

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 27, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Delegation from Sherbrooke Community League

ORIGINATOR: A. Sherwood, Board Secretary

INFORMATION

Ms Lorraine Williamson, President Sherbrooke Community League, has requested an opportunity for representatives of the Community League to appear before the board regarding the future of Sherbrooke School.

A letter from Anne Sherwood, board secretary, dated May 15, 2003 advising that arrangements have been made for the representatives of the Sherbrooke Community League to be heard by the board on **Tuesday, May 27, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.** is attached (Appendix I).

Ms Williamson has advised that Ms Barb Nason and Mr. Allan Bolstad, Community League Members, will be speaking.

AS:mmf

APPENDIX I - Correspondence from A. Sherwood, Board Secretary  
APPENDIX II - (Green Pages) Correspondence submitted by Sherbrooke Community League

May 15, 2003

Ms Lorraine Williamson, President  
Sherbrooke Community League

Dear Ms Williamson:

Your fax of May 14, 2003 is acknowledged with respect to your request to appear before the board regarding the possible closure of Sherbrooke School. Accordingly, arrangements have been made for your presentation to the board on **Tuesday, May 27, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.**

To assist you in making your presentation, please be advised of the following board procedures: (A copy of the board policy regarding delegations is also attached.)

- **You may be assisted by an advocate or representative to make your presentation. We ask that your presentation not exceed 10 minutes in length. You and/or your spokesperson must be prepared to clarify issues and answer questions for the trustees at the meeting.**
- **Board meetings commence at 6:00 p.m. and are held in McCauley Chambers on the second floor of the Centre for Education at 102 Street and Kingsway. Underground parking is available. Two seats will be reserved for you and your assistant/spokesperson near the centre microphone in McCauley Chambers where you may be seated until called by the chairman.**
- **A decision regarding your request will be dealt with at the next meeting of the board unless otherwise agreed to by a majority vote of the trustees present. *Please note that a decision with respect to the possible closure of the Awasis Program at Sherbrooke School will be made at the Tuesday, May 27, 2003 board meeting. Your presentation will be heard prior to this decision and taken into consideration in the board's deliberation as part of the information gathered through the public consultations.***
- **If you have information you want provided to trustees with respect to your request, please provide one reproducible copy to the Board Office no later than noon on Tuesday, May 20, 2003. This information will be included in a report to board.**
- **A copy of the complete board report being sent to trustees with respect to your presentation will be faxed to you on Friday, May 23, 2003.**

Please note that the agenda for the May 27, 2003 board meeting and related board reports will also be accessible from the district's internet site later the afternoon of May 23, 2003 at: <http://www.epsb.ca/board/agenda.shtml>

Would you please contact my office at 429-8021 to advise the following:

- Whether you will be submitting information to the board.
- Whether you will be assisted by another spokesperson and, if so, who that person would be.

Sincerely,



Anne Sherwood  
Board Secretary

cc: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools  
A. Habinski, Executive Director School and District Services  
D. L'Hirondelle, Principal Sherbrooke School  
J. Bidulock, Director Planning

Attachment – JAB.BP – Formal Delegations and Presentations to the Board  
<http://www.epsb.ca/policy/jab.bp.shtml>



---

May 14, 2003

From: Lorraine Williamson, President  
Sherbrooke Community League

To: Anne Sherwood

Dear Anne:

Sherbrooke Community League requests the opportunity to speak at the Board meeting of May 27, 2003, on the subject of the possible closure of Sherbrooke School.

---

**Sherbrooke Community League**

## Closing of Sherbrooke School

My name is Barb Moore Nason. I have been a resident in Sherbrooke for approximately 9 years and a member of the executive for the past 7 years.

As a member of the executive I have held the position of neighbourhood watch, member of the liaison committee with Sherbrooke school (Awasis program), and continue to be director of the outdoor park. Today I speak to you as a representative of the Sherbrooke community.

The first time Sherbrooke School was closed, approximately 18 years ago, it had a significant impact on the community. However, neighbourhood families made adjustments and those of us with school age children found other schools in which to place them. This was not always ideal, but it was and continues to be manageable. Our community is once again faced with closing the Sherbrooke School. This time however the effect on the community will be less impactful. The vast majority of students that now attend the Awasis program are not from our community. Most students are bussed from a variety of other neighbourhoods. The students and staff at the Awasis program have no connection to our community.

As parents, we in the Sherbrooke community sympathise with the parents of the students in this program, as uprooting children from their school can feel unsettling and unfair. It is our understanding that the Awasis program is not being cut, but it will be relocated to another location. It is our hope that the program will be moved into a facility that is a more manageable size, in better repair and ideally in an area of the city where the children will have more ties to their community. We would never promote the loss of a school if better alternatives were not available, however if in fact the children from the Awasis program have other options let me speak to what we believe our community needs.

When we look at our community, it would be of greater benefit to use the building to build programs and services more in line with Sherbrooke's community demographics. We have a large aging population and many people who live with poverty. Some examples of needed services in Sherbrooke are quality subsidized childcare, a place for senior's

activities, and recreational programs for teens and children. As has happened in other communities, Sherbrooke would be a great location for community-based groups focussing on neighbourhood development to be housed. Ours is a community that prides itself on assisting individuals who need help. Housing programs for families at risk and caring for the elderly would be a wise use of our resources and the Sherbrooke school could be a place to do just that. If schools in Edmonton must be closed, and surely some do given the nature of education funding in Alberta, then let us use the Sherbrooke school to improve the fabric of our community.

Thank you.