

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 22, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATORS: A. McBeath, Department Head
G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Marie Caley, Robert Craig, Mary-Ellen Deising,
Stuart Wachowicz

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #184, FEBRUARY 8, 2000 (TRUSTEE MELNYCHUK) PROVIDE TRUSTEES WITH THE BOOKLET OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE GLENORA SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM: The aforementioned book will have been forwarded directly to trustees from Marie Caley, principal Glenora School. (E. Dossdall, 429-8010)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #185, FEBRUARY 8, 2000 (TRUSTEE SULYMA) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING WHY THERE IS SUCH A SMALL INCREASE PROJECTED FOR ENROLMENT WHEN THE CITY IS PROJECTING GREATER GROWTH. In November of each year, Student Accommodation staff prepares a district-wide enrolment projection for September 30 of the following school year. Enrolment projections use a combination of a mathematical cohort retention model and several qualitative assumptions. These assumptions include estimates about the general direction of the city's and the country's economy, expected migration levels, birth rates, housing starts, apartment vacancy rates and other factors. As well, information from several sources is incorporated into the model including census data, chartered bank forecasts and expectations about both the local and national economic climate.

A major source of information for the district-wide projection is the CMHC housing outlook conference, held in October of each year. Planning staff continuously monitors local economic developments and consults with the economists in the City of Edmonton's Planning and Development Department. CMHC, Statistics Canada, and the City of Edmonton all provide their estimates of net-migration to the city. The planning staff considers all available sources and incorporates qualitative assumptions into the district-wide enrolment projection.

The factor that most affects enrolment is the level of net-migration to the city. The key driver for migration is the spread between unemployment rates between regions. In recent

years, the district has seen increases in enrolment as high as 1.17% in 98/99. In the past couple of years, the province of Alberta and the city of Edmonton have seen relatively strong net in-migration. Alberta's low unemployment rate has recently been a major inducement for inter-provincial migration. In 1998, almost 50,000 people moved to Alberta, more people than have moved to any province in the last ten years. While Calgary netted the lion's share of these new migrants, it is estimated that Edmonton was the recipient of 8,000 new residents. Net migration for 1999 was forecast to decrease from these peak levels to approximately 6,000. While actual migration numbers are not known at this time, it is expected that this forecast was relatively accurate. This was mirrored by the increase in enrolment in Edmonton Public Schools observed this year, 0.85 per cent (not including the one-time increase of students attending the Edmonton Christian Schools).

It is expected that while net-migration to the city will increase marginally next year, it will not reach the peak levels seen in 1998. It is important to note that, while the Conference Board of Canada expects the city's economy to lead the nation in growth next year, this is not directly correlated with student enrolment growth. Economic growth is a measure of business activity, not a measure of population. The average new Edmontonian is between the ages of 18 and 34 and the majority of these people do not have school age children. An important factor expected to moderate migration to the city next year is the fact that unemployment rates have dropped in the regions of Canada that have traditionally supplied inter-provincial migrants to Edmonton. This has the effect of reducing the incentives for people to re-locate to our city. (R. Craig 429-8399)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #187, FEBRUARY 8, 2000 (TRUSTEE MELNYCHUK) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE IMPACT OF THE CHANGE IN CATEGORIES ON THE ALLOCATIONS TO HIGH NEEDS SCHOOLS. WHICH SCHOOLS WERE PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED HIGH NEEDS SCHOOLS COMPARED TO THE PROPOSED LIST? The attached listing (Appendix I) is a comparison of high needs schools from 1999-2000 to the revised list for 2000-2001. The formula continues to use poverty (incidence of low income) and mobility (transfer of students in and out), based on the 1996 Statistics Canada information. This information also uses neighbourhood specificity that we have not had in the past. (M. Deising, 429-8063)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #188, FEBRUARY 8, 2000 (TRUSTEE HANSEN), PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS, WHO TAKE 16 AND 26 LEVEL ACADEMIC COURSES BUT DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE OCCUPATIONAL COMPONENTS, ACTUALLY COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL:

Within our district, students who start off with 16 level IOP courses sometimes gain a High School Diploma but in varying percentages. The availability of occupational courses does not statistically affect the proportion of students earning the regular diploma.

School	Number of students with at least one 16 level course (95/96)	Percentage of students in 16 level course receiving diploma (99/00)
Bonnie Doon	4	0 %
Eastglen	4	0 %
Harry Ainlay	10	10 %
J. Percy Page	24	8 %
Jasper Place	27	52 %
M.E. Lazerte	51	18 %
McNally	2	0 %
Queen Elizabeth	55	7 %
Ross Sheppard	31	13 %
W.P. Wagner	5	0 %

Alberta Learning determines percentages differently, but the following are the province wide results for 96-97.

Enrolments (Highest number of high school students enrolled in any one IOP academic course stream)	Completion (Highest number of high school students completing at least one IOP academic course for credit)	Number of Certificates Awarded	Number of Diplomas Awarded
2785	1648	287	7

(S. Wachowicz, 429-8186)

GR:FP:hc

APPENDIX I – 1999 Basis of Allocation – High Needs Impact of Allocation to 50 Schools