

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 16, 2010

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Sector Reviews: Update

ORIGINATOR: B. Smith, Executive Director Finance and Infrastructure

RESOURCE

STAFF: Jack Geldart, Ann Parker, Lorne Parker

INFORMATION

On February 23, 2010 the Board of Trustees approved the *Annual Implementation Plan 2010-2011* which gave direction to the Planning department to continue the multi-year sector review initiative. The sector review process implements the Board approved *Results of the Ad Hoc Committee for School Closure and Sustainability Review* findings.

Outcomes

- The sector review process addresses enrolment and programming in a sector in a systematic manner. The goal is to provide viable schools and program availability for all district students. Staff and students will teach and learn in appropriately located, high quality learning environments. Student transportation services will be improved.
- The sector review process provides opportunities for meaningful community engagement through direct participation in the process.
- Information gathered from the sector reviews may result in recommendations such as reconfiguration of schools, redistribution of students, reorganization of programs or closure of some schools.

Methodology

- The Central, South Central and West 1 sectors are currently under review.
- These sectors have the greatest need for change relating to the deployment and use of space. As these sectors are addressed and improved, the focus will shift to other sectors. This is a 'rotating' approach that will carry on into the future.
- Public information sessions and consultations have been conducted by Dialogue Partners, contracted by Edmonton Public Schools. Dialogue Partners has gathered input from parents, community members and other interested parties. The input gathered from the public consultation meetings will be compiled by Dialogue Partners and presented to the Board of Trustees in December 2010.
- Recommendations resulting from the sector review process will be presented to the Board of Trustees in January 2011.

Public Engagement Commitment

- Public engagement is being conducted by Dialogue Partners who operate 'at arm's length' from the Administration. The work plan developed by Dialogue Partners incorporates findings of the *Ad Hoc Committee to Review Sustainability Reviews and School Closures*, and is being conducted in accordance with district approved frameworks and International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) principles. The public engagement model is built on three key points of contact with communities:
 - a. *Inform* the public of the issues surrounding how the District is using educational space and how much space is needed
 - b. *Consultation* on which space the District needs to retain and program configuration
 - c. *Involve* the public in determining what will be done with closed space

Public Engagement Update

- Dialogue Partners has been receiving questions directly from the public about the sector review process. The responses to these questions have been posted in five editions in the sectorreview2010.com website library.
- Planning staff visited schools involved in sector reviews to make a presentation to staff members. Issues facing the District were highlighted and key messages for staff and parents were provided.
- Planning staff continue to conduct ongoing meetings with City of Edmonton administrators to ascertain city interests in sectors under review.
- Strategic discussions with the City of Edmonton and Edmonton Catholic Schools by district administrative staff have taken place and are scheduled to continue. The goal of these discussions is to establish a consultative process to explore implications of school closure, collaborative use of space and strategic planning initiatives.
- Dialogue Partners has maintained a Media link on the sectorreview2010.com website where articles, editorials, and interviews regarding sector reviews are collected.
- Using data gathered in the spring, Community Workshop materials were designed by Dialogue Partners for use in the sector workshops held in September and October. Dates for all sector workshops were available on the sectorreview2010.com website and additional notice was provided to parents, community and staff via backpack letters, e-newsletters and stakeholder email. Themed input from the 605 workbooks and forums completed in the spring with additional facts and data was provided and participants at these workshops reviewed sector maps, demographic, program and enrolment data.
- Workshop participants provided ideas, suggestions and options documented in worksheets collected at each session. Planning staff were available at the following workshops in a resource capacity:
 - ❖ On Sept 21, 2010 a workshop for the Central sector was held at Queen Elizabeth School. It was attended by 31 participants, including people with children in Queen Elizabeth, Riverdale, McArthur, Princeton, Calder, Prince Charles, Belvedere, Kensington and Inglewood schools. Community members, Trustees Colburn and Ripley and a number of trustee candidates were in attendance.

