

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 19th, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Special Education Review

ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head Designate

RESOURCE
STAFF: Barbara Morgan McDermid

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #331. MAY 22, 2001. (TRUSTEE MELNYCHUK) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING HOW ALBERTA LEARNING HAS RESPONDED TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS REVIEW. On March 15, 2000, the Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning, announced that Alberta Learning would review the delivery of special education programs and services. The areas of concern to be addressed included; access to delivery of quality programs and services for students with special needs, accountability for outcomes for students with special needs, and administrative requirements associated with assessments. Dr. Susan Lynch, Assistant Deputy Minister of Basic Learning Division chaired a thirteen member steering committee of key education partners and an eighteen member stakeholder advisory committee. In December 2000, Shaping the Future for Students with Special Needs, A review of Special Education in Alberta was released outlining sixty-six recommendations.

The Minister of Learning, Dr. Lyle Oberg accepted all of the recommendations in principle and in January 2001, Dr. Anne-Louise Charette was seconded to lead the implementation process. The recommendations are grouped in categories of;

- Identification of Students with Special Needs
- Streamlining Administrative Processes
- Meaningful Parental Involvement
- Program Development/Delivery
- Programs Outcomes/Evaluation.

Sixteen of the recommendations confirmed the continuation of existing services or activities and therefore the implementation of these is considered to be 'ongoing'. By April 2001, eighteen recommendations were implemented (Finished) and seven recommendations will be implemented in September 2001 (Begin). The remaining recommendations will involve extensive consultation and therefore be addressed in the next three years (Planned) (Attachment I).

BMM/cv

Appendix I Special Education Review Recommendations Summary