

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 12, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: E. Dosedall, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Plan for the Use of the 2000/2001 Modernization Block Fund
ORIGINATOR: A. McBeath, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Bob Clark, Robert Craig, Beatrice Denboer, Brian Fedor, Faye Parker

INFORMATION

The government’s New Century School Plan announced earlier this year included a one-time modernization and upgrading block fund allocation (Appendix I). The main intent of the block allocation is to provide school boards with an opportunity to identify local priorities, which did not score high enough on the recent provincial evaluations to receive consideration for capital approvals in the near future. Those facilities that meet the government’s criteria (based on the evaluation scores) are being submitted through the capital plan program and will be considered as part of the district’s submission.

This one-time block fund allocation is seen as a transition mechanism that allows the district to link its previous district plans and priorities with the provincial government’s facility evaluations.

The one-time block fund allocation for our district is \$5.37 million and a plan for the expenditure of those funds must be forwarded to Alberta Infrastructure – School Buildings Board by December 31, 2000.

The following represents the district’s plan, in random order, for utilization of the one-time block fund:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. Ross Sheppard School	\$0.5 million
• Provision of barrier free access	
2. Grandview Heights School	\$1.1 million
• Facility upgrade	
3. Ottewell School	\$3.5 million
• Facility upgrade	

4.Contingency

\$0.27 million

TOTAL

\$5.37 million

Rationale:

1. Ross Sheppard School:

Ross Sheppard School continues to be a highly utilized facility. The school is a multi-level (two-storey) building located in the northwest section of the city. The building is currently listed as a category five in the district's accessibility list (category one is a totally accessible building). This means that barrier free access is very limited or non-existent. The project work will include elevators and/or other means to provide barrier free access as well as washroom upgrades. The district has been working to gradually make all of its schools barrier free, and the block fund provides an important opportunity to achieve this in one of our largest schools.

2. Grandview Heights School:

Grandview Heights School continues to be a highly utilized facility. Replacement of the portable classrooms with permanent construction is proposed in the 2000 Capital Plan. In order to derive the optimum benefit and to minimize disruption to the school, it is proposed to carry out a selective modernization based on the provincial evaluation at the same time as the portable replacement project. A modernization for Grandview Heights was included in the district's previous capital submission, but the school would not qualify for approval based on the provincial facility evaluation results.

3. Ottewell School:

Ottewell School continues to be a highly utilized facility and is in need of upgrading. Ottewell was identified as a high district priority in the previous capital submission. The government's evaluation ranked Ottewell School below 700 points, which precludes it from being considered a high priority by Alberta Infrastructure. The administration is appealing the evaluation rating on the basis that a number of key elements were either overlooked or require re-assessment, but in the interim is maintaining Ottewell as a priority. For example, the mechanical systems (heating and ventilation), which are estimated to cost \$1.5 million, require replacement and were not identified as such in the evaluation. In the event that the appeal of Ottewell is successful and it is moved up in the provincial government's evaluation priority list, another school will be substituted for Ottewell in the block fund plan. The board will be advised if this occurs.

BF:RAC:ct

Appendix I - Alberta Infrastructure Letter Dated October 4, 2000