

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 14, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Review of High School Accommodations in South Edmonton

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

RESOURCE
STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Randy Billey, Michael Ediger, Dennis Huculak,
Karen Linden, Corinne McCabe, Cathy Pasternak

INFORMATION

Purpose

This report is to inform the Board of a planned process to gather, analyse and present the findings pertaining to attendance and catchments areas for high schools in South Edmonton, including those neighborhoods in the Edmonton river valley. The study is in response to a trustee motion to review designated receiving areas for high schools for the Rossdale neighborhood and for students at south side high schools. It is the intent of this study to identify strategies to support the pre-enrolment process, random selection process and ease the transition for students into and within district high schools.

Background

This study derives from the current needs and demands to better accommodate students residing in South Edmonton who are entering high school. Recent inquiries from the public, specifically in the Rossdale neighborhood along with others impacted by the random selection process for students entering high school in South Edmonton, have spurred the need to address this issue. The need to review the current attendance and catchments areas is a result of increasing demands for enrolment at high schools already at capacity in areas of the city that continue to develop and expand. While addressing existing anomalies in attendance and catchments areas, it is prudent at this time to address the necessity of balancing the high school population in South Edmonton amongst all high schools in this part of the city.

Student accommodation, as it relates to alternative program continuity, demand and transition from junior high school to senior high school are issues of growing concern in South Edmonton. This study will explore the impact program offerings are having on enrolment trends and patterns.

Other issues including space utilization, self identified Catholic students attending Edmonton Public high schools in South Edmonton and the number of students residing out of district and attending district high schools in South Edmonton will also be addressed in this study.

The high schools that will be the focus of this study include: Harry Ainlay, J. Percy Page, McNally, Strathcona and W. P. Wagner. Enrolment and program implications associated with L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy and Old Scona will be recognized.

Methods of Gathering Data and Information

Input and data will be gathered through:

- Meetings and surveys with all principals currently assigned to South Edmonton high schools;
- Meetings and surveys with district junior high school principals currently assigned as feeder schools to district South Edmonton high schools;
- Community consultation and surveys of high school parent councils and selected junior high school parent councils in South Edmonton;
- Analysis of historical, present and projected enrolment trends, projections and patterns;
- Review and analysis of alternative and special education programs currently being offered in these high schools and the transition from junior high to senior high school;
- Analysis of the school capacity rates at the schools involved; and
- Identify the impact self-identified Catholic students and students residing out of the district have on enrolment at these schools.

Reporting to Board

Upon analysis of the data and information collected, findings will be presented to trustees as information by December 2004. As a result of this study any changes implemented by administration will be communicated to trustees. If findings warrant any changes to policy, recommendations will be brought forward to trustees.

RB:cp