

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 15, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATORS: M. de Man, Department Head
G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Gloria Chalmers, Mike Falk, David Fraser, Faye Parker

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #35, DECEMBER 11, 2001 (TRUSTEE GIBEAULT) PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACCESSING THE PROGRAMMING FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND STUDENTS AT RISK FROM OUT OF DISTRICT. With regard to students with special needs, for this school year (2001-2002), there are 2,203 high school students who have special needs coding. Of these, 100 students, or 4.54 per cent, are classified as non-residents of the district. In the previous year (2001-2001), 127 of 2,151 or 5.90 per cent were from out of district. In 1999-2000, 102 of 1,861 or 5.48 per cent were from out of district and in 1998-1999, 109 of 1,724 or 6.32 per cent were. Special needs non-resident students must be sponsored by their home jurisdiction if they wish to attend a district school. The fee charged is based on the calculated average cost to the district at each of the special needs allocation levels.

We do not code, nor track, students as being “at risk.” Thus, we cannot advise how many such students attend district high schools nor how many are from out of district.

In a previous response to a trustee request for information, it was advised that the term “at risk of not completing their schooling” was used with regard to students in outreach programming. On September 30, 2001, 599 students were registered in outreach programming and 20, or 3.34 per cent, were from out of district. Based on September 30 counts in previous years, the number and percentage of students from out of district are 34 of 669 or 5.08 per cent in 2000-2001, 34 of 523 or 6.50 per cent in 1999-2000 and 17 of 316 or 5.38 per cent in 1998-1999. These students are, or were, served in outreach sites not district high schools. (M. Falk, 429-8437; G. Chalmers, 429-8398)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #36, DECEMBER 11, 2001 (TRUSTEE MARTIN) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF CUSTODIANS WORKING IN MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL AND WHETHER THEY ARE COVERED BY WCB: There are eleven permanent custodial staff who work in two locations. Depending on their work schedule, they may either travel from one location to the other on the same day, or they may work at one location one day and the other location the next day. Personnel Support Services does not have specific information on each of the eleven employee's specific work schedules.

The administration has received written confirmation from WCB that, for those staff who travel between locations in the same workday, this would be considered “employer-related travel” and they would have WCB coverage as long as they travel directly from the one location to the other location. The correspondence from WCB has been shared with CUPE Local 474. (D. Fraser 429-8072)

REQUEST #37, DECEMBER 11, 2001 (TRUSTEE MARTIN) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING WHERE EASTGLEN SCHOOL IS ON THE DISTRICT’S PRIORITY LIST FOR MODERNIZATION. Eastglen School was included in the district’s 2000-2003 capital submission to Alberta Infrastructure as a proposed project for 2002. It was not included in the project approvals received in June 2001 and will be included in the district’s next capital submission proposal, which will be brought to the board in the spring of 2002. (F. Parker, 429-8429)

REQUEST #38, DECEMBER 11, 2001 (TRUSTEE WOODROW) FURTHER TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR TRUSTEE REQUEST #27, WHAT ARE OTHER JURISDICTIONS’ POLICIES FOR PROVIDING SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICES? At the end of November 2001, Dean Power, through the Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA), asked each school jurisdiction to advise whether they have speech language therapists on staff or whether they contract others to provide speech services to students. Twenty school jurisdictions responded. Sixteen advised that speech therapy is provided through contracted services, mainly through the local health authority. Four responded that they have some or all of the services provided by in-house staff. Those with in-house staff utilize funding from health authorities, the student health initiatives, provincial contracts, as well as drawing on educational dollars. At Calgary Public, baseline speech is provided through a contract with the health authority and this is augmented through the student health initiative partnership. As well, Calgary provides in-house speech services at the kindergarten level. Since the middle of the 2000-2001 school year, they have earmarked some of the kindergarten mild and moderate funding to hire speech language therapists to provide service to kindergarten. It is mainly educational services (e.g., assessment and consultation on programming and individual program plans) to teachers, with minimum direct service to students. Grande Prairie Public has 2.7 FTE speech pathologists and 2 highly trained and experienced communication assistants on staff. One FTE is paid for through an agreement with the health authority, .7 FTE from student health initiative funding and 1 FTE and the communication assistants paid for by educational dollars. Elk Island Public has speech therapists on staff. The district utilizes funding from the Capital Health and Lakeland Health authorities, the student health initiative and provincial Program Unit Funding (PUF), as well as education dollars. Westwind School Division has speech pathologists on staff funded through the student health initiative partnership and would have to lay such staff off if the student health initiative funding is discontinued. (G. Chalmers, 429-8398)

MD:GR:mjl