

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 8, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Response to Edmonton Space & Science Centre Presentation

ORIGINATOR: S. Stiles, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Gail Poon, Anne Sherwood, Victor Tanti

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the attached letter of endorsement be approved.
2. That letters of support for the Edmonton Space & Science Centre under the chairman's signature to the Premier and the City of Edmonton, as outlined below, be approved.

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At the January 25, 2000, board meeting, Mr. Smith, President and CEO, Edmonton Space & Science Centre, requested that the board provide a letter of endorsement with respect to the *Vision Beyond 2000: Developing Excellence for the 21st Century* initiative, which may be used by the Edmonton Space & Science Centre for seeking corporate and community support (attached).

In addition, Trustee Dean requested that the administration recommend ways the board could assist the Edmonton Space & Science Centre in pursuing funding from the provincial and municipal governments. It is recommended that separate letters be sent to the Premier and Mayor of the City of Edmonton.

1. A letter be sent to the Premier referring to the presentation to the board from the Space & Science Centre CEO and their identified need for government funding to support their proposed expansion and the continuation of their school-age programming. The letter could outline the relevance of the Space & Science Centre school programs to the curriculum, and the number of students that the Space & Science Centre serves. The letter should also reference the premier's recently announced \$500 million dollar Alberta Heritage Foundation grant for science and engineering research; and the fact that the Space & Science Centre plays a significant role in promoting science and technology to young Albertans.

2. A letter be sent to the Mayor of the City of Edmonton in support of the Space & Science Centre expansion; recognizing its significance for economic development and tourism as a world class science facility. The Edmonton Space & Science Centre is a partner with Economic Development Edmonton, Edmonton Public Schools, and Edmonton Catholic Schools for the joint initiative “Scientists 2010” which seeks to increase the communications and technology sectors’ contribution to the local economy from seven to 25 per cent. The Edmonton Space & Science Centre enhances the City’s reputation as a ‘smart city’ by providing a variety of excellent school aged science programs and promoting science and technology to the youth of our City. The letter should also express the board’s appreciation of the City of Edmonton’s continued support for the Edmonton Space & Science Centre.

GP:AS:ja