

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 25, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee C. Ripley, Chair, District Priorities Committee  
Trustee H. MacKenzie, District Priorities Committee  
Trustee M. Janz, District Priorities Committee

SUBJECT: Report from the District Priorities Committee

ORIGINATOR: Tash Taylor, Director, Executive and Board Relations

RESOURCE  
STAFF: David Fraser, Cheryl Oxford

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the draft Vision, Mission, Beliefs and 2011-2014 District Priorities statement be approved for stakeholder consultation (Appendix I).
2. That the outline and description of the stakeholder consultation process (Appendix III) and consultation questions (Appendix II) be approved.

\* \* \* \* \*

On January 18, 2011 the District Priorities Committee brought a draft statement to the Conference Committee for feedback and input. The Conference Committee provided input and the attached draft statement will be used in a public consultation process. The statement has been created based on:

- Past district priority, mission, and philosophical statements;
- Comments from the previous Board of Trustees;
- Information from the current Board;
- Feedback from the District's Senior and Executive Administrative Leaders;
- The work the Superintendent and Administration, including principals and teachers, are currently carrying out in support of students;
- The results of the Minister of Education's consultations over the last two years (i.e. Inspiring Education, Setting the Direction, the Speak Out Student Engagement Initiative).

On December 14, 2010 the Conference Committee approved a consultation process and timeline (Appendix III and IV). The District Priorities Committee is requesting approval

from the Board for the stakeholder consultation on the proposed Vision, Mission, Beliefs and 2011-2014 District Priorities statement and consultation questions to be asked of community members and students.

TT/ee

- Appendix I Draft Vision, Mission, Beliefs and 2011-2014 District Priorities
- Appendix II Draft Community Consultation Questions
- Appendix III The District Priorities Committee Public Consultation Process
- Appendix IV The District Priorities Committee Timeline

## Draft Vision, Mission, Beliefs and 2011-2014 District Priorities

### Our Vision

That every student completes high school\* and demonstrates the competencies\*\* and character necessary to be ethical citizens, engaged thinkers and contributing members of an inclusive and democratic society.

### Our Mission

To provide learning environments and leadership necessary to support all students to achieve success in a complex and changing world.

### Our Beliefs and Values

- Public education underpins a successful future.
- Being responsive to the educational needs of the broader community is the foundation of our District's approach to education.
- All students can succeed in their education.
- Diverse opportunities give students different paths to achieve academic and social success. Access to educational opportunities should be fair and reasonable.
- Students, parents, staff, the Board of Trustees, and community members share responsibility and accountability for results.
- Our learning environments should be:
  - safe
  - healthy and health-promoting
  - welcoming and respectful
  - learner-centered
  - responsive and flexible
  - creative and innovative
  - environmentally sustainable

### Our District's Priorities (2011-2014)

1. Emphasize literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and innovation for all of our learners.
2. Instill in each student the attributes of healthy living and ethical citizenship.
3. Enable inclusive\*\*\* learning environments where every student feels welcome and safe.
4. Provide a collaborative, healthy and innovative workplace that recognizes individual contributions and supports opportunities for growth and professional development.

\***Completing High School** means that within 5 years a student will either have an Alberta high school diploma, Knowledge and Employability Certificate or high school equivalency (GED), entered a post-secondary level program at an Alberta post-secondary institution, registered in an Alberta apprenticeship program or earned credits in five grade 12 level courses, including four diploma examination courses.

**\*\*Competencies** - Alberta Education's *Inspiring Action* report defines the following competencies that will contribute to the development of an Educated Albertan in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: literacy and numeracy, critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, social responsibility and cultural, global and environmental awareness, communication, digital literacy, lifelong learning, self-direction and personal management and collaboration and leadership.

**\*\*\*Inclusive** – Alberta Education's *Setting the Direction Framework* has a vision statement of “**One inclusive education system where each student is successful.**”

## Draft Community Consultation Questions

- 1) After reading the draft vision, mission, beliefs and priorities, do they reflect your expectations for Edmonton Public Schools?
  - Yes
  - No
  - If no – briefly tell us what would need to change in order for it to meet your expectations?
- 2) Considering the Board’s belief that students, parents, staff, the Board of Trustees and community members share responsibility and accountability for results, what could you do to help us achieve these priorities?
- 3) From your perspective, how would you define success in achieving these priorities? In other words, how will we know we are making progress?
- 4) How would you prefer to hear about our progress in meeting these priorities? Check all that apply:
  - a. traditional media (TV/radio/print)
  - b. school newsletter updates
  - c. Edmonton Public Schools website
  - d. social media
  - e. Board meeting updates
  - f. e-mail updates
  - g. other – please tell us about any other means you would prefer to hear about our progress

**Note:** Supplemental information will be available to provide additional context about high school completion and competencies of an Educated Albertan (Attachment I).

