

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 22, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Amendments to 2001 Capital Plan and 2000/2001 Modernization Block Fund

ORIGINATOR: G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Bob Clark, Beatrice Denboer, Brian Fedor, Faye Parker

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the submission of the listed modernization projects related to the City Centre Education Project (CCEP) to Alberta Infrastructure as the district's number one priority for 2001 be approved:
  - John A. McDougall School
  - McCauley School
  - Spruce Avenue School
  - Parkdale School
  - Eastwood School
2. That the submission of Ottewell School to Alberta Infrastructure as the district's number two modernization priority for 2001 be approved.
3. That the following amendments to the 2000/2001 Modernization Block Fund be approved:
  - Phase II completion, Terrace Heights School: \$1.6 million
  - Avalon School, barrier-free access: \$0.1 million
  - Programming and peripheral requirements for CCEP: \$0.3 million
  - Harry Ainlay School, long range facility development plan: \$0.1 million
  - Various student drop-offs and related site improvements: \$1.1 million
  - Contingency fund: \$0.3 million
  - Delete Ottewell School from block fund

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The modernizations being recommended for John A. McDougall and McCauley schools are necessary in order to carry out the next phase of the City Centre Education Project and were anticipated in the recommendations to close Queen Mary Park and Alex Taylor schools. The modernizations are necessary in order to accommodate the enrolment increases and provide for the programming changes. There will also be facility impacts as a result of the programming changes planned for Spruce Avenue, Parkdale, and Eastwood Schools and it is recommended that the associated funding be applied for through the modernization process. It is also intended that over the next two to three years, the opportunity costs related to the CCEP be evaluated and some of the anticipated “savings” be directed to the revitalization of Eastwood School as its enrolment grows. Appendix I contains a summary of the CCEP modernization projects and associated costs.

Recommendation number two is to accommodate the transfer of Ottewell School from the Modernization Block Fund (Appendix II) to the district Capital Plan. Ottewell School was re-audited by Alberta Infrastructure (Appendix III), and as a result scored 740 points. This score raises the priority of Ottewell School above Alberta Infrastructure's 700 point benchmark and increases the likelihood of it being approved for a modernization more quickly.

The rationale for placing Ottewell into the capital plan as the number two modernization priority for 2001 is that one of the goals of the 2000 - 2003 capital submission was to continue to honour previous district priorities while making the transition to utilizing Alberta Infrastructure's audit results as a basis for modernization requests. Ottewell School had been a high priority for the district in previous capital submissions, and was included this year in the plan for the block modernization fund because of its original low rating (570 points) on the provincial audit. Since the re-audit places it above 700 points, it is more appropriate to place it into the capital submission, and to utilize the block fund to benefit a larger number of schools.

The recommended revisions to the 2001 priorities would leave two new construction projects at the top of the list (Jackson Heights and Lake District elementary schools). These would then be followed by the CCEP projects and Ottewell School. The remaining 2001 priorities (Appendix IV) would not change, except for the concept development studies, which have already been funded.

Recommendation number three addresses changes to the Modernization Block Fund as a result of moving Ottewell School into the Capital Plan. Ottewell School is estimated to cost in excess of \$3.5 million dollars to modernize, and these funds can now be redirected to other district priorities:

- 1. Phase II Terrace Heights School Modernization:** the application for phase II funding in the 2000 capital submission was not approved by the School Buildings Board and the Board recommended that the district fund the project from the block fund.

2. **Avalon School barrier free access:** this is consistent with the district's desire to progressively upgrade our facilities to provide barrier free access. Current funding availability is limited in the face of other priority needs and barrier free access has been typically provided through district centres or on a critical-need basis.
3. **Programming requirements for the CCEP:** these are program requirements that may not be eligible for modernization funding, or that may not receive approval. In order to ensure that the required work is accomplished in a timely manner, funds are being identified in the Modernization Block Fund. Projects that will be addressed will be renovations related to CTS, fine arts, technology, physical education, sciences, etc.
4. **Long range facility plan for Harry Ainlay School:** this funding is intended to ensure that a plan is in place that will allow improvements to be made in the short to medium term that will complement a modernization in the longer term. Investments made in the facility over the next number of years will contribute to the overall modernization plan for the school. Due to the size of the facility and the cost implications, it is felt that a long range plan is an effective tool to guide on-going work in the school. Recent experience with the Victoria School assessment and value management studies supports this approach.
5. Various student vehicle drop-offs are being proposed to ensure that the safety needs are being met at a variety of sites. Increases in enrolment, program choice and an overall more mobile society are creating potential safety issues. The district currently works with the city on a cost-share basis for drop-offs, but this program is only able to accommodate one per year. This will allow the district to proactively address up to ten top priorities.
6. The deletion of Ottewell School from the Modernization Block Fund is recommended to complement the recommendation to include it in the Capital Plan as a priority. This will free up \$3.5 million currently designated for Ottewell School in the block fund.

Approval of the above the recommendations will allow the administration to expedite projects that are priorities for the district, and will allow commencement of work prior to fall.

BF:FP:kk

APPENDIX I - Summary of Modernization Projects Related to CCEP

APPENDIX II - Modernization Block Fund - Board Report

APPENDIX III - Alberta Infrastructure Letter re: Ottewell School

APPENDIX IV - Current Capital Submission Priorities for 2001