

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 12, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: City Centre Education Project

ORIGINATOR D. Barrett, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF Sandra Woitas

INFORMATION

The City Centre Education Project (CCEP) was approved after the completion of the 2001-2002 spring budget planning process, as a result no formal planning document was written to provide a written results review. This report is provided at the request of trustees at the October 23, 2002, superintendent's area results review meeting.

Major gains were made in the first year of the project as the seven schools worked diligently to provide equitable access for city centre students to an enhanced program of instruction.

A CCEP instructional focus was developed prior to September 2002 with a focus on literacy and numeracy. This was important in laying the groundwork for the work ahead. This was narrowed further in having each school develop an instructional focus based upon analysis of their specific data. All seven schools have a focus under the literacy umbrella. To compliment this further, dollars were reallocated to the schools to purchase resources to support numeracy instruction.

All principals received coaching as the CCEP schools moved forward in setting goals, uncovering underlying causes and issues regarding the focus area, selecting assessment strategies and making the instructional focus come alive at the school level.

Throughout the year, principals met on a monthly basis to determine how to share dollars, resources, and services, and bring direction to the three pillars of the CCEP model:

- enhanced programming
- interagency and business collaboration to enrich and extend student's experiences
- a multi campus model

Additional revenue of approximately one quarter million dollars was generated to extend and enhance the programming available to students. In keeping with the collaborative nature of CCEP, the funds were distributed to schools based on need, not by formula.

The creation of enhanced learning environments and enhanced school experiences are crucial for our children. It is these on site and off site experiences that are integral to expanding our students' success. The multitude of collaborative partnerships have been imperative in helping the seven schools focus on teaching and learning. CCEP has successfully partnered with those responsible for community development, recreational opportunities and social work activities to align work on their mandates as we focus on ours: student achievement. Expectations have increased, each site has been supported and challenged to make improvements that will achieve the superb results we desire for students in the city centre.

Appendix I provides a listing, by district priority, of some of the programs, services, and opportunities available to students, families and staff in the City Centre Education Project, along with results achieved to date.

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District Priority – To improve achievement of all students with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy

Actions and Opportunities

- All city centre schools have full day kindergarten, small grade one classes, reading recovery and balanced literacy.
- Programming decisions were made for the top three to five per cent of students in each site.
- Norwood, has a half day, five days per week, pre kindergarten program with a literacy and numeracy focus
- Eastwood began a partnership with early headstart for the provision of pre kindergarten programming in addition to a parents' playtime group
- A preschool, under the umbrella of the Grant McEwan Community College Early Childhood Program, was established at McCauley for the duration of the college term.
- Additional print and technology resources were purchased to support literacy and numeracy instruction.
- French instruction commenced at grade 4. Funds were allocated to all CCEP schools toward the purchase of French resources.
- There is a 0.5 FTE teacher librarian at each site.
- Specialist music, art and CTS teachers are at the junior high level.
- Science scholarships were offered to male and female students in grades 3, 6 and 9.
- Cool School tutorial was offered at five CCEP schools.
- The services of a variety of authors were purchased for all CCEP schools.
- Expanded curriculum related field trips
- Free school supplies for elementary students
- A city centre band/choir leader is based at McCauley School and a CCEP Band has been formed.
- Summer literacy and numeracy programming

Results Achieved to Date

- HLAT scores amongst the seven school cohort indicated a significant increase in writing. Reading scores remained stable
- Provincial Achievement Tests for the 2001–2002 school year provide excellent baseline data for the upcoming years.
- All CCEP schools are in the process of developing “dipsticks” in relation to their instructional focus.

District Priority – To ensure high quality teaching and learning through the exemplary service and leadership of all staff.

Actions and Opportunities

- Participation in instructional focus professional development.
- A CCEP identity and common LOGO was established with input from all stakeholders at the seven sites.
- CCEP principals committed to meeting the last Wednesday of the month, and the following early dismissal Thursday.
- CCEP principals participated in a retreat to facilitate further the mission of CCEP.
- There was a common CCEP Professional Development Day for all seven schools.

- Seven after school early dismissal sessions were attended by CCEP staff in their grade or subject area.
- A committee of CCEP teachers and support staff begun work on the development of a CCEP web site.
- Teachers and non-certificated staff participated in visits to other CCEP campuses.

Results Achieved to Date

- Grade one teachers participated in the small class study with the University of Alberta.
- Teachers participated in the full day kindergarten research, and in the case specific to Norwood, participation in the pre kindergarten research.
- Kindergarten teachers and teacher librarians produced author theme boxes to be shared among the seven campuses.
- CCEP teacher librarians published and circulated four learning resources newsletters for all 1,600 students and their families.
- Administrative assistants who graduated from the leadership inservice series were identified as mentors for other support staff in CCEP.

District Priority – To achieve high standards of citizenship, conduct, safety and well-being of students and staff

Actions and Opportunities

- Increased opportunities for families to engage in school sponsored events. This was made possible through CCEP transportation funding.
- A parenting course was offered at one site and was consistently attended by a small core of parents from three of the schools.
- Centre for Family Literacy provided literacy programs for parents of kindergarten and division one students at four of the sites.
- Four of the CCEP schools have active key communicators.
- Increased counselling support at four of the sites with the addition of family therapists from the Family Centre
- All CCEP schools receive funding for the morning snack program offered by the City Centre Church Core.
- Revenue from participation in Health Canada Diabetes 2 Project enhanced the morning snack program, purchased health resources, team uniforms and gym equipment, increased Capital Health public nurse time in each of the three participating schools (McCauley, Parkdale and Spruce Avenue), and extended after school recreational opportunities through City of Edmonton Community Services and YMCA.
- City of Edmonton Community Services provided noon hour and after school programming at all seven sites.
- Big Sisters and Brothers and Eastglen School offered an in-school mentoring program to children in kindergarten and grade one at Spruce Avenue.
- Children's Services had assigned a child welfare worker to each school for a one year term.

Results Achieved to Date

Partnering with a multitude of non profit groups and institutions coupled with additional revenue from fund development practices has provided enhanced learning environments and extra curricular opportunities for students, while enabling teachers and administrators to remain focused on instruction, i.e.,

- the YMCA made it possible for 200 students to participate in an after school Kids' Lit program
- 100 students participated in the Strings Program.
- piano lessons, through Heart of the City Program, were offered at McCauley and Spruce Avenue.
- 160 students participated in CCEP/YMCA Kid's University in July and August. Literacy and numeracy were highlighted in the morning and recreational programming in the afternoon including aboriginal awareness provided by EPS Aboriginal Services.
- 40 students participated in the U of A Discovery E Science Camp and NAIT Sport and Fine Arts Camps over the summer.
- Edmonton School Lunch Program; City of Edmonton Police Services; Success By Six; United Way; Partners for Kids; Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre; the City Centre Children's Project; Aboriginal Youth and Family Well Being and Education Society; Girl Guides of Edmonton; Scouts Canada; Pro Coro Choral