

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 8, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Aspen Program at Woodside Home Name Change
ORIGINATOR: B. Smith, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Sandra Bassett, Tim Boan, Bruce Cline, Josephine Duquette, Leanne Fedor, Sandy Forster, Jack Geldart, Don Greig, Jyde Heaven, Venta Kabzems, Roland Labbe, Ann Parker, Lorne Parker, Jim Ray, Cindy Skolski

RECOMMENDATION

That Aspen Program at Woodside Home be renamed to Aspen Program, be approved.

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The above recommendation was prepared in accordance with Board Policy FF.BP – Naming of Schools.

Background and Rationale

The Woodside Academy opened in the fall of 1994 with a mandate to serve Behaviour Disordered Students at the junior high level and eventually expanded to accept high school and elementary aged students. The Woodside name referred to the original geographic location within the provincial Woodside facility in north central Edmonton. The program was moved to High Park School location in early 2009. The name Woodside no longer related to the goals or geographic location of the program so the current name, “Aspen”, was put forth and accepted by staff. Staff subsequently developed an acronym for Aspen: “A Safe Place Everyone Needs”.

The official program name continues to be Aspen Program at Woodside Home, despite being located at High Park School. The principal of Aspen Program at Woodside Home, Venta Kabzems, is concerned that the current name has created ongoing confusion. Aspen Program at Woodside Home suggests the program is still operating out of the provincial Woodside facility and, as such, mail continually is delivered to the wrong address. The principal has expressed concerns the current name also creates ambiguity for emergency services responders. The Aspen Program would like to remove the “Woodside Home” portion of the program name for purposes of clarity with district and community communication as well as to promote a “re-branding” of their program.

Consultation

Principal Venta Kabzems is supportive of the name change. Communications, Student Information, Budget Services, Financial Services and Programs have been consulted and are supportive of the change.

Implementation

With the approval of the above recommendation, Planning staff will inform Alberta Education of the proposed name change. Once approved by the Province, Student Information, Budget Services and Financial Services will initiate the change in all district systems. The change will be reflected in future correspondence and data transfer between Edmonton Public Schools and the Province, in all internal correspondence including Student Information System data and with families including progress reports and Individualized Program Plans.

JG:gm