

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 23, 2010

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Child Study Centre Alternative Program: Addition of Kindergarten

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant Superintendent  
T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Gloria Chalmers, Lyndi Karbonik, Jim Ray, Bonnie Zack

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Grades 1 to 6 Child Study alternative program be extended to include kindergarten.
2. That, subject to sufficient enrollment, a Child Study alternative program kindergarten class be implemented in Garneau School in September 2010.

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**Background:** The Child Study Centre (CSC) began in 1969 as a Laboratory School of the Department of Elementary Education, offering junior kindergarten and kindergarten. Subsequently a partnership was developed between the Faculty of Education of the University of Alberta and Edmonton Public Schools resulting in the development of a Grades 1 to 3 CSC program, approved by the Board in the spring of 1996. That fall the District Grades 1 to 3 program and the junior kindergarten and kindergarten, privately offered by the University, were provided on the University campus. The campus served as the site of the District and University components of the program until September 2001 when one elementary class was moved to Garneau School. In the spring of 2002, the District and the University supported the extension of the program to Grade 6 and the move of the Grades 1 to 6 component of the program to Garneau School. Because of the extension to Grade 6, a revised agreement, including program description, was required. On March 12, 2002, the Board of Trustees approved the revised agreement and the extension of the program.

Currently, there are 133 students enrolled in the CSC alternative program in Grades 1 to 6 at Garneau School and 40 students in kindergarten plus 30 students in junior kindergarten on the University campus.

**Rationale and Plan:** Due to the retirement of the director of the Child Study Centre at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year, the University appointed two new co-directors for the 2009-2010 academic year. The new co-director appointments, and the fact that the program

will soon be in its fifteenth year, provided the impetus for joint reflection on the alternative program. While discussions continue, representatives from both the University and the District believe the time is right to extend the District program to kindergarten in line with practice in all other District schools.

The parents of children in the University operated kindergarten and junior kindergarten were consulted. They are supportive of extending the program to include kindergarten and relocating it to Garneau School. Planning confirms that there is space in the school to accommodate kindergarten and the continuation of these students through to grade 6. Based on the consultation, the District believes that approximately 35 to 40 children would register in the kindergarten class for 2010-2011 should it be approved.

Should the extension of the alternative program be approved, the kindergarten teacher would be offered a probationary teaching contract with the District. The teacher is currently in the process of applying to the District. Teaching experience will be recognized for grid placement and not for district seniority purposes.

GC/cs