

**EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

May 22, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: The Learning Store at West Edmonton Mall

ORIGINATOR: S. Keith, Principal, Kennedale School and Outreach

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Gloria Chalmers

**RECOMMENDATION**

That board support for the application to offer a high school outreach program at West Edmonton Mall be confirmed.

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**Background:** The district currently offers four provincially approved senior high outreach programs under the administration of one principal, Shirley Keith. Outreach programs enable high-school aged youth, who for various reasons are not attending school, to reconnect with the district. The intent is to enable these youths to transition back to one of the district high schools, to complete their diploma if they are just short a course or two, or to upgrade sufficiently so that they can enter another community program or seek employment.

The district seeks provincial approval for sites offering senior high outreach programming as the district is eligible for double funding for the first 400 credits earned by students attending approved sites. To receive provincial approval, the district must submit an application (Appendix I) that describes the program, the target population, and the location of the proposed program. As well, the district must demonstrate that the board has a policy on outreach programming and that the board of trustees supports the particular application.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** The Mayfield Rotary Club and the Boys' and Girls' Club began discussions three years ago regarding the establishment of a youth centre at West Edmonton Mall. Shirley Keith was invited to attend one of the planning meetings earlier this year. As a result of ensuing discussions, it was agreed that it made sense to include an outreach program as one component of the programming to be offered at the youth centre. West Edmonton Mall has given the Boys' and Girls' Club a five-year lease at no charge and the outreach program would operate within this space. The Mayfield Rotary Club is providing financial support for the renovations to the space. The youth centre, to be known as the Bruce Campbell Youth Centre, will be operated through a partnership of the following organizations: Boys' & Girls' Club of Edmonton, West Edmonton Mall Management, City of Edmonton Community Services, Edmonton Police Services, Marketplace Chapel, Youth Emergency Shelter Society, Mayfield Rotary Club and Edmonton Public Schools.

Support of the recommendation would make it possible for Edmonton Public Schools to seek provincial approval for an outreach location and, if approved, to become the education provider in the youth centre located at the Mall. We believe that an outreach program, as part of the centre, would enable us to provide educational programming to significant numbers of young people not currently connected to education in any way. In partnership, we will be in a position to provide a much broader range of opportunities for youth than any one member could do individually.

GC:SK/dh

APPENDIX I: Provincial Application

**PROGRAM PLAN**  
**THE LEARNING STORE AT WEST EDMONTON MALL**

The Learning Store at West Edmonton Mall will enable youth who are not currently attending school to begin the transition from non-student to student in an informal learning environment. The program will focus on having students obtain high school credits in academic as well as career and technology courses.

The Learning Store will provide a strong mentorship role to students to assist them in successfully setting realistic goals and targets for achievement. Staff will meet with each student to determine timelines for course completion as well as set attendance expectations to meet these timelines. Students will be expected to complete one module of work per week and those students who are in receipt of assistance through student finance will be required to complete one module every four days.

The code of conduct will be that of Edmonton Public Schools which is zero tolerance for the use of drugs, alcohol or weapons.

The Learning Store will be operated in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, the Mayfield Rotary Club, West Edmonton Mall Management, City of Edmonton Community Services, Edmonton Police Services, Marketplace Chapel and the Youth Emergency Shelter Society. In addition to the services of a youth worker employed by Edmonton Public Schools students will have access to the services provided by these agencies. Students will be provided with opportunities for work experience and job shadowing by the businesses within the mall.

Students will be encouraged to return to a traditional high school at the beginning of each semester if they have demonstrated that they have the desire and the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to be successful in a regular school program.