

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 7, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dosdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATORS: A. McBeath, Department Head  
G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Anne-Louise Charette, Bob Holt, Jim Malenczak,

INFORMATION

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #196, FEBRUARY 22, 2000 (TRUSTEE FLEMING) PROVIDE INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT PROCESSES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH EDMONTON POLICE SERVICES TO RAPIDLY DEAL WITH INTERNET THREATS TARGETED AT STUDENTS.** Jim Malenczak, the District Information Security Coordinator, is the person responsible for district information security. Mr. Malenczak works with Jim Davies, Legal Counsel, and officers of the Technological Crimes Division of the Edmonton Police Service to quickly resolve issues arising out of the misuse of technology including the inappropriate use of e-mail systems and the Internet.

To date Edmonton Public Schools has been very successful in determining, on a timely basis, the identities of individuals who misuse technology to perpetrate threats, harassment and other inappropriate uses of the Internet.

We expect the development of policies and regulations, due by the end of this budget year, which will include strong language about the inappropriate use of technology and the Internet, will be a deterrent. (G. Reynolds, 429-8479)

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #197, FEBRUARY 22, 2000 (TRUSTEE SULYMA): PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING WHAT THE SUCCESS RATE IS OF OUR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS PARTICULARLY IN PROGRAMS LIKE BEHAVIOUR DISORDERED IN THE TRANSITION FROM GRADE 9 TO GRADE 10. ALSO WHAT IS THE RETENTION RATE IN GRADE 12?** There were 54 grade 9 students who were registered as behaviour disordered on September 30, 1998. As of February 15, 2000, 37 of these students were still registered in the district. Of the 17 students who are no longer registered in the district,

- 4 left during the their grade 9 year
- 9 who completed grade 9 were not registered on September 30, 1999
- 4 left between September 30, 1999 and February 15, 2000

It is not known whether these students are registered with some other school district.

Of the 37 students in the district on February 15, 2000

- 17 were coded as behaviour disordered
- 2 had other special needs codes
- 9 were coded as regular
- 3 were in institutions
- 6 were coded as being in outreach or home education programs

Behaviour disorders eligibility is reviewed regularly, and students' codes changed if their behaviour is no longer severely disordered, and extensive supports not required.

Monitoring annually collects information on early school leavers. For the 1998-99 school year, the percentage of special needs students who left high school during the year was 6.8%, compared with 4.6% for E.S.L. and 4.1% for regular students. The categories of adaptation (8.5% of 591 students) and multiple handicapped (13.3% of 30 students) had the highest proportion of early school leavers. There were no early leavers in the categories of physical handicapped, autistic, learning disabilities, trainable handicapped, and dependent handicapped.

Research is being undertaken to track secondary special needs students over a number of years to determine the proportion that complete their schooling as well as the proportion that do not retain special needs coding. Trustees will be provided with this information.

(A.L. Charette 429-8381)

**TRUSTEE REQUEST 198 (TRUSTEE WILLIAMS) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE RATIONALE FOR PROVIDING MENINGITIS VACCINATIONS IN HIGH SCHOOLS AS OPPOSED TO OFF-SITE FOR ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. SHOULD THIS BE SOMETHING THAT OUR BOARD APPROACHES CAPITAL HEALTH ABOUT?:**

The administration contacted the office of the Medical Officer of Health, Capital Health Authority. The decision to use a few large centers across the city was based on their best use of limited resources in the shortest time frame possible. Also, they believed that unlike high schools, parking and gymnasium facilities at elementary schools were not large enough to accommodate the anticipated numbers of parents and children in the short time frame allocated for the vaccination program. They also stated that they believed there was an issue related to the need for written parental consent for this vaccination. These forms would have needed to be sent home with the children, brought back to the schools, filed and organized for the nurses. This would have created unnecessary delays for Capital Health and additional work for schools. (B. Holt, 429-8070)

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