

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 19, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Board Approved Committee

ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head Designate

RESOURCE

STAFF: Gloria Chalmers, Dennis Huculak, Manfred Malzahn, Barbara Morgan McDermid

INFORMATION

Background: At the May 22, 2001 board meeting, trustees approved the development of a committee related to effective accommodation of students with special needs. Such a committee is to consist of parents of children with special needs, including representation from the Edmonton Regional Coalition for Inclusive Education, community partners and district staff. The committee is to identify obstacles to inclusion, identify best practices related to inclusion and to review the current policy.

Plan: Based on the May 22, 2001 board approved motion and the presentation by the Edmonton Regional Coalition for Inclusive Education at the May 8, 2001 board meeting, the following terms of reference have been identified for the committee:

- identification of effective practices related to classroom placement of students with special needs
- review of obstacles to inclusion
- identification of supports to facilitate effective classroom placement
- review of policy in context of information obtained
- report findings to board of trustees

Consistent with board direction, the following groups will be invited to participate on the committee:

- Edmonton Regional Coalition for Inclusive Education
- Alberta Association for Bright children
- Learning Disabilities Association
- Edmonton Association of the Deaf
- Alberta Association for Community Living
- District leadership services
- Principals

The committee will be co-chaired by two staff with expertise in programming, accommodation and policy development.

As well, parents and staff will be notified of the process and opportunities for input.

The anticipated timeline for this work is as follows:

June 25, 2001: send invitations to potential participants

August 15, 2001: confirmation of committee membership

September through November 2001: meetings of committee as required for information sharing and discussion

October/November 2001: simultaneous information collection from all stakeholders

December 2001: report to board

The suggested timelines are based on the desire to provide sufficient time for the various stakeholders to be heard, for relevant information to be compiled and to provide information to board prior to the next budget cycle. It is anticipated that the committee will confirm the timelines and details of the process.

GC/MM:dh