

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 14, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant to the Superintendent
B. Holt, Executive Director, Instructional and Curricular Support
C. McCabe, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, John Edey, Mike Falk, Betty Tams

INFORMATION

REQUEST #52, APRIL 12, 2005 (TRUSTEE COLBURN): PROVIDE A REPORT REGARDING THE NUMBER OF LIBRARIANS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS AND COUNSELLORS EMPLOYED BY EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1990, 1996, AND 2004 INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS IN EACH OF THESE YEARS.

REQUEST #59, MAY 6, 2005 (TRUSTEES): PROVIDE MORE CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE TERMINOLOGY USED; I.E. TEACHER-LIBRARIAN IN THE BOARD REPORT: The following is a comparison of total district teacher FTE for 1990-91, 1996-97, and 2004-05 to full-time equivalents for Counselling, Learning Resources, and Physical Education. Also included is the number of students for each year.

YEAR	TOTAL STUDENTS	TOTAL TEACHER FTE	COUNSELLOR FTE	LEARNING RESOURCES FTE	PHYS. ED. FTE
1990/91	75,881	3,500.090	99.1	81.7	Not avail.
1996/97	77,093	3,387.387	45.9	38.6	121.9
2004/05	80,155	4,412.400	42.0	21.0	126.3

This information has been drawn from information reported to Personnel Services by schools in September of each of the three years. For the years 1990/91 and 1996/97, this information was reported manually on a form that was referred to as the "TP88" form. The information in 2004/2005 was reported electronically through a system called the "Teacher Assignment System". During both the manual and electronic capturing of data, schools were provided with a list of assignment codes and descriptors to use. In all three years, no specific descriptor for "librarian" was included on the list - rather, the descriptor "learning resources" was used. The information for years 1996/97 and 2004/05 has been drawn from the human resources information management system that is presently used in Personnel Services. The

data for 1990/91 is not available on this system; therefore, those numbers have been gathered from previous paper reports that are available.

In an effort to provide some context for these figures, the following information is also given:

- There was a considerable reduction in resources provided to Alberta school districts in 1993.
- Critical Incident Support Services (formerly known as Emergency Response Team) offered through our district's Consulting Services were available to schools beginning in the 1991/92 school year. This became a free service to schools in 2001.
- The Edmonton Student Health Initiative Partnership (ESHIP) was formed in 1999. Beginning in 2000/01, Emotional/Behavior Specialists were assigned to work with identified students in schools. There are presently seventeen of these specialists working in city schools.
- Reading Recovery programs were introduced to the district in 1996/97, when the district had 7 teachers and 1 consultant working with students in the program. In 2004/05, there are 37 teachers and 3 consultants working in the program.
- There were 8.800 FTE Support Staff members designated as Library Technicians in 1990/91, 15.546 FTE's in 1996/97, and 119.271 FTE's in 2004/05.
- A new support staff designation of "Library Technician E" was introduced in 1998. Employees must have library training to receive this classification. The number of library technicians in 2004/05 with this classification was 51.

(J. Edey 429-8070/M. Falk 429-8437/B. Tams 429-8256)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #54, APRIL 26, 2005 (TRUSTEE KEIVER): PROVIDE A SUMMARY REGARDING J. PERCY PAGE'S SCHOOL COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORTING THE 10-2 PILOT PROJECT WITH RESPECT TO STUDENTS AT RISK OF NOT COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL SO THAT THE POSITIVE RESULTS CAN BE SHARED WITH OTHER SCHOOL COUNCILS THROUGH THE KEY COMMUNICATOR PROGRAM IN THE FALL. The English department head at J. Percy Page School, coordinated a reading project for students enrolled in English 10-2 that would foster a love of reading and ultimately ownership and responsibility for their learning. This project involved support from J. Percy Page's School Council as follows.

The complete proposal, with supporting rationale, was shared with the School Council. The School Council was requested to support the cost of taking three classes of English 10-2 students to Chapters Bookstore for a book buying excursion. The presentation to the School Council talked about the value of reading and specifically the reasons why students needed the opportunity to get into an environment like Chapters where they would be surrounded by books. Also addressed was the need for students to "own" the book that was purchased.

Funding was requested in the amount of \$1,000 to pay for one book per child enrolled in the English 10-2 classes. The monies provided would allow for a purchase price of \$10 per student, plus tax.

Upon completion of the project, the principal shared with the School Council the success of the fieldtrip experience. She noted that through observations made during her visits to classroom, the process had evolved into a "class library on the move" as students were

sharing their books and “asking” if they could read each others’ books. She also shared the value of this initiative. It gave students the opportunity to access books that met their diverse interests and abilities. The project also sent the message that J. Percy Page School, teachers and the community value literacy. Finally, this experience empowered students to take ownership in and responsibility for their education. (D. Barrett, 429-8035)

RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE REQUEST #71, MAY 24, 2005 (TRUSTEES) PREPARE A LETTER FOR THE CHAIRMAN’S SIGNATURE TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION OUTLINING THE DISTRICT’S CONCERNS REGARDING THE ADEQUACY OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND URGING INCREASED FUNDING TO MEETING DEMAND FOR SERVICE, AND THE PROVINCE’S COMMITMENT TO ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS.. The attached letter (Appendix I) has been forwarded by the Board Chairman to the Honourable Minister of Education, Gene Zwozdesky, requesting immediate additional transportation funding and a review of the funding formula. (J. Bidulock 429-8426)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #72 (TRUSTEE KEIVER) PROVIDE INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE WAYS TO ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A DISTRICT SUBSIDY TO ASSIST FINANCIALLY CHALLENGED FAMILIES WITH TRANSPORTATION FEES: If the costs are incurred centrally, parents would need to apply centrally on a month by month basis, to have bus pass subsidization in whole or in part considered by the district. Funding for both the administration of such a system, and for the actual subsidy, would need to be covered by the student transportation budget and would be costly.