### Agenda for Public Consultations

1. Welcome from Board Chair/Trustee
  2. Introductions and purpose of consultation
  3. Overview of process
  4. Small table discussion facilitated by someone at each table
  5. Report back from table discussions
  6. Closing – next steps and process timelines  
(feedback will be compiled by the Communications department and a summary will be brought to the District Priorities Committee for review on February 17. Final draft will be brought to Conference Committee for approval on March 1 and Public Board on March 8, 2011).
- Professional facilitators are being hired for the District’s consultations. Facilitation for Ward specific consultations will be the responsibility of the Ward Trustee.
  - Speaking notes and 11 x 17 worksheets for the in-person consultations can be provided upon request.

## High School Completion and Competencies of an Educated Albertan

### 1. Completing High School

Alberta Grade 10 students are tracked for five years to determine if they have completed high school. Students are considered to have completed high school by Alberta Education if they have, within the tracking period (3 year, 4 year, 5 year):

- Received an Alberta high school diploma, a Knowledge and Employability Certificate, or high school equivalency (GED)
- Entered a post-secondary level program at an Alberta post-secondary institution
- Registered in an Alberta apprenticeship program
- Earned credits in five grade 12 level courses, including four diploma examination courses

### 2. Competencies

Alberta Education's Inspiring Action report provides the rationale for the shift from a strictly knowledge-based education system to a system that also emphasizes competencies that enable students to understand their world, engage fully in their education, relate well to others, manage their lives wisely, and contribute positively to their communities<sup>1</sup>. Alberta Education defines the following competencies for learning will especially contribute to the development of an Educated Albertan in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### Competencies of an Educated Albertan:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Literacy and numeracy (foundational)                                   | • Communication   |
| • Critical thinking and problem solving                                  | • Digital literacy  |
| • Creativity and innovation  | • Lifelong learning, self-direction and personal management |
| • Social responsibility and cultural, global and environmental awareness | • Collaboration and leadership                              |

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<sup>1</sup> Alberta Education, Inspiring Action on Education, June 2010, p.9.

## **The District Priorities Committee Public Consultation Process Approved by Conference Committee December 14, 2010**

- Four in-person consultations along with an on-line consultation for staff and other external stakeholders. The four in-person sessions would take place as follows:
  - Community session on a Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.,
  - Community session on a Saturday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and
  - Two student sessions during weekday afternoons.
- The in-person consultations would take place in the Conference Centre at the Centre for Education.
- The invitee list for the two community consultations would include representatives from various stakeholder groups (including community representatives, MLAs, City Councillors, community leagues, school and parent councils, cultural associations, post-secondary and career education contacts, service clubs, staff — to be contacted and invited through their staff group representatives, former Trustees).
- The third in-person consultation would involve leadership students and the fourth in-person consultation would involve at risk students (perhaps FNMI, Children in Care etc.). It is proposed the student invitee list include a mix of students from junior high and senior high schools.
- It is proposed the consultations focus on discussions/reactions to a proposed vision, mission/priorities/strategic plan for the District.

### **OTHER**

- In addition, Trustees are welcome to initiate similar consultation sessions in their own wards. These sessions would be self-facilitated and organized, would use the same materials and questions, and all feedback would need to be returned by February 6 to Communications.
- On-line survey to be mentioned at Public Board (January 25), promoted through district website, and through individual Trustee networks, communication vehicles, etc.

**The District Priorities Committee Timeline**  
**Approved by Conference Committee December 14, 2010**

- ✓December 14, 2010 District Priorities Chair reports to Board on proposed process and seeks approval to move forward with process
- ✓January 3—5, 2011 Communications send out notice asking participants to save the dates for the consultation sessions. (If individual Trustees wish to hold their own ward sessions, it is recommended that they make arrangements for date, location etc. at this time.)
- ✓January 11, 2011 District Priorities Committee meets to draft vision, mission and priorities and questions to be asked at consultations
- ✓January 13-14, 2011 District Priorities Committee provides the draft vision, mission, and priorities and questions to the Board for input
- ✓January 18, 2011 Conference Committee discusses the above to finalize
- January 19-20, 2011 Communications sends invitations and questions to participants asking them to RSVP for their session
- January 24, 2011 Online survey begins
- January 25, 2011 Report to Public Board from Conference outlining draft statement and questions
- February 1, 2011 First student consultation session
- February 2, 2011 Community consultation session
- February 3, 2011 Second student consultation session
- February 5, 2011 Second community consultation session
- February 6, 2011 On-line survey ends
- February 15, 2011 Communications provides District Priorities Committee with summary of consultation feedback
- February 17, 2011 District Priorities Committee meets to review feedback and finalize District Vision, Mission and Priorities
- March 1, 2011 Recommendation on District Vision, Mission and Priorities finalized at Conference Committee
- March 8, 2011 District Priorities Committee presents recommendation on District Vision, Mission and Priorities to Public Board for approval