

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 23, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Response to Trustee Request for Information

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Executive Director

INFORMATION

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #184, APRIL 25, 2006 (TRUSTEE KEIVER): PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE SUCCESS OF THE MODIFIED 11-MONTH CALENDAR AT PARKDALE, EASTWOOD AND DONNAN AND THAT INFORMATION ALSO BE PROVIDED REGARDING THE POTENTIAL FOR EXPANDING TO AN 11-MONTH CALENDAR ACROSS THE DISTRICT.** In 1998, the Board approved a 3-year pilot project for Eastwood School to implement a modified calendar. The rationale behind the modified calendar at Eastwood was to minimize the 're-learning' of concepts that occur following a long summer break for students that had few educational opportunities throughout the summer. Following the conclusion of the pilot, a modified calendar was approved for Parkdale School for the same reasons.

Donnan's modified calendar was also approved by Board in 1998 with the goal to better meet the community needs in relation to the Sports Programming.

To determine the success of the modified calendar, the following data were reviewed; Provincial Achievement Test results, student attendance data and teacher absenteeism data. When reviewed, all of the data showed year to year variations in each of the schools. No clear trends were noticeable.

Altering the structure of a school or a calendar can have impact on certain aspects of the school climate and can meet specific needs of the school community. In all three situations, the unique needs of the school community were met by modifying the school calendar.

The work with the Supporting Teaching and Learning AISI project has provided evidence that enhancing the skills of teachers, and providing time for collaboration between and among schools, does and will continue to have an impact on the achievement of our students across the district.

At this time, expanding the modified calendar across the district is not being considered.

TP:cg