

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 12, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: L. Thomson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Securing Provincial Government Commitment for Facility Needs Resulting from Sustainability Reviews

ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Michael Ediger, Andrea Furness

INFORMATION

On November 7, the board approved a motion that the administration prepare a strategy for addressing and communicating the need for prior provincial government commitment for infrastructure funding in support of facility needs and recommendations resulting from Sustainability Review.

The recent release of Alberta Education's recommendation "Schools for Tomorrow – A Comprehensive 5-Year Plan" provides an opportunity for trustees and district administration to meet with the Minister of Education and provincial officials to discuss this report further. Board representatives will have the opportunity to discuss with the current or new Minister:

- The status of the plan and staging of projects,
- The anticipated funding support for the plan,
- The status of sustainability review outcomes in relation to current district capital priorities.

This would also be an opportunity to provide information about the work the district has been doing with communities through our sustainability reviews and explore opportunities to align district needs with recommendations in this report.

In our current Ten-Year Facilities Plan the district identifies schools in years 1-3, 4-6 and 7-10 that will require facility upgrades, which are then included in the Three-Year Capital Plan. In addition to this process the district may propose to the provincial government that within the capital plan there be a place for major modernizations and preservations that are required resulting from the reduction of district space. The district could then apply for funding for these projects on an emergent basis.

Edmonton Public School Board could put forward a resolution to the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) that the province consider alternative funding streams in order to fund the modernizations or upgrades to facilities that are receiving schools for students affected by school closure. This would provide an opportunity to realize a direct correlation between

spaces reduced and funding received to upgrade related spaces. A draft resolution may be drafted in the spring of 2007.

Appendix I outlines a possible action plan to advance the strategy above.

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Appendix I - Action Plan to Advance Strategy for Communication of Infrastructure Needs

Action Plan to Advance Strategy for Communication of Infrastructure Needs

January, 2007

- Superintendent and administration meet with Deputy Minister of Education, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, and Assistant Deputy Minister, Infrastructure and Transportation, as well as administration from the departments to outline the initiatives of the Ten Year Facilities Plan and the infrastructure needs associated with closing schools and removing student spaces.

February, 2007

- Board letter to the Minister(s) providing information that emergent requests for capital funding will be included in the district's 3 Year Capital Plan under space reduction initiatives. Letter stresses need to have these included in the "Schools for Tomorrow" announcement without bumping currently announced funding for new schools and preservation projects.
- Board letter stresses a desire to work with the province to plan an alternate funding strategy in the Capital Planning process to deal with modernization of schools related to space reduction/closing schools initiatives.

March, 2007

- Preparation of ASBA resolution.
- Board meeting with the Ministers of Education and Infrastructure and Transportation, and the Associate Minister of Infrastructure, Capital Planning to secure commitment for a response to district request for emergent funding for modernization of receiving schools, should schools be closed.

April, 2007

- Presentation of ASBA resolution, and if approved, forwarding of same to the Minister of Education.

May/June 2007

- Approval of the Ten Year Facilities Plan and 3 Year Capital Plan.