

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 14, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATOR: B. Holt, Executive Director, Instructional and Curricular Support Services

RESOURCE

STAFF: Gloria Chalmers, Dean Power

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #11, NOVEMBER 30, 2004, (TRUSTEE ESSLINGER) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS TO STUDENTS FROM 2002-03 TO 2003-04. Schools are encouraged to report all student accidents whether minor or severe. All reports are forwarded to the district insurance company for their review and initial action if it appears that the incident may lead to a claim. The number of accidents will vary each year but have been relatively consistent over the past four years as noted in the table below.

Year	Total Students	Number of Accidents	Accidents as a Per Cent of Students
2000-2001	80,813	2502	3.1%
2001-2002	81,537	2404	2.9%
2002-2003	82,010	2462	3.0%
2003-2004	81,378	2526	3.1%

Commencing in October 2003, the administration started to maintain a data base of student accidents. The information on the date, the school, the location where the incident occurred, the part of the body that was hurt and the type of accident is kept. Once there is at least two years data available, the information can be reviewed for trends that may be developing. (D. Power, 429-8141)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #12, NOVEMBER 30, 2004 (TRUSTEE GIBSON) HAS THE DISTRICT BEEN APPROACHED OR MADE AN APPROACH TO SEE IF WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MEASURE THE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE FIVE-YEAR FAMILIES FIRST PROJECT? The Families First Edmonton project is on hold until research dollars are secured. The Community University Partnership (CUP) is the research partner for this project and has submitted three large research grant proposals amounting to just over a million dollars. CUP expects to hear back on one of the three proposals prior to Christmas and on the other two next April. The Families First Edmonton steering committee is meeting on December 20 to discuss next steps but, due to the challenges of accessing research dollars, it is not expected that the whole project could go forward before the fall of 2005.

The district has been involved with the Families First Edmonton initiative in two ways, first through its membership on CUP and secondly as a member of the Sounding Board of the Families First Edmonton project. With regard to data collection, because the project would access families and children through Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE), the plan is for the families involved to be the primary source of data. A secondary source of data would be data bases from partners in the project, specifically Alberta Health and Children's Services. It is anticipated that achieving an agreement among the parties involved, particularly meeting the Freedom of Information Protection of Privacy (FOIP) requirements, will be a long and laborious process. Thus, a subgroup led by a staff member from AHRE and involving lawyers from Alberta Health and Children's Services is examining this area in preparation of developing a collaborative agreement regarding data sharing. Approaching the school systems for achievement and attendance data has been suggested but due to FOIPP and other challenges as well as additional costs, the research team has been hesitant to move in that direction. Should the district be in a position to facilitate research approval and data sharing, the research team would be prepared to discuss possibilities. (G. Chalmers, 429-8398)

BH:hc