

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 12, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: L. Thomson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Alternative Programs Update

ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Randy Billey, Gloria Chalmers, Kerry-Ann Kope

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #245, NOVEMBER 28, 2006 (TRUSTEE ESSLINGER)
PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS, POSSIBLE NEW
PROGRAMS AND POSSIBLE RELOCATIONS:**

5 Year Enrolment History by Program for District Approved Alternative Programs

EPSB Alternative Program	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Academic Alternative	425	430	430	412	326
Amiskwaciy Academy	361	426	332	295	289
Arabic Bilingual	549	555	559	523	675
Arts Core	498	477	482	469	526
Awasis	349	286	272	261	236
Caraway	18	0	0	50	64
Child Study Centre	77	122	131	127	121
Chinese Bilingual	1503	1491	1477	1565	1545
Cogito	619	642	820	878	1162
Edmonton Christian	1075	1073	1131	1128	1196
French Immersion	1975	2057	2250	2406	2437
German Bilingual	538	546	554	547	572
Hebrew Bilingual	169	152	134	123	125
IB Certificate & Diploma	2295	2424	2689	2994	3030
IB Middle Years	1141	1223	1229	1250	846
International Spanish Academy	79	91	103	117	130
L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy Dance	58	59	62	65	46
L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy Program	321	331	356	383	314
Logos	1254	1246	1206	1222	1234
Millwoods Christian	761	898	1037	1017	848
Nellie McClung	464	493	486	471	411
Pre-Advanced Placement	0	0	0	116	260

EPSB Alternative Program	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Science Alternative	0	0	0	0	68
Sports Alternative	343	427	393	292	461
Traditional Program	166	102	92	120	96
Ukrainian International Bilingual	160	179	188	186	184
Victoria School of Performing Arts	2054	2079	2001	2035	1965

Program Distribution Trends for Alternative Programs

- **Academic Alternative has demonstrated a decrease as many more students at Crestwood are now being identified as Challenge in the transition from the Academic Alternative program.**
- **Arabic Bilingual has demonstrated a significant increase due to new immigration to Edmonton.**
- **Cogito Program Choice has seen significant increase over the past five years. New sites were established for September 2006 to meet this increase in demand.**
- **Growth in French Immersion in conjunction with French Renewal Project. New sites were added in the North and South for September 2006**
- **Decline in enrolment at Millwoods Christian due to Home Education students now enrolling at Argyll Centre Terrace Heights Campus.**

Considerations for the Distribution of Alternative Programs

New alternative programs to the district are approved by the Board of Trustees. Many factors including demand, availability of student space, condition of facility, program integrity and transportation are considered in the process for the distribution of approved alternative programs. Consultation with principals, school staff parents and central staff are integral to the implementation of alternative programs and occur frequently during the establishment process. All factors considered are dependent upon final approval by the Superintendent of Schools.

Demand

- Alignment between program location and where students live supports program growth.
- A program's first location placed as close to the centre of demand as space allows.
- When the capacity at an existing location is inadequate to accommodate the demand, the program expands or relocates.
- Once the first site is well established, a second site is introduced based on a review of home addresses in the first site and new public requests.

Facility Condition and Student Space

- When the capacity at an existing location is inadequate to accommodate the demand, the program expands or relocates.
- Adequate capacity must be available in the core facility including future utilization availability
- Student access to facilities that are in the best condition

- Minimal facility modifications, as needed

Transportation

- Alignment between program location and where students live minimizes students' ride time
- Availability of service and related costs

Program Integrity

- Support of Principal, staff and parents
- Specific school administration and teaching staff expertise.
- Minimum two classes per grade model is optimal

Program Compatibility

- Locations are placed in operating schools, i.e. dual or triple-track approach.
- Local factors specific to a school, such as the viability of the regular program, are considered.

Program Continuity

- Continuity between elementary, junior high and senior high programs is an important consideration in parents'/students' program choices.
- Transition rates may increase when locations are twinned, or when the program is continuous at one location, i.e. kindergarten to grade nine.

Summary of the distribution of alternative programs currently proposed to open in September, 2007. Any new recommendation will be made to the Superintendent prior to the end of February 2007, to support schools participation in the pre-enrolment process. No programs are planned for relocation at this time, however, the outcomes of the Sustainability and Program Fit Reviews may see the relocation or further distribution of existing alternative programs.

Cogito

Demand is being explored for an Elementary Cogito Alternative program location on the North side of the river.

Logos

Sakaw School was approved as site for the Logos alternative program at elementary in Millwoods. Due to low enrolment the program was not offered at that time. Advertisement of this location will commence to open in September 2007.

Pre-Advanced Placement

Four school locations were approved to train teachers and gather resources for 2006/2007 school year. These four locations are pending final approval from the Superintendent to open in September 2007. These locations include Kate Chegwin, J.D. Bracco, Mary Butterworth and S. Bruce Smith junior high schools.

Spanish Bilingual

J.A. Fife School was approved as a Spanish Bilingual location for elementary on the North Side of the city in September 2006. Due to low enrolment the program was not offered at that time. Advertisement of this location will commence to open in September 2007.

New Alternatives

No requests for new alternatives were received from the community or district staff. Consequently, no new alternatives are planned for September 2007. However, it is anticipated that a number of the current alternatives will evolve to new sites and growth is expected in the alternatives introduced last year (Science elementary alternative and Pre-Advanced Placement).

Charter and Private Schools

The district, through various strategies, stays in contact with most of the charter and private schools in Edmonton. They are aware that the district is open to discussions regarding alternative program status in the district. Because successful partnerships with such schools requires that they believe it is the right choice for them, the district responds to their requests rather than pursuing them. Over the past decade, it has had discussions with Suzuzki Charter School, Edmonton Islamic School and Headway private school. In all cases, the groups were advised that discussions could be continued at any time upon their request.

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