

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 16, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dosedall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: City Centre Education Project

ORIGINATOR: S. Stiles, Assistant to the Superintendent

### RESOURCE

STAFF: Ed Butler, Betty Dean, Paul Gish, Sherry Holmes, Colin Inglis, Faye Parker, Nancy Peterson, Pat Semeniuk, Sandra Woitas

### INFORMATION

Over the last three years, principals from eight city center schools – Norwood, McCauley, John A. McDougall, Queen Mary Park, Alex Taylor, Eastwood, Parkdale and Spruce Avenue – have been working to develop and implement a new vision of education for students in the city center schools. In 2000-2001, Sandra Woitas, principal of Norwood School, was seconded half-time to the superintendent's area to coordinate this work and bring it to a conclusion.

This group of principals has been working together over the fall of 2000 to bring this project to fruition. At the board meeting of January 16, 2000, Sandra Woitas, on behalf of the principals' group will make a presentation to board to describe the project and outline the next steps that will be taken.

The Mission Statement that the principals have developed is as follows:

1. All students will complete high school. Poverty cannot be a limiting factor.
2. Students in the city centre will receive excellent education with enriched environments and experiences.
3. Equality of opportunity requires inequality of resourcing.
4. Strong relationships and partnerships are the foundation of our success.

The project builds on the many initiatives that have been implemented in various city centre schools over time, and focuses on providing access to excellent education and enriched program opportunities for all city centre students. The principals have identified three main pillars, which are the foundation of their vision. The first is programming, the second is interagency collaboration and the third is school organization.

The implementation of the programming vision will be supported by partnerships with a variety of agencies and organizations whose participation will ensure a broad range of coordinated services for children and families in the city centre schools. It will also be supported by some organizational changes among the eight schools. The principals have identified a need to recombine students in the schools in ways that will facilitate their programming vision. It is anticipated that this will result in a reduction in the total number of buildings used to provide

school programs in the city centre, as well as in the district being able to access funds to renovate and improve city centre school buildings.

Following the 'launch' of the city centre education project at the January 16 board meeting, information meetings will be held for the parents in the eight schools to describe the planned initiatives.

In the near future, recommendations will also be brought to board to facilitate a formal examination of how the schools can best be organized to achieve the goals of this initiative.

FP:fp