

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 10, 2007

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: B. Holt, Acting Superintendent

SUBJECT: Trustee Planning Initiatives for 2007-2008

ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Donna Barrett, Ron MacNeil, Corinne McCabe, Jamie Pallett, Tanni Parker, Edgar Schmidt, Betty Tams

INFORMATION

In January 2007, trustees submitted ten initiatives to the administration for consideration in the 2007-2008 district plans. At the trustee retreat in February and again at Conference on March 6, 2007 these initiatives were discussed to:

- clarify and confirm the intent of the initiatives,
- explore the possibilities of combining initiatives, and
- link the initiatives to existing work already being done in the district.

These initiatives were then examined by the administration with respect to:

- the impact on the district priorities,
- the associated financial costs,
- the ability of the current infrastructure to support the initiative,
- the degree of compatibility with ongoing initiatives, and
- the degree of sustainability required.

While not all initiatives submitted will be addressed as outlined, every effort has been made to incorporate the intent of the initiative into the daily work of schools and central decision units. The following identifies the intended actions of the administration in 2007-2008 with regard to each initiative.

Initiative	Action, Associated Costs and Decision Unit Responsible
<p>1. Examine the feasibility of creating a fitness centre for central staff either within the blue building (ideally) or Victoria School. This report to review issues of space availability, start up costs, operating costs and staff interest/utilization. (Trustee Colburn)</p>	<p><u>Action</u> A feasibility study examining the creation of a fitness centre for central staff will be conducted. Results of the study will be reported to trustees.</p> <p><u>Associated Costs</u> \$16,500</p> <p><u>D.U. Responsible</u> Consulting Services (338) Facilities Services (371) Personnel Support Services (364)</p>
<p>2. Ever Active Schools is an organization located in Edmonton whose mandate is to provide support/resources in support of school health. Its mission statement is "...to facilitate the development of healthy children and youth by fostering social and physical environments that support healthy, active school communities." Currently there are 9 Edmonton Public schools involved in the "Ever Active Schools program". This organization has limited funding (two full time employees). My proposal is that the district (further developing its leadership in school health) becomes the first Ever Active School district in the province. Every district school would understand how to better create healthy school communities. In return every district school would pay half of their DPA allocation (\$500) to Ever Active for resources and regular consultation in the area of school health. This initiative would strengthen the district's commitment to school health and support an organization that has a potential to be a provincial leader in school health. The funding</p>	<p><u>Action</u> This initiative will not be undertaken as outlined, however, the district will continue to support student and staff health in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will work collaboratively with the Ever Active Schools program as it supports their ongoing emphasis on physical activity and nutritional health of students and staff. • It is expected that schools and central decision units will continue to implement initiatives that promote physical activity and nutritional health amongst students and staff. These initiatives will be identified in 2007-2008 plans. <p><u>Associated Costs</u> The associated costs are difficult to predict because the initiatives in this area are unique to each school and central decision unit.</p> <p><u>D.U. Responsible</u> All schools All central decision units</p>

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<p>would allow Ever Active to hire more staff and encourage districts throughout the province to become members moving the province significantly along in the area of school health practices. (Trustee Colburn)</p>	
<p>3. Investigate the feasibility of developing and offering a health industry apprenticeship program similar to the RAP. (Trustee Esslinger)</p>	<p><u>Action</u> A feasibility study examining the development of a health industry apprenticeship program similar to the RAP will be conducted. Results of the study will be reported to trustees.</p> <p><u>Associated Costs</u> Costs will be covered by Curriculum (336) allocation</p> <p><u>D.U. Responsible</u> All high schools Curriculum (336)</p>
<p>4. Pilot ELL supports to students and families. Specifically, develop and provide a course for parents on the education system, EPSB and their role as active partners supporting their children's learning. In addition, develop a program that sees students supporting ELL students in a mentorship/leadership capacity. (Trustee Esslinger)</p>	<p><u>Action</u> This initiative will be addressed through the School Cluster Supports for English Language Learners pilot.</p> <p><u>Associated Costs</u> \$500,000 (as indicated in the district planning base)</p> <p><u>D.U. Responsible</u> Programs (304) English Language Learning Centre (338) Schools yet to be announced</p>
<p>5. Review the need for the establishment of satellite ELL (ESL) Centers in sectors of the district where there is the highest ratio of students eligible for ELL support. Establish at least one such center in the 2007-2008 school year. (Trustee Hansen)</p>	<p><u>Action</u> This initiative will be addressed through the School Cluster Supports for English Language Learners pilot.</p> <p><u>Associated Costs</u> \$500,000 (as indicated in the district planning base)</p> <p><u>D.U. Responsible</u> Programs (304) English Language Learning Centre (338) Schools yet to be announced</p>

