

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 10, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Board Requests for Information

ORIGINATOR: J. Bidulock, Assistant Superintendent
T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Meredith Colgan, Josephine Duquette, Michael Ediger, Bob Morter,
Carol Symons

INFORMATION

BOARD REQUEST #242, OCTOBER 13, 2009, PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING HOW WIDESPREAD THE USE OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IS IN THE DISTRICT; E.G. THE NUMBER OF PRINCIPALS WHO USE IT OR WHO HAVE TAKEN THE COURSES: Restorative justice is defined as follows: “Restorative justice is an approach to justice that focuses on repairing the harm caused by crime while holding the offender responsible for his or her actions, by providing an opportunity for the parties directly affected by a crime - victim(s), offender and community – to identify and address their needs in the aftermath of a crime, and seek a resolution that affords healing, reparation and reintegration, and prevents future harm.” (Cormier, 2002) “Restorative justice is a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in a specific offence and to collectively identify and address harms, needs and obligations, in order to heal and put things as right as possible.” (Zehr, 2002)

There is a continuum of practices and activities that fall within the concept of restorative justice. Within our District, one of the common practices is that of community conferencing. Since 2002, the District has contracted, through Leadership Services, with the Alberta Conflict Transformation Society (ACTS) for services including organizing and conducting community conferencing, training of District staff on how to facilitate a community conference and in-servicing District staff on creating a restorative culture in the classroom.

Over the past three school years, 59 schools have accessed ACTS to explore supports for a community conference. Of these, 46 schools participated in a community conference, while an additional 13 schools attempted to conduct conferences, but were not successful in getting agreement of the required participants. Furthermore, staff members representing an additional 20 schools have participated in training offered by ACTS. Finally, five inservices have been conducted for specific schools at their request.

Leadership Services has embedded presentations on restorative justice practices as part of the first year principal training and support programs. In addition, restorative justice practices are included within the Expulsion and Alternatives inservices for schools.

At this point it is not possible to determine how widespread the practices are to establish restorative justice in classrooms, or where staff members trained by ACTS are internally hosting formal or informal community conferences.

BOARD REQUEST #250, NOVEMBER 3, 2009, BRING THE RESPONSE TO REQUEST #237 TO PUBLIC BOARD IN ITS ENTIRETY.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REQUEST #237, OCTOBER 6, 2009, PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE DISTRICT'S CONTRIBUTION OF SPACE FOR JOINT USE FACILITIES AND GYM TIME FOR THIS YEAR AND WHETHER THERE HAVE BEEN ANY CHANGES IN POLICY OR PRACTICE FOR THE AWARDED OF GYM SPACE TO USERS. The District contributes joint use space through two methods: available and additional time, as identified in the 2007 Joint Use Agreement: Facilities. Available time is identified by schools annually and occurs only if a custodian is regularly scheduled to work and the school does not require the facility for its own use. This process has not changed in many years. Additional time is a new process and only occurs when the school does not have a regularly scheduled custodian for this time but is able to provide staffing. The Facility Management Committee and the District have been working to increase availability in schools for community groups and the list of acceptable activities, such as soccer or basketball, in school gymnasiums.

The District is responsible for identifying locations and time available to the City of Edmonton for community use. This information is compiled with the contributions from the Edmonton Catholic and Francophone school districts. The City of Edmonton allocates the total available time in schools to user groups and processes the community use bookings. Policies and practices for the allocation of joint use time in schools are maintained by the City of Edmonton.

Statistical Review of 2009-2010, 2008-2009 and 2007-2008

In 2009-2010 the District made available 69,605.75 hours of available time. This represents 67 per cent of the total available time in schools provided by all three boards for community groups. This is an increase of 18 per cent of the Districts contribution of available time compared to 2008-2009. These values may change throughout the year as dates are removed from availability for district use.

In 2009-2010 the City was able to book 40,000.25 hours for community groups in district schools. This represents 65 per cent of the total booked hours in schools provided by all three boards for community groups. This is an increase of 16 per cent of the districts booked available time compared to 2008-2009. These values may change throughout the year as dates are removed from availability for district use and community groups cancel bookings.

In addition to the available time provided in 2008-2009, the District was able to provide 841.25 hours of additional time. This represents 68 per cent of the total number of hours provided by all three boards. The additional time requests for 2009-2010 are being processed and the number of hours is undetermined.

South West Soccer Information

- 36 district schools in the area
- 26 district schools are able to accommodate community use as available time
- 19 district schools indicated that soccer is an acceptable activity in the school

The response sent from the City of Edmonton to the South West Edmonton Minor Soccer Association (SWEMSA) is attached (Appendix I).

