

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 14, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

ORIGINATOR B. Holt, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Edmonton Public Schools Metro Continuing Education

RESOURCE

STAFF: Kim Deep, Darrin DeGrande, Sandra Jewell, Carol Suddards, Helen Yee

INFORMATION

Over the past two years, Alberta Learning has been reviewing the practices of public school districts providing adult learning opportunities to their communities. The outcome of this review is a new *Adult programming in the basic learning system policy* (March 2004). This policy statement brings together elements of the School Act and regulations, the Post Secondary Learning Act and regulations, and the Private Vocational Schools Act and regulations to define the parameters within which public school districts may continue to provide adult programming. This report summarizes the changes resulting from this policy as they affect the district, and the operation of Edmonton Public Schools, Metro Continuing Education. A summary of the relevant aspects of the policy and the steps taken by the administration to address them is provided in Appendix I.

Mandate. The long term future of English as a Second Language and programming for adults who require basic education programming remains uncertain. The initial position of Alberta Learning was that this programming would be excluded from the mandate. In March 2003, Alberta learning indicated that this programming would be reviewed, and the review continues into 2004-05. For the 2004-05 school year Metro will offer programming with funding from Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE) and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

As part of the policy, Metro students taking three high school credit courses will no longer be eligible for Students Finance. This affects a small number of students who enroll in three courses in a single term, thereby establishing themselves as full time. Public school districts are no longer permitted to offer full time academic upgrading programs.

As well, Metro Continuing Education has discontinued all full time vocational programs and transferred these program assets to Lakeland College.

Metro now houses four unique programs: Academic Success Programs, Continuing Education Programs, Computer and Internet Learning Centre, and English Language Institute. In the coming year each of these program areas will develop and market programs

to a targeted population. With the exception of the Academic Success Programs, the primary audiences for these programs are adult learners, including significant numbers of district staff who undertake professional development through Metro. Academic Success Programs serves primarily children and youth, but will continue to serve adults who wish to complete their schooling through Metro on a part time basis.

Finances and Accounting Practices. Edmonton Public Schools already meets many of the requirements for finances and accounting, through its normal accounting practices for cost-recovery units. An enhanced reporting format was developed early in 2003-04 which separates the adult learning programs from those offered to K-12 students. The administration will ask Alberta Learning officials to review this format at the end of this fiscal year to ensure that it meets all new requirements. In addition, Metro will continue to carry forward all surpluses and deficits but deficits associated with adult programming will be eliminated within the one year time frame required by the new policy.

Name. Beginning with the 2004-05 school year this decision unit will be called Edmonton Public Schools, Metro Continuing Education. The process to change all internal references will begin immediately. The name will first appear to the public on the Metro web site in mid July and on the fall issue of Class Calendar. By August 31, all public signage and publications will bear the new name and feature a modified logo. Metro will retain the tag line *Learning...at the speed of life.*

CS/tdm

APPENDIX I – Mandate for Metro Continuing Education