

DATE: June 12, 2012
TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: District Turf Management (Trustee Request #199)
ORIGINATOR: Brian J. Smith, Executive Director, Finance & Infrastructure
RESOURCE STAFF: John Nicoll, Larry Schwenneker
REFERENCE: Board Meeting May 8, 2012 (Trustee Colburn)

ISSUE

The following information was requested:

1. How much does the District spend to fertilize?
2. How many acres does the District manage?
3. What is the overall cost of turf management?
4. How much does one or two of the eleven schools that have gone pesticide free spend to manage their grounds?

BACKGROUND

The below figures are for ornamental turf areas that Facilities Maintenance maintains, typically the front and sides of the schools. Not included are the play and sports fields that the district owns but, through the Joint Use Agreement, are maintained by the City of Edmonton.

1. How much does the District spend to fertilize?
The District spent \$20,000 in 2010-2011 on a combined application of liquid fertilizer and weed control to the ornamental turf areas that Facilities Maintenance maintains.
2. How many acres does the District manage?
The ornamental turf area that Facilities Maintenance maintains is 56 hectares.
3. What is the overall cost of turf management?
The overall cost for turf maintenance for all schools was \$587,000 in 2010-2011.
4. How much does one or two of the eleven schools that have gone pesticide free spend to manage their grounds?
For 2010–2011, the cost of turf maintenance for the 11 schools that are pesticide free was \$18,871.00. Appendix I lists the 11 schools and costs individually.

CURRENT SITUATION

While the pesticide free schools are not spending anything extra to manage their grounds properly, the consequence is a progressive infestation of weeds. The proper treatment would be hand weeding, watering, extra cutting and fertilizing more often. Since those treatments are not currently in place, the true cost for maintenance of pesticide free grounds is not shown. At this time, Facilities Maintenance does not have the means or the resources to install irrigation systems or increase aeration, fertilizing and the frequency of mowing in an attempt to suppress the outbreak of weeds.

KEY POINTS

- The District spent \$20,000 in 2010-2011 to fertilize ornamental lawns.
- The District manages 56 hectares of school grounds.
- The overall cost for turf maintenance for all schools was \$587,000 in 2010-2011.
- The 11 pesticide free schools spent \$18,871.00 for the 2010-2011 school year to maintain their grounds.
- The true costs to properly maintain pesticide free ornamental grounds are not known.

APPENDIX I: Pesticide Free Turf Maintenance Costs

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Pesticide Free
Turf Maintenance Costs

School Name	2010-2011 Costs
Queen Alexander School	\$ 1,287.00
McKernan School	\$ 2,757.00
Riverdale School	\$ 1,710.00
Lansdowne School	\$ 2,153.00
Lago Lindo School	\$ 1,072.00
Virginia Park School	\$ 746.00
S. Bruce Smith School	\$ 2,343.00
Dunluce School	\$ 1,241.00
Glenora School	\$ 2,453.00
Garneau School	\$ 1,467.00
Rutherford School	\$ 1,642.00
Total	\$ 18,871.00