

DATE: February 28, 2012
TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: School Closure Moratorium Committee Recommendations
(Trustee Request #168)
ORIGINATOR: Tash Taylor, Director, Executive and Board Relations
RESOURCE
STAFF: Tash Taylor
REFERENCE: February 14, 2012 Board Meeting (Trustee Hoffman)

ISSUE

The following information was requested: Provide an update of the recommendations of the School Closure Moratorium Committee (SCMC).

BACKGROUND

On February 14, 2012 the Board of Trustees concluded its review and approval of the recommendations presented by the Board's School Closure Moratorium Committee.

CURRENT SITUATION

The approved recommendations are provided in Attachment I.

KEY POINTS

- As per the SCMC's report, the Board will assign the approved recommendations and actions to its committees for implementation.
- The SCMC will continue to meet until the end of the Moratorium in order to follow up on the recommendations, make additional recommendations, and ensure that other committees of the Board are supported in carrying out the recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I School Closure Moratorium Committee – Approved Recommendations
From January 31, 2012 and February 14, 2012 Board Meetings

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School Closure Moratorium Committee
Approved Recommendations from the January 31, 2012 and February 14, 2012 Board Meetings

Board Actions	City Council	Provincial Government	Federal Government
Space Utilization			
1. Advocate for a revision to the Plant Operations & Maintenance (PO&M) funding formula that is not per pupil.	-	√	-
2. Advocate for adequate, predictable and sustainable funding to address deferred maintenance and infrastructure maintenance renewal (IMR).	-	√	-
3. Advocate for a revision to the provincial Area Capacity and Utilization (ACU) formula to more accurately reflect the schools space available for educational purposes.	-	√	-
4. Work with partners to promote schools as community hubs (i.e. space for senior drop-in, stay at home parent groups).	√	√	-
5. Advocate for lease terms beyond one year.	-	√	-
Community Development			
6. Develop a formal process for both urban boards to meet with the City of Edmonton to address growth and development highlighting the need to promote smart growth and increase densification in established communities.	√	-	-
7. Initiate at least three joint discussions a year between the Board of Trustees, the City of Edmonton and the provincial government to discuss joint planning.	√	√	-
8. Advocate for family-friendly housing in mature neighbourhoods through new development or by providing housing for seniors so as to “free up” housing for families with children.	√	√	√
9. Encourage and support government incentives for retrofitting older homes to make them more attractive to younger families.	√	√	√
Program Planning			
10. Give first priority in the Three-Year Capital Plan to modernization of existing school buildings.	-	-	-
11. The Board will engage in discussions with administration about the concept of strategically locating programs to encourage enrolment.	√	-	-

The following recommendations were also approved at the February 14, 2012 Board meeting and are included as part of the School Closure Moratorium Committee Recommendations report:

1. That the Board engage in discussions with the Calgary Board of Education and the Province regarding the potential to right-size schools.
2. That the Edmonton Public School Board find ways to collaborate with Edmonton Catholic School and explore the opportunities to have joint operations.
3. That the Board identify schools and educational programming to support in areas under revitalization by the City, share this information with the City, communities and other school boards in the province and advocate for commitment to these schools to give predictability to communities.