

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 22, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee D. Colburn, School Closure Moratorium Committee
Trustee S. Hoffman, School Closure Moratorium Committee
Trustee H. MacKenzie, Chair School Closure Moratorium Committee

SUBJECT: School Closure Moratorium Committee – Terms of Reference

RESOURCE

STAFF: Tash Taylor

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached Terms of Reference for the Edmonton Public Schools' School Closure Moratorium Committee (Appendix I), be approved.

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The Board passed a two-year moratorium on school closures on November 30, 2010 with the intent of seeking to “understand the issues and impacts surrounding school closures” and to “identify a number of ways to support schools instead of close them.”

On December 14, 2010, the Board approved the creation of a committee “*to further understand the issues and impacts surrounding school closures and that this committee work to keep schools open by recommending initiatives to the Board that will address these issues and impacts over the period of the moratorium.* And further tasked “*that the Committee report back to Board with the proposed terms of reference and a plan and budget by the end of February.*”

The School Closure Moratorium Committee, comprised of Trustee Colburn, Trustee Hoffman and Trustee MacKenzie (Chair) have developed the attached Terms of Reference for the School Closure Moratorium Committee (Appendix I) for the Board's consideration.

TS:as/mmf

APPENDIX I – School Closure Moratorium Committee - Terms of Reference

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MORATORIUM COMMITTEE
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Composition

The Moratorium Committee shall consist of three Trustees appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve until the end of the Moratorium on School Closures (Nov 30 2012).

The Superintendent of Schools shall assign appropriate staff to support the work of the Moratorium Committee.

Parameters

All recommendations from the Committee will be presented as a recommendation to the Board of Trustees at a public board meeting.

The committee will inform itself and complement rather than duplicate the work of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Sustainability, the Tri-level discussions related to school closures, and other initiatives that the Board and broader communities take related to the issue of school closures.

Purpose

The motion that the Board of Trustees passed on November 30, 2010 was:

“That the Board impose a renewable two-year moratorium on school closures, and that during this time the Board seek to further understand the issues and impacts surrounding school closures. During the moratorium, the Board will also identify a number of ways to support schools instead of close them.”

On December 14, 2010 the Board of Trustees passed this motion regarding the Moratorium Committee:

“That the Board create a committee to further understand the issues and impacts surrounding school closures and that this committee work to keep schools open by recommending initiatives to the Board that will address these issues and impacts over the period of the moratorium. That the committee report back to Board with the proposed terms of reference, and a plan and budget by February.”

Therefore, the purpose of the Moratorium Committee will be to educate themselves on the issues and impacts surrounding school closures and identify ways to keep schools open.

Outcomes

- Supports are identified to keep schools open.
 - Board’s role is clarified in providing these supports, and the feasibility.
 - Recommendations are provided to the Board over the duration of the moratorium.
 - Potential partner’s roles are identified.
 - Partners have been engaged to determine their interest and ability to support.
- Increase level of public trust/confidence in the Board.
- Advocacy Committee will incorporate and maintain a focus on issues related to school closures to increase public awareness of current pressures and realities.
- **Impacts of school closure to students, families, communities, and the district, both positive and negative, are summarized.**

Process/Plan

- Examine the issues surrounding school closures (March – October 2011).
 - This would include but not be limited to: Student instruction funding; space utilization; ageing school building; plant operation and maintenance funding; alternative programs and open boundaries; leasing issues; district enrolment trends; urban sprawl.
 - To achieve this, the Committee will meet with staff members, **students, parents, and other members of the community and request members of the public. This will include meeting with those impacted by the CCEP and Hardisty Area schools which were closed in June 2010.**
- **Give a Committee update to the Board (October/November 2011).**
- Develop recommendations for the Board (November 2011 – November 2012).
- Communicate the work of the committee with public and increase awareness of our district realities (Ongoing).
- Inform, advise and provide resources to the Tri-level conversations and the Mayor’s Task Force on Community Sustainability (Ongoing).
- Engage in dialogue and collaboration with the Advocacy Committee and Board’s delegate to the Mayor’s Task Force on Community Sustainability (Ongoing).

Amendment to the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference may be amended upon recommendation of the Moratorium Committee and approval of the Board of Trustees.

Proposed Budget

Information Gathering Meeting (food/drink)	\$1000
Communications	\$4000
Incidentals	\$1000
TOTAL	\$6000