

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 16, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Eastwood School – Modified School Calendar

ORIGINATOR: P. Gish, Principal Eastwood School

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Gloria Chalmers, Elizabeth Norris-Katz, Dennis Koch

RECOMMENDATION

That the Eastwood modified school calendar (Appendix I) be approved on a permanent basis.

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**Background:** In May 1998, the board approved a three-year pilot of a modified school calendar for Eastwood School, beginning in September 1998. July 2000 marked the completion of the second full year of the Eastwood modified school calendar. This report, in accordance with the monitoring plan brought to board in June 1998, provides base line data from the 1997-98 school year, as well as results for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 school years. These results are provided in Appendix II.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Because data for year two would not completely be available until the fall of 2001, this would result in either the school reverting to the regular calendar for year 4 or operating on the modified calendar without authorization for a fourth year. Based on the results tracked in the monitoring report during the first two years and current consultation with staff and parents, it is recommended that the modified school calendar be approved on a permanent basis.

A summary of the monitoring report data follows:

**Student Achievement:** Eastwood student achievement results have improved steadily over the course of the pilot. Last year's Provincial Achievement scores in all subjects for grades 3, 6, and 9 were at a five-year high.

**Student Attendance:** Student Attendance has improved steadily and last year was approaching 90 per cent.

**Student Retention:** The transiency rate has declined since the introduction of the year round school calendar. However, it still remains high.

**Student, Staff, and Parent Satisfaction:** Satisfaction remains high among the students, staff and parents with all responses in the 90-100 percent range. One hundred per cent of the Eastwood Parent Advisory support the year round calendar concept, as do all staff at the school. Parent comments are provided in Appendix III>

**Community Support:** The community continues to support the concept. Letters are provided in Appendix IV.

PG:dh

APPENDIX I:	Eastwood School Modified School Calendar
APPENDIX II :	Eastwood School Modified School Calendar Monitoring Plan
APPENDIX III:	Parent Comments
APPENDIX IV:	Letters of Support