JB:TP:ja

APPENDIX I City of Edmonton Response to SWEMSA

City of Edmonton response to SWEMSA
October 20, 2009

To: SWEMSA Soccer parents:

RE: Gymnasium practice time for soccer southwest Edmonton

This email is to follow-up the concerns expressed regarding the availability of gymnasium practice time for soccer in the southwest area of Edmonton.

The City of Edmonton recognizes the important role that community sport and recreation organizations play in providing health, wellness and social development opportunities for the citizens of Edmonton. A new Joint Use Agreement: Facilities was negotiated in October 2007 with the three Edmonton based school boards (Edmonton Public School Board, Edmonton Catholic School Board and the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord). The purpose of the Joint Use Agreement is to help ensure that residents can access schools for recreation purposes and schools can access City of Edmonton facilities for educational purposes.

Over the past two years, through this new agreement, we have seen some positive changes to school access:

- Gymnasium availability across the city increased from 93,000 to 106,000 hours (14% increase), with significant increases in quality weekday time, primarily in B size gymnasiums.
- The volume of time booked by community user groups rose by 10,649 hours (21% increase) in the past two years.
- School Board cancellations of available gym time decreased by 43%. 8,000 hours were cancelled in 2008/09 down from 15,000 hours in 2007/08.
- 1,242 hours of additional time was booked at \$38 / hour in 2008/09 and we expect more time will be confirmed in 2009/10.
- Schools allowing youth soccer practice has increased significantly with approximately 30,000 more hours available compared to last year (2008/09).

After this years gymnasium allocation SWEMSA had booked 1,685 hours of gymnasium time for the 2009/2010 season, representing a 28% increase over the total SWEMSA bookings from the 2008/2009 season. The EMSA zones collectively have booked 8146 hours of gymnasium time for the 2009/2010 season, representing an 11% increase over the total EMSA zone bookings in the 2008/2009 season.

There are still opportunities to acquire gym time for 2009/2010 as approximately 40,000 hours are still available. These requests are being accepted on a first-come-first served basis and must be made through the zone soccer representative as indicated by EMSA.

While the overall gym availability citywide displays positive trends, we recognize that some of the available time is not as desirable to some groups such as seasonal time (April-June), time of day (5-6 p.m. weekdays) and weekend time. We also recognize that in southwest Edmonton the population exceeds the other quadrants of the city in terms of number of people compared to number of gyms. Southwest community leagues and other community based organizations are very active and require gymnasium time for their programs.

Therefore gym time outside of the southwest area, on weekends or at marginal times (5 – 6 p.m.) may need to be explored. Groups also have the option of booking time with other providers (university, colleges, etc.) to meet the total demand for soccer practice for southwest teams.

The gymnasium allocation process is reviewed yearly as part of the role of the newly formed Gymnasium User Committee. For 2009/10, the Committee supported a standard of play that would only allow soccer practice into B size or smaller gyms during the initial allocation process. This decision was made based on the limited number of available AA/A gyms and the need to support sports and activities that require large gyms to successfully run their programs, i.e. adult volleyball/basketball. After the initial allocation, any remaining time in AA/A gyms, may be booked by soccer.

The City of Edmonton will continue to work with school boards and community user groups to further refine the system for accessing and booking gymnasiums. While there have been some positive gains over the last year we recognize that southwest Edmonton has challenges related to gymnasium demand and inventory. We anticipate that the new schools gyms opening over the next couple of years will help provide more gym time in high demand areas such as southwest Edmonton.

I have attached a two-page fact sheet that we recently sent to EMSA and SWEMSA with more detailed information. Should you have any further questions, I would be happy to try to answer them. My contact details are below.

Sincerely,

Brad Badger
Director, Partnership Development and Facility Bookings
Recreation Facility Services Branch
City of Edmonton, Community Services Department
(780) 496-4799
brad.badger@edmonton.ca

- c. Councillor Bryan Anderson
Councillor Don Iveson
Eric Mahabir, Southwest Zone President (SWEMSA)
Mario Charpentier, President (EMSA)
Juan Oritz, Executive Director (EMSA)
Rob Smyth, Manager, Community Facility Services

**GYMNASIUM DELIVERY SYSTEM
FACT SHEET
SOCCER / SWEMSA**

JOINT USE AGREEMENT

A new Joint Use Agreement (JUA): Facilities was negotiated in October 2007 with the three Edmonton based school boards, Edmonton Public School Board, Edmonton Catholic School Board and the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord and the City of Edmonton.

Key commitments:

- The City of Edmonton will work with all community user groups who want to access gym space.
- The City of Edmonton will centralize the gymnasium booking system
- The School Boards will ensure the number of hours of gymnasium time booked by the community are not reduced from one year to the next
- The School Boards and the City to develop a process to make previously unavailable school gymnasium time available through an “additional hour” purchase option (\$38 per hour).