Initiative	Action, Associated Costs and Decision Unit Responsible
<p>6. To pilot an ELL Integration Centre where immigrant and/or refugee children (and their families) will obtain 3 - 10 months of full-time instruction focused on acquiring the English skills needed to succeed in a classroom at their appropriate instructional level, and in our communities. To this end, engage in partnerships with such agencies and government services (Mennonite Centre, Adult Education, Family and Child Services, etc.) as are necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives of the pilot project. (Trustee Keiver)</p>	<p><u>Action</u> This initiative will be addressed through the School Cluster Supports for English Language Learners pilot.</p> <p><u>Associated Costs</u> \$500,000 (as indicated in the district planning base)</p> <p><u>D.U. Responsible</u> Programs (304) English Language Learning Centre (338) Schools yet to be announced</p>
<p>7. In an effort to improve District performance towards the goal of all students reading at grade level by the end of grade 3, the District undertake the following work to report to the Board:</p> <p>a) identify those schools which have a significantly smaller percentage of regular program students reading below grade level compared to the performance for the district top quartile of schools, and document:</p> <p>i) which best practices for building reading comprehension the lower achievement schools are employing</p> <p>ii) which best practices for building reading comprehension these schools are not employing and why</p> <p>iii) what professional development gaps exist for all teachers teaching Division 1 Language arts in these lower achievement schools</p>	<p><u>Action</u> This initiative will not be undertaken as the initial review of the data indicated that the same best practices were in place at both the top and bottom quartile schools.</p> <p>The district will continue to support students and teachers in division one by sharing best practices through the AISI project, offering full day kindergarten at the top 25 high needs schools and providing increased supports to English Language and Aboriginal learners.</p> <p><u>Associated Costs</u> The associated costs are difficult to predict because the initiatives in this area are unique to each school and central decision unit.</p> <p><u>D.U. Responsible</u> Consulting Services (338) English Language Learning Centre (338) Student Achievement Services (327) All elementary schools</p>

Initiative	Action, Associated Costs and Decision Unit Responsible
<p>b) a plan of action to increase the use of best practices in the lower achievement schools. (Trustee Gibson)</p>	
<p>8. In an effort to improve District performance for student achievement in numeracy, the District undertake the following work to report to the Board:</p> <p>a) identify those schools which have a significantly smaller percentage of regular program Grade 3 and Grade 6 students achieving the acceptable level on the Provincial Achievement Test for mathematics compared to the performance for the District top quartile of schools, and document:</p> <p>i) which best practices for building mathematics achievement the lower achievement schools are employing</p> <p>ii) which best practices for building mathematics achievement these schools are not employing and why</p> <p>iii) what professional development gaps exist for all teachers teaching Division 1 Mathematics in these lower achievement schools</p> <p>b) a plan of action to increase the use of best practices in the lower achievement schools. (Trustee Gibson)</p>	<p><u>Action</u> This initiative will not be undertaken as the initial review of the data indicated that the same best practices were in place at both the top and bottom quartile schools.</p> <p>The district will continue to support students and teachers in division one by sharing best practices through the AISI project, offering full day kindergarten at the top 25 high needs schools and providing increased supports to English Language and Aboriginal learners.</p> <p><u>Associated Costs</u> The associated costs are difficult to predict because the initiatives in this area are unique to each school and central decision unit.</p> <p><u>D.U. Responsible</u> Consulting Services (338) English Language Learning Centre (338) Student Achievement Services (327) All elementary schools</p>

Initiative	Action, Associated Costs and Decision Unit Responsible
<p>9. To establish a sustainable, permanent summer school program for the students of Braemar School, encompassing appropriate daycare facilities and other such supports required by the students to obtain success in their high school completion. (Trustee Keiver)</p>	<p><u>Action</u> Braemar school will work toward providing programming under a modified calendar model for the 2007-2008 school year.</p> <p><u>Associated Costs</u> Costs will be covered by school allocation.</p> <p><u>D.U. Responsible</u> Braemar School (704)</p>
<p>10. That the administration explore the feasibility and advisability of establishing a Montessori program as an alternative program under the aegis of Edmonton Public Schools. (Trustee Nicholson)</p>	<p><u>Action</u> A review of demand will be conducted. Should there be sufficient interest a program will be considered for 2008-2009. A report will be provided to trustees.</p> <p><u>Associated Costs</u> \$2000</p> <p><u>D.U. Responsible</u> Programs (304)</p>

Trustees will have an opportunity to ask questions to principals and decision unit managers responsible for creating and implementing the plans during the proposed budget subcommittee meetings scheduled in May 2007.

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