

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 14, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: 2004 Community Survey Results

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

RESOURCE

STAFF: Diane Brunton, Don Le

INFORMATION

The community survey is designed to monitor the perceptions of the community regarding the education provided by the district. It is administered annually to a representative sample of Edmonton Public School tax supporters, however it was cancelled in 2003 due to financial restraints. This year, for the second time, respondents were given the choice of completing their survey on the Internet or returning it via Canada Post. Approximately six per cent of respondents chose to respond via the Internet. Results from the Community Survey are used in conjunction with other district information to assess the overall effectiveness of Edmonton Public Schools' decisions and initiatives.

Analysis of the 2004 Community Survey data indicates an increase in overall positive responses when compared to the previous survey. There has been an increase in: the perceived effectiveness of the teaching staff, the satisfaction with how students are being prepared to become responsible citizens and the perception that students are encouraged to stay in school until they graduate. Respondents with children in district schools recognized the importance of French language skills while exhibiting a decrease in positive response to the question regarding the condition of EPS buildings. Among respondents without children attending district schools there was an increase regarding the importance of heritage language skills. This group also responded less positively to the question concerning the condition of EPS buildings. Respondents were asked about the main issues facing education. The issues most often cited were concerning the lack of funding, class size, and curriculum issues.

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.

	Respondents <u>With</u> Children in EPS	Respondents <u>Without</u> Children in EPS
Increase In Positive Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responding to public's concerns • importance of heritage language skills • EPS better / same as private schools • EPS better / same as other countries • effectiveness of trustees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • choice of different types of schools • encouraging students to stay in school until graduation
Significant Increase in Positive Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • importance of French language skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • importance of heritage language skills
Upward Trend In Positive Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouraging students to stay in school until graduation • EPS provides quality of education better/same as other countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPS provides quality of education better / same as private schools • EPS provides quality of education better / same as elsewhere in Canada
Decrease In Positive Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • receiving funding from fund raising • receiving funding from exclusive supply agreements
Significant Decrease in Positive Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • condition of EPS buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • condition of EPS buildings • parents paying for anything beyond basic education
Downward Trend In Positive Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parents paying for anything beyond basic education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nil

Detailed multiyear survey results are provided in graph form in Appendix I. More in-depth analysis is provided in Appendix II.

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- APPENDIX I - 2004 Community Survey Multiyear Graphs
- APPENDIX II - 2004 Multiyear Table of Increases and Decreases
- APPENDIX III - Edmonton Public Schools' Community Questionnaire: 2004