

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 16, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dosdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Response to the Twin Brooks School Committee Delegation

ORIGINATOR: A. McBeath, Department Head

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Robert Craig, Beatrice Denboer, June Klassen, Faye Parker, Deanne Patsula

RECOMMENDATION

That the request of the Twin Brooks School Committee that the board support the construction of an elementary school in the Twin Brooks neighbourhood be approved.

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On December 12, 2000, a delegation from the Twin Brooks School Committee, consisting of residents and parents living in the Twin Brooks community, made a presentation to board. The delegation requested that an elementary school be built in their neighbourhood. Representatives of the School Committee stated the following as reasons for their request:

- There is sufficient enrolment in the area to support the provision of a local elementary school.
- The lack of a neighbourhood school has generated concerns over having to pay bus transportation fees for students attending their designated school, and about traffic and safety of students accessing bus service.
- The school would present a community focus in a neighbourhood that is currently without community facilities.

Over the years, the district has made a number of requests to the province to fund a school in Twin Brooks. At its December 12, 2000 meeting the board reconfirmed a kindergarten to grade 6 school in Twin Brooks, under a multi-use proposal, as its top priority capital project for the year 2000 in its 2000-2003 capital submission to the province.

Prior to revising the capital submission, the administration met with Alberta Infrastructure staff regarding the capital planning process. During those meetings, it became clear that approval from the province for new construction proposals is unlikely until the district addresses how it intends to improve its provincial utilization rate. It was also indicated that the province would be willing to consider new construction proposals on the basis of a district's demonstrated intent to address its utilization. In this regard, the following actions are expected to improve the likelihood of receiving a favourable response to the most recent request for a new school in Twin Brooks:

- Edmonton Catholic Schools has agreed to partner on the multi-use proposal with a request of their own for a Catholic elementary school as part of the project.

- The district is preparing a plan regarding the disposal of eight closed school facilities in order to reduce the district's inventory of space and improve its utilization rate.
- The district continues to consider new and alternative programs in school facilities with room.
- The results of the provincial audit of the condition of all school facilities in the province were considered in formulating the district's capital submission. The submission includes proposals to examine programming and space needs in each of several clusters of schools that are located in close proximity to one another. Each cluster includes some facilities rated by the province as being in need of upgrading.

The district is expecting a response to its submission over the next few months.

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