

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 25, 2010

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Response to Delegation – Alberta Somali Community Centre (ASCC)

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Karen Bardy, Gloria Chalmers

RECOMMENDATION

1. That a formal letter of endorsement be provided to the ASCC for their initiative to raise the mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18.
2. That the Board submit a resolution to the Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta in support of extending the mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18.

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Background: Mr. Mahamad Accord, President ASCC, addressed the Board at the May 11, 2010 meeting. On behalf of his organization, he made two requests with respect to his community's initiative to raise the mandatory school attendance age as part of the *School Act* review. He requested a letter of endorsement for the initiative and support to get this initiative before the Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta.

Rationale for Recommendations: The request for a letter supporting increasing the mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18 is consistent with a statement made in the Board's submission to the *School Act* review approved at Board on October 27, 2009. The submission stated "Consider both lowering the entry and increasing the exit compulsory age for schooling (i.e., make Kindergarten compulsory, increase compulsory age from 16 to 18)." The mandatory school attendance age was raised in the Province of Ontario where legislation raising the school leaving age to 18 or graduation received Royal Assent on December 20, 2006.

The administration has confirmed that the deadline for submissions to Zones for the Fall General Meeting is May 31, 2010. Should the recommendation to make a submission to the Zone be approved, the Board office is prepared to make the submission by the stipulated deadline.

GC:gc