2008/09 Season (September – August):

- Gymnasium availability increased from 93,000 to 106,500 hours (14% increase) from 2007/08.
- There was a significant increase in the availability of quality time, primarily in B size gymnasiums.
- The volume of time booked by users rose by just over 5,000 hours from 50,518 to 55,535 (10% increase).
- School Board cancellations of available gym time decreased by 43%. 8,000 hours were cancelled in 2008/09 down from 15,000 hours in 2007/08.
- 1,242 hours of additional time at \$38 / hour was confirmed for community user groups.

2009/10 Season (September – August)

- The total number of gymnasiums available for Joint Use time increased from 233 to 255 gyms (7% increase) from 2008/09.
- Gymnasium availability remained constant at approximately 106,000 hours.
- Large gyms (A/AA) saw an increase of 2,306 hours (17% increase) from 2008/09.
- The volume of time booked by users to date has risen by 5,632 hours from 55,535 (total booked in all of 2008/09) to 61,167 (10% increase).
- Schools allowing youth soccer practice has increased significantly with approximately 30,000 more hours available compared to 2008/09.
- The City of Edmonton worked with School Board staff in an attempt to secure soccer as a permitted activity in all gyms south of 34 Ave and in the Riverbend area as this area was identified as the highest need area by SWEMSA. *(See list below of schools in southwest who now allow soccer).*
- The City of Edmonton will continue to acquire “additional hour” gym time (\$38 per hour) from schools in A and B size gyms.
- Adult soccer practice will also be permitted in school gymnasiums (to potentially be incorporated for 2010/11 season).

SWEMSA / EMSA BOOKINGS

- After allocation SWEMSA had booked 1,685 hours of gymnasium time for the 2009/2010 season, representing a 28% increase over the total SWEMSA bookings in the 2008/2009 season.
- EMSA zones collectively have booked 8146 hours of gymnasium time for the 2009/2010 season, representing an 11% increase over the total SWEMSA bookings in the 2008/2009 season.

AVAILABLE GYM TIME / SOUTHWEST

- Opportunities to book gym time for 2009/2010 still exist.
- In southwest Edmonton the population exceeds the other quadrants of the city in terms of number of people compared to number of gyms.
- Southwest community groups and leagues are very active and require gym time for their programs as well.
- Groups in southwest Edmonton may need to book time that is not desirable or look to other providers such as University, Colleges, etc. to meet the total demand for soccer practice for southwest.
- It is anticipated that the new schools gyms opening over the next couple of years, will help provide more gym time in high demand areas such as southwest Edmonton.

GYMNASIUM ALLOCATION

- The Gymnasium allocation process is reviewed yearly by the newly formed Gymnasium User Committee (GUC).
- The GUC represents approximately 20 different sports/activities, the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and 400+ community user groups. Their group includes two soccer representatives.
- The GUC decided during the initial allocation process to only allow soccer practice into B size and smaller gyms for 2009/2010.
- This was due to fewer hours available in AA/A gyms and the requirement by other sports and activities to be in large gyms to successfully run their programs. (i.e. adult volleyball/basketball)
- After the initial allocation any remaining time in AA/A gyms could be picked up by soccer for practice.
- The Standards of Play will be reviewed again by the GUC before the 2010/11 allocation process.

NEXT STEPS

The City of Edmonton will continue to work with the school boards and the GUC to:

- Acquire gym time that is more reflective of community needs (location, time of day and time of year) especially in areas where there is a larger demand for gym time.
- Continue to reduce the number of cancellations by schools after the allocation process has been completed.
- Revise the Fair & Equitable allocation processes to meet the vast needs and large volume of community user groups who request gym space.

CONTACT

Brad Badger
Director, Partnership Development and Facility Bookings
Recreation Facility Services Branch
City of Edmonton, Community Services Department
(780) 496-4799 brad.badger@edmonton.ca

**SOUTHWEST EDMONTON
SCHOOLS WHERE SOCCER PRACTICE IS ALLOWED**

GYM NAME	ALLOW SOCCER	GYM SIZE
George P. Nicholson	Yes	A
George H. Luck	Yes	A
Lillian Osborne	Unknown at this time	A
Archbishop Joseph MacNeil	Yes	A
Sweetgrass	Yes	B
Keheewin	Yes	B
Riverbend	No	B
St. Mary	Yes	B
Steinhauer	Yes	C
St.Teresa	Yes	C
Brander Gardens	Yes	C
Earl Buxton	Yes	C
Brookside	Yes	D
St. Monica	No time offered	D