

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 24, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Future Use of Terrace Heights School Building

ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Randy Billey, Ron Bradley

INFORMATION

Background Information

When the Argyll Home Education Centre opened in 1998 it consisted of 718 students enrolled in three programs. As of September 30, 2004, 2,084 students were registered through the Argyll site in five programs with an additional 191 students registered at the Argyll YMCA site. With this growth, increased demands on space, as well as the cost of maintaining an aging facility continue to be major challenges for school and district staff in their shared efforts to achieve superb results from all students.

The recent closure of the Terrace Heights School has provided the district an opportunity to relocate the Argyll Home Education Centre to a facility that would meet immediate and long term plans and needs for both the Argyll Home Education Centre and the district. In terms of total gross area of facilities, Terrace Heights School (2918.8 m²) would provide an additional 1287.6 m² of space available to the Argyll Home Education Centre (current location has 1631.2 m²).

The Plan

The plan to relocate the Argyll Home Education Centre would occur in two phases. Over a two year period, all programs currently being offered at the Argyll Home Education Centre would be relocated to Terrace Heights School.

Phase I will involve the relocation of selected programs to Terrace Heights School at the conclusion of the 2004-2005 schools year, to be in place the 2005-2006 school year. The programs that will be relocated from the Argyll Home Education Centre to Terrace Heights School in phase I will be; LearnNet (Grades 1-12), Traditional Home Education (Grades 1-12), and Blended (Grades 1-12). Junior high and senior high school Reachout and Home Instruction programs scheduled to commence at the Argyll Home Education Centre in August 2005 will also be part of the relocation in phase I.

The second and final phase of the relocation will occur following the 2005-2006 school year, with the remaining programs at the Argyll Home Education Centre being relocated to the

Terrace Heights School site to commence operation for the start of the 2006-2007 school year. The remaining programs that will move in phase II are Caraway (Kindergarten –Grade 6) and Correspondence Learning (Grades 7-12).

Upon completion of phase II of this relocation, the current Argyll Home Education Centre site would be eligible for closure in accordance with the School Act. The closure would fall under the School Act in the *Closure of Schools Regulation* (Alberta Regulation 238/1997) as stated in Closure of schools section 2, “A board may (d) transfer all students from one school building to one or more other school buildings on a permanent basis (AR 238/97 s2;257/2003).....”

A meeting was held on May 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., with the current parent council at Terrace Heights School to inform parents and the community of this relocation plan. In compliance with the School Act, meetings are being coordinated for parents of students presently attending the Argyll Home Education Centre to share the relocation plan and schedule. An online version and a face to face version of these public meetings are scheduled to occur by the end of May 2005.

Benefits of the Relocation

The following are benefits of the relocation:

- The Terrace Heights School site would provide the Argyll Home Education Centre with more suitable quality space for current demands as well as for future growth;
- The condition of the building currently occupied by the Argyll Home Education Centre (previously Argyll School) is in need of capital for maintenance and upgrades for windows, lights, heating and structural repairs (floors heaving);
- This relocation would maximize the return of capital investment the district made for modernization of Terrace Heights School;
- As requested by the neighborhood and community during the closure process for Terrace Heights School, a desirable tenant would occupy and maintain the facility and the integrity of the neighborhood;
- Terrace Heights School would continue to serve and be available to the community and public for after hour rentals and use;
- The long range needs of the Argyll Home Education Centre and occupancy of Terrace Heights School would be met;
- The more centralized location in the city would provide improved access to students and parents registered at the Argyll Home Education Centre;
- The relocation would provide the Home Education Centre with more classrooms, a computer lab, a library, a larger gymnasium, more outdoor field area, playground equipment and a more suitable staff room at Terrace Heights School;
- Funds currently needed to rent space for group activities and examination writing for Argyll students would be redirected back to classrooms to support learning ; and
- This move would support the districts desire to improve the district’s utilization rate and to make capital funds that would be needed at the current Argyll Home Education Centre site available for other district sites and projects.

RB:pn