Currently principals have the ability to waive transportation fees and incur the costs at the school level. Due to their close association with the families, principals are in the best position to assess specific information and circumstances regarding financial needs. School principals use either the funds given to schools for the sale of bus passes (\$0.50 per pass per month) or their high needs allocation to fund subsidies. While the high needs eligibility of the school is determined by assessing the economic status of families living within a postal code general area, this does not in any way identify specific families that may or may not be in need.

In surveying surrounding school boards, with the exception of St. Albert Protestant, board policy is not in place at any of the following districts. Each has different procedures for dealing with the issue.

School Division	Procedure
Elk Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no fees, except for ETS. • No subsidization allowed for ETS passes. • Principal applies to Student Transportation to waive fees for conditional riders - and rarely if ever turned down by Student Transportation.
Edmonton Catholic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal decides in Sept. (& is not likely to be reviewed again in the same year) if fees should be waived. • Cost goes against Student Transportation budget. • Approximately \$70K last year.
St. Albert Catholic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent makes written request to Student Transportation, and may require a copy of Tax Return (not retained - only viewed),

	with confirmation/support by the Principal - to waive fees for the year.
St. Albert Protestant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation fees may be waived if the family qualifies for an Alberta Health Care Premium reduction. • In the event that the Alberta Health Care is paid for by the employer, but the Principal still feels it is a worthy situation, the fees are waived for the year.
St. Albert Protestant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When payment of transportation fees cannot be made, the parent(s)/guardian(s) or independent student is required to make written application for special consideration by the Manager, Transportation Services. • The Manager, Transportation Services is authorized to rule on such applications for waiver of fees. • In lieu of Alberta Health Care Premium reduction proof, support from the school principal regarding financial hardship will also be accepted. • The waiver of transportation fees must be applied for annually.

The following schools receive high needs allocations.

056		2005-06
<u>RNK</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>FORECAST</u>
		<u>ALLOCATION</u>
1	JOHN A. MCDOUGALL	50,745
2	PARKDALE	42,293
3	EASTWOOD	28,653
4	RUNDLE	47,209
5	MCCAULEY	40,337
6	NORWOOD	32,340
7	NORTH EDMONTON	30,370
8	ABBOTT	35,331
9	SPRUCE AVENUE	56,346
10	DELTON	37,883
11	PRINCE CHARLES	52,343
12	SIFTON	34,127
13	LAWTON/R.J.SCOTT	65,159
14	BRIGHTVIEW	17,355
15	GLENDALE	19,017
16	BELVEDERE	30,043
17	SHERWOOD	15,333
18	BRITANNIA	36,507
19	EVANSDALE	37,271
20	HOMESTEADER	31,213
21	YOUNGSTOWN	39,609
22	HORSE HILL	18,752
23	ATHLONE	32,135
24	INGLEWOOD	21,603

056		2005-06
<u>RNK</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>FORECAST</u>
		<u>ALLOCATION</u>
25	BALWIN	30,581
26	BELMEAD	19,395
27	MONTROSE	16,137
28	MEE-YAH-NOH	22,159
29	GRACE MARTIN	27,190
30	JOHN BARNETT	22,341
31	NORTHMOUNT	29,211
32	WELLINGTON	20,482
33	WESTMOUNT	27,023
34	MCKEE	20,902
35	NEWTON	10,936
36	OVERLANDERS	27,475
37	THORNCLIFFE	26,496
38	CALDER	18,336
39	BELMONT	38,789
40	BANNERMAN	30,637
41	CALLINGWOOD	22,196
42	HIGHLANDS	23,785
43	WOODCROFT	8,049
47	TIPASKAN	16,248
48	KIRKNESS	27,282
49	JOHN D. BRACCO	38,289
50	MOUNT ROYAL	12,042
51	MAYFIELD	12,356
52	KILLARNEY	29,586
53	CAERNARVON	38,699
54	MCARTHUR	14,943
55	DICKINSFIELD	32,192
56	WESTGLEN	16,588
57	PRINCETON	18,572
58	LEE RIDGE	19,035
59	SCOTT ROBERTSON	14,765
60	DUNLUCE	31,860
61	MEYOKUMIN	17,013
62	LAUDERDALE	13,124
63	OLIVER	35,250
64	DOVERCOURT	23,461
65	LAPERLE	32,108
66	BEACON HEIGHTS	9,366
67	WESTLAWN	23,033
68	GARNEAU	37,128
69	QUEEN ELIZABETH	27,956
70	SWEET GRASS	17,010
71	YORK	24,178
72	ALLENDALE	18,356
73	EASTGLEN	60,144

056 RNK	<u>SCHOOL</u>	2005-06 FORECAST ALLOCATION
74	MCLEOD	26,598
75	HILLVIEW	11,824
		2,075,226

(J. Bidulock 429-8426)

DB/BH/CM:cg

Appendix I: Letter to Minister of Education