

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 14, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: E. Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Trustee Planning Initiatives for 2006-2007
ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director
RESOURCE
STAFF: Jamie Pallett

INFORMATION

In January 2006, trustees submitted four initiatives to the administration for consideration in 2006-2007. After reviewing the initiatives and considering the implications and the costs associated with each, the administration has committed to undertaking initiatives one to three.

Although the district will not be creating a task force as outlined in initiative four, work related to improving the district understanding of high school dropouts and the reasons for course withdrawals will be embedded in the work of schools and central decision units.

Each initiative will be incorporated to the extent possible into school and central decision unit 2006-2007 plans that address district priorities. Trustees will have an opportunity to ask questions to principals and decision unit managers responsible for creating and implementing the plans during the proposed budget subcommittee meetings in May 2006.

The decision units responsible for the initiatives are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Initiative, Decision Unit(s) Responsible. Row 1: Initiative 1 (health and physical well-being), Decision Units: Communications, Consulting Services, Curriculum, Resource Development Schools. Row 2: Initiative 2 (transportation challenges), Decision Units: Financial Services, Student Transportation.

Initiative

**Decision Unit(s)
Responsible**

students (Early Education students). This strategy could shorten ride times for young students and provide trained staff for transporting Woodside students.

- Trial of user-friendly software applications that improve access, reduce paperwork and consolidate tasks related to student transportation. Pilot could see user-friendly online applications and contact, improve scheduling and/or simplify use of system from application to ongoing route changes.
- Pilot of joint routes from neighborhoods between Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic schools.

3. Publish the Public Board agendas further in advance of the meetings, and investigate the feasibility of publishing them in a widely distributed medium, such as the *Edmonton Examiner*. Providing the agenda earlier would allow trustees and/or principals time to distribute it to interested stakeholders such as parents, students, community leagues, and the business community, either for the purpose of gathering input on particular agenda item, or to elicit participation and attendance at the board meetings. Publicly publishing the agenda would permit members of the broader community to be aware of content of the meetings, and may result in more non-active stakeholders becoming interested in what EPSB is doing.

Board Administration
Communications

4. Establish a task force, or a series of focus groups, to identify key areas of concerns contributing to the causes of course failures, withdrawals or drop outs of high school students, and to suggest possible actions and solutions. The task force or focus groups could consist of a minimum of three (3) students per grade from each district high school, preferably not IB, AP or academically stable students. This group should also include current young adults (under age 25) taking courses at Metro and/or Centre High, staff from Central Services (perhaps Planning, Student Achievement and Consulting Services), some parents of current 'at-risk' students, or students who have dropped out, one trustee (minimum) and one staff member from Senior Administration. The processes could be conducted by an outside facilitator. Findings should be studied internally as well as distributed externally where appropriate (i.e., business community, social agencies, law-enforcement and judicial agencies, post-secondary institutions, etc.).

Consulting Services
Research Support Services
Student Achievement
Student Assessment
Student Information
Schools

JRP:bly