

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 19, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: *Blueprints for Success 2001* Conference

ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head Designate

RESOURCE

STAFF: Ann Calverley, Ken Dropko, Rosalind Smith

INFORMATION

From Wednesday, May 2 to Saturday, May 5, 2001, Edmonton Public Schools hosted a third *Blueprints for Success* conference. Delegates to the conference were invited to explore recent district innovations on topics such as improving student achievement, site-based decision making and implementing choice in programming. Eighty-one external and 120 internal district delegates attended the conference. External delegates came from Ohio, California, Utah, Illinois, Colorado, Wisconsin, New York, Louisiana, Idaho, Arizona, Texas, Israel, and from Canada, specifically Ontario, British Columbia, Calgary and Brooks.

To reinforce our focus on the critical work of schools, delegates were partnered with district principals to enable collegial dialogue about the latest research, theories, and strategies to create improvement in schools and districts. Delegates could choose from a range of conference activities including school visits, 22 focus sessions, 6 interactive demonstrations, a variety of displays of district products and services, and networking forums on leadership, student achievement and decentralized decision making. Delegates enjoyed music from the McNally Jazz Choir, the McNally Stage Quartet, and the Michael A. Kostek handbell choir. As well, students from M. E. LaZerte provided laser photographs to each presenter, showcasing the talent of many of our students in the use of technology. The conference was highly successful, with over 95% of delegates reporting their conference experience as extremely valuable. A coordinated plan has been implemented, to follow up with each conference delegate regarding what services or products might be of interest to them, and inviting them to contact key district staff for information or assistance.

Review of the Provision of Conferences

This year the district welcomed many visitors to school and central services decision units. These visitations were organized on request throughout the school year at no cost to the visitors and were in addition to the May conference. In the coming year the administration will determine a means by which Edmonton Public Schools can continue to share staff expertise, in a manner that will support the district-wide focus on instruction. District conferences such as *Blueprints for Success* may continue to be a means to accomplish this.

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