

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 10, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Edmonton Public Schools' Sector Model

ORIGINATOR: G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Bob Clark, Richard Craig, Robert Craig, Beatrice Denboer, Michael Ediger, June Klassen, Roland Labbe, Manfred Malzahn, Faye Parker, Deanne Patsula

INFORMATION

For the last few years, Alberta Infrastructure has been applying a jurisdiction-wide provincial utilization rate of 85 per cent as a requirement for approving funding for new school construction. Jurisdictions that fell below this mark would not receive capital funds for new schools. This criterion has been considered by a number of districts as placing a disadvantage on large urban centres where there can be great differences in utilization rates in different parts of the jurisdiction.

The province established an Area, Capacity & Utilization Sub-Committee to review both the utilization rate formula and how it is applied. In its report to the School Facilities Task Force Steering Committee, the sub-committee put forward a proposal that provincial utilization rates for smaller geographic areas within each jurisdiction should be used instead of using one jurisdiction-wide rate. This is referred to as a "sector model." The report is expected to receive ministerial approval in spring 2001. Even though the report is not final, Alberta Infrastructure has made a request that "all school jurisdictions establish geographic sectors, in consultation with Alberta Infrastructure, to assist in Facility Planning." The report also proposes that the School Buildings Board approve the sectors. For ease of administration and for comparative purposes, coterminous sector boundaries between Public and Catholic school jurisdictions were strongly encouraged.

Alberta Infrastructure staff have indicated to the administration that the sector utilization rates will be considered when the School Buildings Board reviews the district's capital submission.

Appendix I is a map that identifies the proposed sectors for Edmonton Public Schools. The draft new provincial utilization rates and the rated capacities of each sector are shown. These new rates are based on a square meter per student formula. It is noteworthy that the Southwest sector has a utilization rate of 85 per cent, and Southeast and West-2 sectors have utilization rates of 82 per cent. The utilization rates and the rated capacities of each sector may change slightly when the draft utilization formula is finalized by Alberta Infrastructure.

The administration has met with Edmonton Catholic Schools' administration to generate the sectors. All of the outer boundaries of the proposed sector boundaries are coterminous. However, because of capacity and enrolment differences, Edmonton Catholic Schools considers the North Central and Northwest sectors as one versus our two. Alberta Infrastructure staff indicated they would give favourable consideration to this approach if appropriate rationale is provided.

Factors Considered in Establishing Sectors

The following factors were considered in establishing the sectors:

- Areas where the primary need is for efficiency in use of space and modernization, and areas where the need is to accommodate population growth through new construction are distinct.
- Natural geographic boundaries such as transportation arterials and the river valley.
- City of Edmonton Area Structure and Neighbourhood Structure Plan boundaries.
- City of Edmonton suburban growth patterns are respected.
- Making the model useful as a planning tool for addressing the district's future space needs.
- Coterminous boundaries with Edmonton Catholic Schools.

After board discussion of this report, the proposed sector model for Edmonton Public Schools will be sent to Alberta Infrastructure who plan to take it forward to the April School Buildings Board meeting for consideration.

GR/bd

APPENDIX I - Proposed Sectors for Edmonton Public Schools