

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 26, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee G. Rice, Conference Committee Chair

SUBJECT: Report #13 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held February 3, March 3 and March 17, 2009)

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Report #13 of the Conference Committee from the meetings held February 3, March 3 and March 17, 2009 be received and considered.

Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement (ASAP) School Names

2. That the following names for an Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement (ASAP) School be confirmed:

Esther Starkman
Johnny Bright
A. Blair McPherson
Florence Hallock
Dr. Donald Massey
Elizabeth Finch

* * * * *

At the February 10, 2009 board meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the following recommendations:

1. That authorization of the Conference Committee to select names for the six Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement (ASAP) schools to be opened in 2010 from the list of names submitted for consideration through public input be approved.
2. That authorization for the Administration to enter into discussion with these individuals or, in the cases where the person is deceased, their family members to obtain consent for their name to be given to an ASAP school be approved.
3. That the Administration develop a comprehensive implementation plan that will stage the announcement of school names over the next five months be approved.

The following are the locations and background information for the new schools:

Esther Starkman School - 2717 Terwillegar Way

Esther Starkman is an esteemed community member and the driving force behind the creation of READ IN Week. This city-wide annual event, held the first week of October, is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year with Esther acting as its Honourary Chair. READ IN Week's purpose is to cultivate a greater awareness of the importance of reading and promote school as an important place for the development of lifelong literacy.

Johnny Bright School - Heritage Valley, 1327 Rutherford Road

Johnny Bright was a beloved and esteemed educator. He was a highly respected athlete competing in football, track and field and basketball and was the first black player to win the Schenley Award as the CFL's most valuable player. He was subsequently named to the CFL Hall of Fame in 1970, and is also a member of the Iowa Sports Hall of Fame, the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame, the Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame, and the Edmonton Eskimos Wall of Fame. Johnny earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education at Drake University in 1952, putting his degree to use as a teacher, coach, and school administrator, both during and after his professional football career. He was the principal of D.S. MacKenzie Junior High School and the principal of Hillcrest Junior High School.

A. Blair McPherson School - The Meadows, 430 Tamarack Green

Blair McPherson, or Grampa Mac, as he was affectionately called, was a beloved family pastor and respected counselor. He was a stalwart advocate for public education and deeply appreciated its role in preparing students to be the leaders of tomorrow. Grampa Mac was a dedicated volunteer who made significant contributions at Bisset School in the Mill Woods community of Ridgewood from the time it opened its doors. He taught students the importance of respecting others, being compassionate members of society, and living their lives with honesty and integrity. He was known for supporting children who had been bullied, but also for showing bullies a better way. He passed away last year; however, the value Grampa Mac placed on building positive relationships will surely be a principle that will flourish in this new school.

Florence Hallock School - The Lake District, 16437 87 Street

Florence Hallock, who taught from 1916 to 1937, was an accomplished and admired pioneer educator. She was a leading authority in domestic sciences, and no history of Home Economics development in Alberta would be complete without special mention of her. Florence served on the first Home Economics Curriculum Revision Committee in 1915 and was appointed as supervisor of Home Economics in 1916. She held the presidency of the Edmonton Home Economics Association, which later honoured her memory with Florence Hallock Memorial - a permanent series of exhibits at the Edmonton Museum of Art.

Dr. Donald Massey School - Pilot Sound, 5435 162 Avenue

Dr. Don Massey, a native Edmontonian, attended King Edward Park, Rutherford, King Edward and Strathcona schools, followed by undergraduate work at the University of Alberta and graduate studies at the University of Kansas. He was a professor in the Elementary Education Department at the University of Alberta, involved in research that included examining text book images and their effect on student thinking.

Elizabeth Finch School - The Palisades, 13815 160 Avenue

Elizabeth Finch or Betty, as she was affectionately known, dedicated her efforts to shaping the bright futures of not only our students, but of our District as well. Betty held a number of positions, all of which served to improve services to students and families impacted by learning disabilities. She began her career as a reading specialist, subsequently moving into supervisory roles. She played an integral role in establishing the Strategies program within Edmonton Public Schools. This highly successful program was designed to serve students who demonstrated specific weakness in literacy development.

AS:mmf