

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 11, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dosdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: M.E.LaZerte School: Modernization for Increased Student Learning

ORIGINATOR: Rosalind Smith, Principal, M.E. LaZerte

RESOURCE
STAFF: Orest Soltykevych

INFORMATION

M. E. LaZerte School is located in northeast Edmonton. The school was built in 1969 and educates approximately 1250 students. The multi-ethnic student population reflects the neighbourhood in which it is situated. The students come from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds.

The focus at M. E. LaZerte is to provide a successful educational experience, with high expectations for achievement, for all of its student population, regardless of the ability of the student. In addition to a regular core stream, the school also features an International Baccalaureate program, now in its third year. The school also offers an Integrated Occupational Program (IOP) as well as a Community Living Skills program for students who are trainable mentally handicapped.

In the past few years, M. E. LaZerte School has undergone extensive modernization, not only to the areas where students learn, but also to the infrastructure, including mechanical and communication upgrades. The focus of the renovations has been to improve the learning experience for students. All changes to our school have been made with student achievement in mind.

We have created an atrium in the centre of the school, which serves as a gathering place for students, as well as a place where meetings, displays and performances can be held. All of our classrooms have been remodeled; and most now have windows that bring in outside light. Our CTS classrooms have been refurbished to increase the safety and comfort of students and teachers, and in many cases have been designed to enhance collaborative and team-teaching experiences.

Our office area was redesigned for better access for students and visitors. The counseling area has been greatly expanded to give students better opportunities to explore post-secondary and workforce options. The library was relocated for better student access, and teacher preparation and meeting areas were redesigned to facilitate inter-departmental collaboration.

The staff at M. E. LaZerte School is proud to be working in such an attractive and modernized school. We are working hard to improve student achievement and to increase the satisfaction of students, staff, parents and the community as measured by the district attitude surveys. As a result of these positive changes in the school, we anticipate that it will become an attractive choice for students choosing a high school in the future.

RS:jj