

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 21, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Extent of Extra Curricular Activities

RESOURCE

STAFF: Ken Dropko, Linda Wiens, Jim MacLaren, Wes Craig

### INFORMATION

One of the changes in the last collective agreement with teachers was the removal of reference to extra curricular school activities from the agreement's list of assignable items. In a letter of understanding it was agreed that a committee would be established to monitor the extent of extra curricular activities in recognition of the teachers' commitment to school related activities beyond their instructional assignments.

The committee, consisting of two representatives from both the Board and the ATA, developed and distributed a survey to all schools with instructions that the survey be jointly completed by the principal and school ATA representative(s). Respondents were asked whether there had been an increase, decrease, or no change in the number of extra curricular activities and the hours spent on them compared to the previous year (1998-99). They were also asked if there had been a change, what accounted for the change. One hundred and twenty-two (61%) surveys were completed and returned. A copy of the survey is included in Appendix II.

Survey results, which were compiled and analysed by the committee, indicate that a majority of respondents felt there had been no change in the number of activities or hours spent on them. When looking at hours spent on extra curricular activities:

- 70% said there was no change,
- 17% said an increase, and
- 13% said a decrease

Similar results were also indicated when asked about the number of extra curricular activities:

- 71% indicated no change
- 12% indicated an increase, and
- 10% a decrease.

Appendix I provides a more detailed analysis of the survey results.

There was a wide range of comments by respondents who indicated there had been an increase or decrease in the number or hours spent on extra curricular activities. Respondents who indicated there had been a decrease generally commented that this was due to an

increased workload and stress often resulting from a decrease in staff and an increase in class size. Respondents who said there had been an increase attributed it to new staff in the school or increased demands by students, parents and principals. Following are a few examples of comments that are representative of comments made by respondents.

**Sample Reasons for Decreases:**

- “We decided that we wouldn’t offer a ski club to students – parents could do this with their own children. Christmas concert is not a “musical production” operetta thus reducing great teacher time to plan the event. Focus on doing fewer things better”.
- “Increased class sizes for some teachers. Curriculum changes and increased attention to/focus on curriculum and student achievement. Increased demands on teacher professional & personal time resulting in teacher fatigue. Desire of teachers/attempts for “balanced & healthy lifestyle”.

**Sample Reasons for Increases:**

- “Dramatic increases actually. There has been a decrease in staff meeting times, but an increase in clubs, teams, and department responsibilities. I, and other teachers who have been interviewed, feel that the demands of parents have increased exponentially and we are therefore more responsible to offer more. They want more teams, clubs & activities. All of this is usually because students stay at school for lunch & we are expected to give up our lunch hours to entertain them. We coach teams & clubs after school & on weekends also to find times open in the gymnasium. We are also expected increasingly to compete with other schools for the best ceremonies, school plays, Xmas concerts, etc... which results in more work”.
- “New staff members’ contributions are the main reason. Also, the success of particular activities has led us to increase the time spent on those areas. Note: extra curricular activities, though encouraged, are not assigned.”
- “It is a goal of our school to offer additional extra curricular activities. All teachers are expected to offer at least 1 club that runs at least 4 sessions. To relieve additional pressure (and with no apparent harm) the # of supervision times per teacher has been cut in half. We saw this as a “fair trade.”

KDD:LW

APPENDIX I      Summary of the Extent Of Extra Curricular Activities Survey Results  
APPENDIX II     Extent of Extra Curricular Activities Survey