

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 12, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Trustee G. Rice, Conference Committee Chair
SUBJECT: Report #12 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held May 5, 2009)

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Report #12 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held May 5, 2009 be received and considered.

Central Administrative Designation – Leadership Services

2. That the following designation for the period September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2012 be confirmed:

Carol Symons – Director

2009 Alberta School Boards Association Friends of Education Award

3. That the nomination of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada for an ASBA Friends of Education Award be approved.

ASBA Request for Board Response to *Fair Bargaining for a Better Future – Report on the 2007-2008 Collective Bargaining Process*

4. That Board support for local bargaining and the option of choice as outlined in Option 1 of the Mackenzie Report, as a response to the ASBA request for Board position, be approved.

Process for Requests for Information

5. That the Board revise the request for information process to require majority support for such requests and, if not supported, the request be automatically treated as a notice of motion.

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Background - Recommendation 2

In accordance with Administrative Regulation GBA.AR – Designation, Appointment and Assignment to Leadership Positions, exempt management staff who hold a teacher contract are designated for a three-year term.

Background – Recommendation 3

The major criteria for the Alberta School Boards Association Friends of Education Award is that the nomination must involve a special contribution to education in Alberta and must be documented and provincial in character.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada’s *In-School Mentoring* program model originated at its Hamilton, Ontario office. The *In-School Mentoring* program is built on the management practices of the society within the context of research and best practices for child and family literacy development. The program has proven to be successful in many of the organization’s provincial offices. Through the Big Brothers Big Sisters Edmonton and Area chapter, Edmonton Public Schools has 45 schools involved in the program; an additional 41 schools from other school districts within Edmonton and the surrounding area are also participating.

For the students involved in the program, the benefits are numerous. Staff in the participating schools have noticed that students are experiencing ongoing improvements with respect to their reading and writing skills and increased confidence and improvements related to their social growth and behaviour.

Background – Recommendation 4

Option 1 as outlined in the Mackenzie Report preserves choice for jurisdictions to either locally bargain or collectively bargain by pursuing voluntary agreement on a single collective agreement process between an employer’s association and the ATA. Option 1 best reflects the Board’s previously stated position, to support local bargaining as a first option while recognizing that there is currently provision under the *School Act* for boards so choosing to have voluntary associations for collective bargaining.

AS:mmf