choose to attend a school based on factors such as the athletic opportunities that are available at that particular school.

Each school sets criteria for team selection based, in part, on the Alberta Schools Athletics Association's rules for student participation in interschool sports leading to provincial competitions. The intent of these rules is to provide a level playing field for all students participating in Alberta athletics competitions. With regard to the participation of club players on interschool teams, the ASAA rule states that high school students cannot play on both a club team and a school team in the same sport in the same season. All Edmonton Public Schools meet this criteria.

As a district, we cannot limit the activities of students outside the school day.

I hope that this information has provided you with a greater understanding of the overall issues that guide principals' decisions in making interschool athletics accessible for students in their schools.

Yours truly,



Bev Esslinger
Board Chair

BE:nw
Enclosure

c.c. Lyall M. Thomson, Superintendent of Schools
George Nicholson, Vice-Chair
Dave Colburn, Trustee
Don Fleming, Trustee
Gerry Gibeault, Trustee
Ken Gibson, Trustee
Svend Hansen, Trustee
Wendy Keiver, Trustee
Don Williams, Trustee
Rosalind Smith, Principal, Strathcona School