

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 13, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dosdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Response to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATORS: A. McBeath, Department Head

RESOURCE
STAFF: Robert Craig, June Klassen

INFORMATION

REQUEST #300, FEBRUARY 6, 2001 (TRUSTEE DEAN) PREPARE A REPORT FOR BOARD OUTLINING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, TIMELINES FOR COMPLETION AND PARENTAL AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FOR THE CONCEPT STUDY FOR A JUNIOR HIGH IN THE WESTEND. The administration is undertaking a West End Junior High Accommodation Study in response to requests from junior high schools serving the west-end. The study will focus on the accommodation needs of junior high students residing west of 170 Street, and will review the attendance area boundaries and determine if additional junior high space is required.

Independently from the need for a study of west end junior high accommodation, parents from the Lymburn community have expressed interest in establishing a junior high school in their area. This issue will be addressed in the context of the study, and the interested parents have been advised that the first step is to complete the west-end accommodation study to determine if sufficient space is available or if additional space is required. This information will permit a determination as to whether the district should pursue further action in the form of a capital request to Alberta Infrastructure.

The study will involve three steps; information collection, data analysis, and recommendations. It will include the principals of the designated receiving elementary and junior high schools serving the students west of 170 Street, school councils, and community leagues west of 170 Street. Staff from Planning will coordinate the study, and will have involvement from staff in both the Facilities and Transportation departments. Work on the study will commence in April and be completed by the end of June 2001. This leaves sufficient time to incorporate any resulting capital requests into the district's next capital submission to Alberta Infrastructure.

The terms of reference for the study are:

ISSUE

The boundaries and accommodation arrangements for junior high students in Edmonton's west end were last revised upon construction of S. Bruce Smith School. In the years since, growth has occurred with the addition of new neighbourhoods and the substantial completion of others. An assessment of student populations and demographics is necessary to determine whether the changes that have occurred necessitate adjustments in accommodation arrangements.

SCOPE

The study will focus on the accommodation needs of junior high students residing west of 170 Street. It will review the attendance area boundaries and determine if boundaries need to be adjusted or if additional junior high space is required. The study will include the principals of the designated receiving elementary and junior high schools serving the students west of 170 Street, school councils, and community leagues west of 170 Street.

Possible outcomes from the study could include:

- Attendance area boundary adjustments
- Designation of additional or alternate receiving schools
- Identification of capital projects

PROCESS

Step 1: Information Collection

This step will involve the following tasks:

- Generate growth projections for west-end neighbourhoods
- Prepare 5 year junior high enrolment projections
- Determine junior high space availability
- Review the transit travel routes and times
- Through a variety of public consultation methods determine school and parental opinion on accommodation

Step 2: Data Analysis

This step will involve the following tasks:

- Establish criteria to evaluate scenarios
- Review the 5 year enrolment growth for the west-end and compare this to space availability
- Determine how boundaries relate to enrolment patterns
- Identify potential transit route options
- Prepare alternative scenarios for accommodating the junior high students
- Through a variety of public consultation methods determine school and parental support for the scenarios

Step 3: Recommendations

A report will be brought to board outlining the study findings, including information about any changes to boundaries and designated receiving schools, as well as recommendations for capital projects as required.

TIMELINE

The study will commence in April 2001 and be completed by the end of June 2001.(R. Craig 429-8399, J. Klassen 429-8544)

AMcB:hc