

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 10, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2002 Community Survey Results

ORIGINATOR: A. Habinski, Executive Director School and District Services

RESOURCE

STAFF: Diane Brunton, Linda Wiens

### INFORMATION

The community survey is designed to monitor the perceptions of the community regarding the education provided by the district and is administered annually to a representative sample of Edmonton Public School tax supporters. This year, for the first time, respondents were given the option of completing their survey on the Internet or returning it via Canada Post. Approximately 7% of respondents chose to respond via the Internet. Results from the Community Survey are used with other district information to assess the overall effectiveness of Edmonton Public Schools' decisions and initiatives.

Analysis of the 2002 Community Survey data indicates a slight decrease in overall positive responses when compared to previous years. Respondents with children in district schools showed the largest decreases especially in response to questions referring to the trustees, superintendent, use of money in the district, and responding to public concerns. Historically these areas have shown a downward trend after or during unresolved labour negotiations, e.g., the strike by support staff members in 1990 and the ATA negotiations in 1998. Respondents were also asked about the main issues facing education. The issues most often cited were concerning the lack of funding, class size, and meeting the needs of all students.

## SUMMARY OF SURVEY ANALYSIS

The following table provides a summary of the increases and decreases in positive responses from respondents with children in Edmonton Public Schools and those who do not have children in district schools. Changes in positive responses are compared to the previous year as well as longitudinally.

	<b>Respondents <u>With</u> Children in EPS</b>	<b>Respondents <u>Without</u> Children in EPS</b>
<b>Increase In Positive Responses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supportive of having a choice of different types of schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPS provides an education that is better or the same as other countries</li> </ul>
<b>Upward Trend In Positive Responses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPS effective in preparing students for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– entering post-secondary education</li> <li>– world of work</li> <li>– responsible citizenship</li> </ul> </li> <li>• EPS provides an education that is better or the same as elsewhere in Canada</li> <li>• schools receiving funding from fund raising</li> </ul>
<b>Decrease In Positive Responses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• effectiveness of principals</li> <li>• effectiveness of teaching staff</li> <li>• effectiveness of superintendent</li> <li>• supportive of an increase in funding for EPS</li> <li>• availability of continuing education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• responding to public concerns</li> <li>• funding from sponsorships</li> <li>• importance of developing heritage language skills</li> </ul>
<b>Significant Decrease in Positive Responses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• effectiveness of trustees</li> <li>• responding to public concerns</li> <li>• spending of public money</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nil</li> </ul>
<b>Downward Trend In Positive Responses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paying for anything beyond basic education</li> <li>• importance of developing skills and appreciation in fine arts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• importance of developing skills and appreciation in fine arts</li> </ul>

Detailed multiyear survey results are provided in graph form in Appendix I. More in-depth analyses are provided in Appendices II and III.

LW:

- APPENDIX I - 2002 Community Survey Multiyear Graphs
- APPENDIX II - 2002 Multiyear Table of Increases and Decreases
- APPENDIX III - Edmonton Public Schools' Community Questionnaire: 2002