

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 25, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATORS: A. McBeath, Department Head  
G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Meredith Colgan, Avi Habinski

INFORMATION

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #165, JANUARY 11, 2000 (TRUSTEE SULYMA): PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING HOW MUCH OUR DISTRICT SPENT ON Y2K.** An article published in the Edmonton Journal on Friday, December 31, 1999 suggested that the Calgary Board of Education spent more than \$12 million getting its system ready for Y2K. It was stated that the money was spent on “checking more than 16,000 computers in its system, upgrading networks and replacing an archaic e-mail system”. The approach adopted by our district focused on mission critical components that included the basic utilities, student information system, personnel and payroll. The district’s Information Technology Services unit developed a program to analyze software on computers and tested some 775 workstations and servers to ensure their compliance with the Y2K requirements. The cost of the central project, undertaken during the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 school year, is \$250,000. This amount does not include upgrades or new computers purchased by schools and central units. It should be noted that the purchase of new computers occurs on an ongoing basis and only in a few cases acquisition of new technology was done in order to replace non-compliant equipment. This information was included in the January 7, 2000 Transmittal Memorandum. (A. Habinski, 429-8264)

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #166, JANUARY 11, 2000 (TRUSTEE MELNYCHUK): PROVIDE THE RESULTS OF THE AMENDED JOINT USE AGREEMENT TO TRUSTEES. ARE OUR SCHOOLS BEING USED MORE WITH THE CENTRALIZED BOOKING SYSTEM? HAS THE NEW FEE STRUCTURE INFLUENCED SCHOOL USAGE?** In 1998-99 Edmonton Public Schools provided 58,457 hours of gymnasium time under the Joint Use Agreement for recreational activities. Another 6,992 hours were booked under the Joint Use Agreement for space in schools other than the gymnasium. This would include classrooms, libraries, meeting rooms and other ancillary space for cultural language, music and youth activities. Of the 58,457 hours of gymnasium time, 7,209 hours were weekend bookings.

These numbers do not include the amount of time booked by the district or Continuing Education into school facilities for district programming and physical education activities.

School usage statistics for community use prior to 1998-99 were reported in occurrences and not in hours which makes it difficult to provide an accurate comparison. Based on the community use allocation adjustments for 1998-99 to schools there was an increase of 3 per cent paid to schools over the actual 1997-98 figures. Rental Services has a total of 63,354 hours of gymnasium time under the Joint Use Agreement for recreational activities already booked into the database for 1999-2000. The year-end usage report is run in August for Budget Services Community Use Allocation Adjustments. Actual usage figures for 1999-2000 will be generated at that time.

The new fee schedule implemented for the 1998-99 booking year has adjusted the booking practices of some larger adult sport groups. Instead of block booking 3 or 4 hours of evening time, they have reduced their bookings to the required time. This has resulted in time slots being opened up for smaller recreational or community groups who only require 1 to 1.5 hours in an evening.

Overall, the introduction of a centralized booking system has not had a negative impact on community bookings, and the introduction of the new fee schedule has not reduced community bookings, it has only adjusted booking practices. The centralized booking system has increased the district's ability to monitor community use of our school facilities and increased the ability of the booking clerks to be responsive to community requests for access to school facilities. (M. Colgan, 429-8537)

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