

DATE: May 22, 2012

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Feasibility of Offering Mandarin Bilingual Program at Lillian Osborne School (Trustee Request #183)

ORIGINATOR: Brian J. Smith, Executive Director, Finance & Infrastructure

RESOURCE STAFF: Tim Boan, Leanne Fedor, Jack Geldart, Ann Parker, Lorne Parker, Jim Ray

REFERENCE: March 13, 2012 Board Meeting (Trustee Cleary)

ISSUE

The following information was requested:

Provide a brief report indicating the feasibility of offering a Mandarin Bilingual program at Lillian Osborne High School, including details of what enrolment would be required, process and possible timeline for implementation as an alternative program, should the criteria be met.

BACKGROUND

District centre alternative programs are distributed to schools taking into consideration a number of factors such as (but not limited to):

- degree of demand
- space available at schools
- impact on existing programs
- where students requesting a program reside
- availability of staff and instructional resources
- transportation implications

CURRENT SITUATION

On the south side of the North Saskatchewan River, the elementary Mandarin Bilingual program is accommodated at Meyonohk School and the junior high program is accommodated at Ottewell School. McNally School accommodates the senior high Mandarin Bilingual program. The following chart reflects enrolment in south side Mandarin Bilingual programs as of September 30, 2011:

Meyonohk School:

K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
43	34	36	40	33	28	33	247

Ottewell School:

Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
17	36	25	78

McNally School:

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
19	22	23	64

McNally School is the recommended south side location for the senior high Mandarin Bilingual program as Ottewell School is located geographically within the McNally School attendance area. Additionally, the majority of students enrolled in the junior high Mandarin program at Ottewell School reside in southeast Edmonton (Attachment 1). Providing high school Mandarin Bilingual programming at McNally School recognizes existing high school feeder patterns and provides programming within a south Edmonton high school close to where students requesting the program reside.

A key consideration in the establishment of an additional high school Mandarin Bilingual program would be the potential impact on existing programs. A second south side high school program could potentially split the demand for high school Mandarin Bilingual programming between two program locations resulting in insufficient students to offer Mandarin Bilingual programming at either site. There is currently not sufficient demand to support a second high school Mandarin Bilingual program location.

As of September 30, 2011 McNally School had a total school enrolment of 1,035 students with an Area Capacity and Utilization (ACU) capacity of 1,546 students. McNally School has space available to accommodate students currently enrolled in Mandarin Bilingual programs as well as any future south side program growth. Given the enrolment in the elementary and junior high south side program locations, an additional high school program location will not be feasible in the foreseeable future.

With respect to the question specific to the feasibility of establishing a Mandarin Bilingual program at Lillian Osborne School, the following chart reflects the number of students that reside within the Lillian Osborne and Lillian Osborne-Strathcona dual designated attendance areas who are currently enrolled in Mandarin Bilingual programs. The chart illustrates the number of students at each specific grade level as of March 16, 2012:

Attendance Area	K	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6	Gr. 7	Gr. 8	Gr. 9
Lillian Osborne	11	5	10	9	10	6	9	1	1	2
Lillian Osborne or Strathcona	4	4	5	0	4	1	3	2	0	2
Total	15	9	15	9	14	7	12	3	1	4

The following chart reflects enrolment compared to total school capacity at Lillian Osborne School based on the most recent provincial Area Capacity and Utilization (ACU) report:

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total School	Total ACU Capacity
355	356	306	1,017	1,022

Lillian Osborne School is currently at capacity with no room to accommodate an additional program. As there are few students that reside within the Lillian Osborne attendance area who are currently enrolled in a Mandarin Bilingual program, the school would need to have available space to accommodate additional students from outside the attendance area to support enrolment in a program.

KEY POINTS

- District centre alternative programs are distributed in response to demand and taking into consideration a number of additional factors.
- An additional high school Mandarin Bilingual program is not being considered due to insufficient demand and the potential to negatively impact enrolment and programming at the current south side high school location, McNally School.
- McNally School has space available to accommodate the students currently enrolled in Mandarin Bilingual programs as well as any future south side program growth.
- Lillian Osborne School is at capacity and does not have available space to accommodate the addition of a Mandarin Bilingual program.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Residences of Bilingual Chinese (Mandarin) Students Attending Ottewell

AP:sa

Residences Of
Bilingual Chinese (Mandarin) Students
Attending Ottewell
78 Students (76 live in Edmonton)
September 30, 2011 Data

