

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 11, 2010

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Delegation – Alberta Somali Community Centre (ASCC)

ORIGINATOR: B. Coggles, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Anne Sherwood

INFORMATION

Mr. Mahamad Accord, President Alberta Somali Community Centre (ASCC) has requested the opportunity to address the Board with regard to *School Act* review process. He is seeking Board support for a proposal to raise the mandatory school attendance age in Alberta from 16 to 18 (APPENDIX I):

Specifically he is requesting:

- A formal letter of endorsement for the Alberta Somali Community Center for this initiative.
- Support of the Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta on the community's behalf.

Arrangements have been made for Mr. Accord to make his presentation at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 2010** (APPENDIX II).

AS:mmf

APPENDIX I – Correspondence from Mr. Accord

APPENDIX II – Correspondence from the Corporate Board Secretary

"Removes Institutionalize Systemic Barriers and Build Cultural Bridges!"

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Don Fleming, Board Chair
Edmonton Public Schools Board
Centre for Education, One Kingsway
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 4G9

Dear Mr. Fleming,

I am writing to request to speak before the board on May 11th, 2010 on behalf of the Alberta Somali Community Center in order to bring your attention to the contribution that the Canadian Somali community in Alberta is making to the Education Act review process. Specifically, the Canadian Somali community in Alberta is pushing to raise the mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18 years of age in the province of Alberta. This measure has already been successfully introduced in Ontario. Under this plan, a 16 year old who refuses to attend regular classes may be exempted from doing so but will still be compelled to obtain training in a trade such as carpentry, metalwork, welding etc.

If the Edmonton Public Schools Board sees merit in this measure, we request that:

- 1) You provide the Alberta Somali Community Center with a formal letter of endorsement for our initiative can assist our effort through a letter of support to the members of our community.
- 2) You seek the support of Alberta School Board Association on our behalf. We are hopeful the members of ASBA understand the importance of this initiative for not only Edmonton, but for all Albertans.

If you are able to support this request, please send a letter of support to Alberta Minister of Education.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mahamad Accord, President,
Alberta Somali Community Center (ASCC)

Board of Trustees
Don Fleming, Chair
Sue Huff, Vice-Chair
Dave Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
George Rice
Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

Superintendent of Schools
Edgar Schmidt

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April 26, 2010

Mr. Mahamad Accord, President
Alberta Somali Community Center (ASCC)

Dear Mr. Accord:

Thank you for your e-mail of April 20, 2010 requesting an opportunity to address the Board at the May 11, 2010 Board meeting to request the following with respect to your community's initiative, as part of the *School Act* review process, to raise the mandatory school attendance age in Alberta from 16 to 18:

- A formal letter of endorsement for the Alberta Somali Community Center for this initiative.
- Seeking support of the Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta on the community's behalf.

Your presentation has been scheduled for **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 2010.**

The following is the link to Board Policy JAB.BP Comments, Delegations and Presentations at Board Meetings by Public and Staff Representatives <http://www.epsb.ca/policy/jab.bp.shtml> with respect to the Board's procedures regarding delegations. You will note that you may have 10 minutes in total to make your presentation and may appoint two spokespersons. You will also note that decisions regarding requests made by delegations will be dealt with at the next meeting of the Board or appropriate committee unless otherwise agreed to by a majority vote of the members present.

If you have information you wish provided in advance to the Board with respect to your request, please submit one reproducible copy to my office no later than **noon on Wednesday, May 5, 2010.** The information will be included with agenda material being sent to Board members on Friday, May 7, 2010. The agenda and related reports for the May 11, 2010 Board meeting will be posted no later than 5:30 p.m. on Friday May 7, 2010 at the following website: <http://www.epsb.ca/board/agenda.shtml>

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The Board meeting will commence at 6:00 p.m. and will be held in McCauley Chambers on the second floor of the Centre for Education at 102 Street and Kingsway. Underground parking is available.

Please have a seat in McCauley Chambers until called by the Board Chair. Please note that you may make your presentation from the wooden podium or from the Administration table that faces the Board.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 780-429-8020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Sherwood".

Anne Sherwood
Corporate Board Secretary

AS:mmf