

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 19, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Superintendent's Student Advisory Team Activities 2000-2001

ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head Designate

### RESOURCE

STAFF: Ann Calverley, Sandra Carl Townsend, Karen Bardy, Elaine Decker,  
Mavis Hagedorn, Darwin Martin, Pat Redhead

### INFORMATION

**Background:** For the fourth consecutive year, the superintendent has met regularly with a group of students representing each junior and senior high school in the district. The purpose of this Student Advisory Team was twofold. In the first instance, the superintendent wished to create a venue to hear students' views regarding educational issues. As well, it was intended that the meetings would provide a forum to obtain student input about a range of district work. Discussions were compiled following each meeting and communicated to the schools. Examples of district work that has been positively influenced by the advice and input of the Student Advisory Team included:

- Developing guidelines for use of the Internet
- Suggesting revisions to HK.AR and district report cards
- Identifying factors that impact student achievement
- Identifying the dimensions of character education
- Suggesting strategies for developing student leadership
- Improving classroom and school-wide communication
- Promoting volunteerism in communities and schools
- Advising on the feasibility of an all-boys' school
- Advising on the implementation of the district's no smoking policy, including developing a focus on health and prevention

The work of this team has influenced and made richer, some of the most important work of our district. Perhaps their most ambitious project occurred this year, as the Student Advisory Team worked over several meetings on developing the characteristics of the *Ideal School District*. Several applications are envisaged for this framework, specifically with:

- Senior administration for developing future district priorities, and in particular, furthering the work of improving student achievement
- School principals and staffs, in looking at school improvement plans and initiatives

- Cluster teams of school principals, teachers, community representatives and parents, central services staff, and an architect, to review input and prepare plans for how space is used amongst clusters of schools, programming needs among the schools, and upgrading needs for the school facilities
- Key Communicators to provide a springboard for discussion about school climate and culture

The Student Advisory Team meetings ensure that the district continues to be responsible and responsive to students. Providing a venue to raise issues and talk openly with all stakeholders including students will ensure that decisions truly are made in the best interests of students.

A listing of the 2000-2001 Student Advisory Team is attached in Appendix I.

AC:jed

Appendix I - Student Advisory Team for 2000-2001