- ❖ On October 4, 2010 a second workshop for the Central sector was held at Victoria School. This workshop was attended by 28 participants, including people with children in Balwin, Belvedere, Calder, Dovercourt, Inglewood, McArthur, Oliver, Ottewell, Princeton, Riverdale, Rosslyn and Westmount schools. Community members, community organizations, EPSB teachers, Trustee Ripley and a number of trustee candidates were also in attendance.
- ❖ On Sept 22, 2010 a workshop was held at McNally School for district staff in the Central, South Central and West 1 sectors, with 53 participants from 19 schools.
- ❖ On Sept 23, 2010 a workshop for the South Central sector was held at McNally School. This workshop was attended by 126 participants, including people with children in Forest Heights, Riverdale, Clara Tyner, King Edward, Lendrum, Allendale, Earl Buxton, Waverley, Avalon, Lansdowne, Malmo, Holyrood, Rutherford, Hazeldean, Strathcona, Mill Creek, Belgravia, Queen Alexandra, McKernan, Donnan, Garneau, Kenilworth, Mount Pleasant and McKee schools. Fifteen participants identified themselves with a community league or organization. Trustee Ripley, a City Councillor and trustee candidates were also in attendance.
- ❖ A second workshop for South Central sector was held on October 5, 2010 at Vimy Ridge Academy. This workshop was attended by 112 participants, including people with children in Academy at King Edward, Avalon, Avonmore, Clara Tyner, Crestwood, Donnan, Forest Heights, Garneau, King Edward, Lansdowne, Lendrum, McKernan, Ottewell, Parkallen, Queen Alexandra, Riverdale, Rutherford, Strathcona, Vimy Ridge, Waverley, and Windsor Park schools. Participants included those that identified themselves with a community league or organization and EPSB teachers. Trustee Rice, a trustee candidate and a Member of the Legislative Assembly were also in attendance.
- ❖ On Sept 25, 2010 a workshop for the West 1 sector was held at Jasper Place School. It was attended by 40 participants, including people with children in Hillcrest, Glendale, Crestwood, Parkview, Coronation, Brightview, Grovenor, Laurier Heights, Westlawn, Westmount, James Gibbons, Oliver and Dovercourt schools. Three participants identified themselves with a community group.
- ❖ A second workshop for the West 1 sector was held on October 9, 2010 at Ross Sheppard School. This workshop was attended by 72 participants, including people with children in Coronation, Crestwood, Dovercourt, Grovenor, Laurier Heights, Parkview, Patricia Heights, Rio Terrace, Westminster, Rosslyn, Inglewood, Oliver and Edmonton Christian schools. Other participants identified themselves as a community member representing a community group or organization. Trustee Huff and a trustee candidate were also in attendance.
- ❖ Dialogue Partners offered further opportunities for workshop input by providing for an extended submission deadline of October 15, 2010. Worksheet submissions were accepted at sector schools, via fax and online via www.surveymonkey.com.

- Participants at every workshop were asked to complete an evaluation form and these results will be posted to the sectorreview2010.com website and will be included in Dialogue Partners report to the Board of Trustees. There were two workshops per sector.
- The “Out of the Box” Think Tank scheduled for October 16, 2010 was cancelled. Dialogue Partners was to have invited the City, Province, community organizations and parents to talk about opportunities for working together and to offer innovative ideas. Dialogue Partners decided to cancel this session based on feedback from many participants. Input included concerns about the timing of the meeting, which was to be two days before the election, and complaints from participants about trustee candidates and an existing Trustee campaigning and/or attempting to influence discussion at workshops. Dialogue Partners will ask the new Board of Trustees for their input on how they would like to proceed.
- Finally, Dialogue Partners presented a survey on www.surveymonkey.com to gather input regarding the workshop experience and reasons for participation or non-participation. The survey was advertised via an e-newsletter and stakeholder email distribution list.

JG:sb