

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 12, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATOR: A. Habinski, Executive Director, School and District Services  
B. Holt, Executive Director, Instructional and Curricular Support Services

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Mary-Ellen Deising, Anne Mulgrew

INFORMATION

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #350 SEPTEMBER 25, 2003 (TRUSTEE ODYNSKI): EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF REPORTING RESULTS REVIEW INFORMATION BY PROGRAM WITHIN EACH SCHOOL; DISAGGREGATED RESULTS:** Disaggregating school level results for public documents is feasible, but is not recommended as a practice for the district. Disaggregated reporting could provide results for

- students in regular programs
- students in programs of choice
- students in programs of need

Presenting data in a disaggregated form invites comparisons among programs which detracts from the more productive use of data which is to improve student achievement. Comparing one group of students to another group is problematic. Regular programs, programs of choice and programs of need, by their very nature, are not comparable. For example, parents make a decision to place their children in programs of choice which makes this population of students unique.

What needs to be known is that all district programs are meeting the needs of students. This can be determined by looking at disaggregated data at a district level which is available to trustees.

One reason for not displaying school-level disaggregated data in public documents is because in schools with multiple programs, the number of students within some subgroups is very small. This creates problems because

- it allows individual students to be identified
- one student in a small group can dramatically alter the results for the whole group, and
- in cases where the population is fewer than 6, data cannot be reported publicly.

Another reason for not displaying school-level disaggregated data is that the general public is not aware of the context of individual schools, and this could contribute to misinterpretation and misuse of school data. For example, the Fraser Institute rank ordering of district schools leads to some parents questioning their own local school results in the absence of an understanding of how the data is derived, and how it is related to the school context.

Schools can request disaggregated data to use for program planning purposes. This is appropriate at a school site, where the total context of the school population is understood. During results review it is important that schools share with trustees the context of their school population as they present achievement results for students. (A. Mulgrew, 429-8351)

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #367, BOARD, OCTOBER 14, 2003 (TRUSTEE WOODROW) PROVIDE INFORMATION ON HOW MUCH MONEY IS IN “HOLDBACK” FOR THIS YEAR.** The total amount in Holdback on September 30, 2003 was \$18,154,707. The majority of this amount is represented by school utilities at \$15.3 million. Below is the breakdown of dollars in holdback for 2003-04:

**Community Use - \$2,368**

Sherbrooke and Bellevue Schools – this amount will be returned to General Revenue.

**Consulting/Inservice \$227,000**

This amount will be transferred to Consulting Services to support the unfunded portion of consultants in the following areas – Music, Art, Physical Education, ESL, Custodial, Support Staff.

**Enhanced Opportunity - \$13,800**

Amount previously allocated to Bellevue. In consultation with Alberta Learning, this will likely be allocated to the next school on the high needs list.

**Enrolment Growth - \$250,000**

Amount allocated on a monthly prorated basis of the 2003-04 level 1 allocation rate, based on increases in enrolment beyond 5 per cent from September 30, 2002.

**Exceptional Circumstances - \$500,000**

Amount to be allocated to schools that expend in excess of the resources received to provide programming for severe special needs students.

**French Initiative - \$362,693**

District amount to support French Renewal project. This will be transferred to DU336 Curriculum to support expenditures for this project.

**LRC - \$10,803**

Represents amount for Bellevue and Sherbrooke schools.

**Maintenance Project - \$362,766**

Amount to be transferred to DU371 Facilities Services for: Air System Maintenance at schools (cleaning of heating coils) - \$250,000; re-centralized maintenance for Major General Griesbach School - \$30,543; Early Ed site funding not guaranteed (will be re-distributed under school maintenance) - \$ 82,223

**Native Funding - \$18,800**

Amount to be allocated to Aboriginal Services to support programming in schools.

**New to District/New to School - \$829,810**

Amount to be allocated to schools for special needs students at levels 5 and above who register after September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Grade 10 Secondary Funding - \$50,000**

Amount reserved from the provincial grade 10 block funding to allow the district to allocate for grade 10 students enrolled in a secondary location, e.g., student completes 35 credits at Harry Ainlay (primary provider) but also completes 5 credits through Metro (secondary provider).

**Transfer from Institution - \$160,000**

Amount to be allocated to schools for special needs students that were registered in an institution on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Utilities - \$15,346,667**

Amount to be transferred to DU378 Energy Management, to cover the cost of school utilities.

**Water Main Breaks - \$20,000**

Amount to be allocated to DU371 Facilities Services to cover costs of water main breaks in schools. (M. Deising, 429-8063)

BH:hc