

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 14, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Victoria School Update Report

ORIGINATOR: R. MacNeil, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Mike Brown, Gary Holroyd, Roland Labbe, John Nicoll, Ingrid Neitsch, Larry Schwenneker

INFORMATION

Administration committed to providing regular updates to the Board of Trustees on the status of the revitalization of Victoria School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

A letter from the Board Chair has been sent to the Ministers of Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation outlining the approach for the revitalization of the Victoria School.

- The board would proceed within the existing budget to design a new school. The design will be based upon Alberta Infrastructure 2005 Construction cost guidelines and space allocation guidelines presently existing.
- That tender price escalation will be dealt with at the time of tender award.
- The school will embody a core component designed for 1700 students; classroom capacity will be initially designed for 1200 students with the capability to be expanded by the use of pods or modular classrooms supplied by Alberta Infrastructure. The expansion opportunities will be explored over the next year.
- The school concept remains a K-12 school; however school size will be limited to the affordable capacity.
- The Board will request that all demolition costs of the old school, including those already incurred, be treated as a special circumstance and be deferred until further funding becomes available from the province.
- The Eva O Howard theatre renovations and new set shop will be deferred until other funding sources can be obtained.

Facilities Services staff met with senior staff from Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure on February 10, 2006. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the new strategy contained in the letters to the Ministers related to the completion of Victoria School for the Performing and Visual Arts in more detail and to address any questions or concerns that Alberta Education or Alberta Infrastructure representatives may have.

Detailed design and construction document development based on the replacement model will begin upon Ministerial confirmation that the approach is supportable. Proceeding on detailed design without Ministerial confirmation that the approach is supportable could result in the district bearing the cost of the design fees for this phase of the project.

As previously reported to the Board of Trustees, the district is committed to ensuring the health and safety of staff and students in all schools. Facilities Services recently undertook to have measurements of the air and water quality taken at Victoria School. The testing indicated that the air and water are safe and there is not any known air or water quality issues in the school. Facilities Services will continue to support the school with a full complement of technical services to address any concerns the school may have with respect to providing an appropriate environment for learning. Facilities Services staff is in the process of conducting a facilities audit of the school which will assist the school and Facilities Services in providing a safe learning environment.

The district remains committed to communicating to our communities on issues relating to the school. Administration is working with the Principal of Victoria School to ensure communication between Victoria School and the parent community continues on a regular basis.

The district remains committed to the concept of developing a facility that will be a centre of excellence in academics and the arts.

Meetings have been initiated to identify issues related to use of the playfield area as the location for the new school with various representatives from the City of Edmonton administration. Specifically, information on transit plans and timing for the use of Arthur Hiller Way (104 Street) as the planned North High Speed Transit route has been collected, to assess potential access impact. Site acquisition and zoning requirement discussions have also been initiated. Further information will be provided as these discussions proceed.

ES:kk