

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 29, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Bob Mortor, John Nicoll, Lorne Parker; Stuart Wachowicz

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #27, DECEMBER 11, 2007 (TRUSTEE HUFF) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SCHOOLS CURRENTLY FACING CHALLENGES IN MEETING CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS DUE TO INFRASTRUCTURE PROBLEMS; E.G., ARE THERE ANY GYMNASIUMS THAT ARE INADEQUATE TO MEET THE DAILY PHYSICAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATION: In the District, instruction is provided and curricular outcomes are met within the instructional space that is available to schools. The amount, quality, and nature of instructional space to meet curricular outcomes varies from school to school and across the District.

Schools can face challenges in meeting curriculum requirements due to damage to existing infrastructure. In these situations, students are temporarily relocated to another site, or emergency repairs are completed under the Major Maintenance Plan to restore the space for instructional use. Recent examples are the temporary accommodations made following fire damage at Victoria and Delwood schools.

Challenges can also arise due to lack of space. For example, certain schools or programs operate without a gymnasium, such as Old Scona School, Centre High, and Woodside. These schools make arrangements with nearby schools to share space as required. Challenges also exist due to over-crowding conditions resulting from high enrolment. In some cases, schools operate without dedicated ancillary spaces (science, art or band rooms). These spaces are 'reclaimed' for homeroom or other instruction. Arrangements are made within the homerooms to meet the requirements.

Schools where the instructional space does not meet standards for the programs being offered are Crestwood School, Grandview Heights School, the Rites of Passage Program at Prince Rupert School, and the Nellie McClung Program, which operates at three elementary schools. These schools operate with gyms that are too small to program for junior high students. Where programs are placed in facilities where the physical space is not optimal to meet all aspects of program need, the desirability of the specific school location is deemed to override any shortcomings. These situations are addressed through the capital plan process and

specifically through access to modernization funding. Space requirements are met providing the deficiency can be remedied within the modernization project budget. In addition, new programs are no longer placed into facilities that do not have appropriate space to meet program needs.

The administration conducted a review of 180 District schools for which data on gym size is available. The actual gymnasium size was compared to the current standard for gymnasium size, as determined by the province's school capital planning manual. Thirty-four schools exceeded the current standard for gymnasium size, with the variance ranging from two square meters to 117 square meters above standard. Only one school met the standard for gym size as established in the planning manual. Of the 145 schools that did not meet the current standard, the variance ranged from seven square meters in deficiency to a shortfall of 436 square meters at a north side junior high school.

Daily Physical Activity (DPA)

Some schools do not possess sufficient gymnasium space, or other facilities that enable safe implementation of DPA in a meaningful way. Alberta Education now describes DPA as deliverable both in instructional and non-instructional time in any manner as long as the time totals 30 minutes per day. Not all schools are able to provide daily Physical Education instruction due to facility limitations, and on days when Physical Education courses are not delivered the schools are to provide 30 minutes of DPA. Examples of DPA implementation have been provided to schools by Alberta Education for using gymnasiums, fields, tarmacs and also core classrooms and hallways. (L. Parker, S. Wachowicz; J. Nicoll)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #29 JANUARY 15, 2008 (TRUSTEE GIBSON) PROVIDE CLARIFICATION OF WHAT DIVISION THE PROJECTED DECLINE IN 2008-2009 ENROLMENTS IS LIKELY TO OCCUR. It is anticipated that the projected decrease of 622 students will occur as illustrated in the following table.

Division 1*	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4
275	-476	-171	-250

*includes kindergarten and early education

(B. Morter)

TP:cg