

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 27, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Response to Trustee Request for Information

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Gloria Chalmers

INFORMATION

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #161, NOVEMBER 25, 2008 (TRUSTEES HUFF AND COLBURN) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING HOW THE DISTRICT WILL ENSURE THE PARENT VOICE IS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE DISTRICT'S RESPONSE TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION REVIEW.** In Phase 1 of Setting the Direction for Special Education, Alberta Education sought input from a broad demographic throughout the province. Edmonton Public Schools supported the province's process by distributing information to staff and to parents in a number of ways. Information regarding the review, along with the web address for Setting the Direction, was provided to schools through the Need to Know News for distribution to staff and to parents in school newsletters or bulletins. As well, a letter, from Board Chair Esslinger, indicating the importance of parent and community input, was provided to all schools for distribution to families.

Phase 2 of the review is scheduled to occur in February and March of 2009. At this time, the intent is to develop a draft jurisdictional response to provide a focus for input from a range of stakeholders, including parents. Input to the draft will be requested from staff, parents and community through various approaches such as the District website, Need to Know News, School Councils and district advisory groups. A jurisdictional response will subsequently be finalized and submitted. The District will also encourage parents to participate directly in the provincial process.

DB:ja