

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 26, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATORS: A. Habinski, Executive Director, School and District Services

RESOURCE

STAFF: Meredith Colgan, Robert Craig, Mike Falk, Dean Power, Dorothy Sombach

INFORMATION

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #187, OCTOBER 8, 2002 (TRUSTEE ODYSKI) WHAT INFORMATION IS BEING PROVIDED TO POTENTIAL HOME BUYERS IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE BUILDING OF NEW SCHOOLS; I.E. SIGNAGE? ALSO, HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE THAT WE HAVE SCHOOLS IN ESTABLISHED NEIGHBOURHOODS THAT POTENTIAL HOME BUYERS MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER?** Every summer, staff from the planning department visit show homes in all developing new neighbourhoods to distribute information about the public schools designated to serve the area. The information sheets include address and telephone numbers of the designated receiving schools, information about programs offered at the schools, and contact numbers for Planning and Student Transportation. Where applicable, information is also provided regarding the presence of a vacant school building envelope and its status with respect to the district's three year capital plan. There are currently 23 vacant school sites in developing neighbourhoods in Edmonton that are fully assembled, serviced, and have road-way access.

The district has placed five signs on vacant school sites around the district in new and established neighbourhoods. The signs provide the addresses and telephone numbers of the designated receiving schools for the area. The signs indicate that approval and funding for new school construction on school/park sites is the responsibility of the Province of Alberta and that construction of a public school on the site is not scheduled to take place in the foreseeable future. The signs cost approximately \$700 each including installation. The signs are currently located on vacant school sites in the communities of Matt Berry, Henderson Estates, Oxford and Cumberland. A sign was placed on the site in Jackson Heights, but it was removed after construction of the new school was approved. There are no plans to install additional signs at this time. (Robert Craig, 429-8399)

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #195, NOVEMBER 12, 2002 (TRUSTEE DEAN): HOW MANY REGISTERED RAP STUDENTS ARE THERE IN THE DISTRICT?** As of November 15, 2002, district SIS database records showed that a total of 79 students were enrolled in RAP courses for a total of 1230 credits. (M. Falk, 429-8437)

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #197, NOVEMBER 12, 2002 (TRUSTEE WOODROW) (FURTHER TO TRUSTEE REQUEST #185) PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCHOOL-PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION TO THE AWASIS PROGRAM AND ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY** The district provides yellow school bus transportation to 240 students to the Awasis Program at Prince Charles and Sherbrooke Schools. This is a unique arrangement that allows the school to administer their own transportation directly with parents and families. We have confirmed that 100% of the students issued yellow bus passes are actually riding the yellow buses (except for the students absent due to illness) and are met and taken into the school ten minutes before school start time. Attendance and punctuality have improved since the introduction of free bus passes to the students attending the Awasis Program. (Dorothy Sombach 429-8326)

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #198, NOVEMBER 12, 2002 (TRUSTEE BONKO) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE COST TO SCHOOLS OF SUPPORTING THE JOINT USE AGREEMENT: E.G. STAFF COSTS, UTILITIES AND SUPPLIES AND HOW MUCH MONEY IS RECOVERED THROUGH RENTALS.** Edmonton Public Schools provides \$550,000 in operational dollars back to schools that participate in providing after-hours access to their schools under the Joint Use Agreement in the form of the Community Use Allocation. The district further supports the agreement through the administration of Rental Services, a central service unit and with the participation of five exempt staff and one teacher certificated staff member on the various working committees under the Joint Use Agreement (JUA). As a partner in the JUA, our district also contributes one-third of the overall costs of JUA projects of approximately \$10,000 annually.

Each school that provides access covers the cost of custodial services, utilities and supplies from their operational budget that has been subsidized through the Community Use Allocation. Most schools are able to operate on a breakeven basis for these incremental costs. Increased demands on a school's infrastructure such as wear and tear on floors, lighting and washrooms create another level of costs that a school must fund. A full review of costs and budgets would be required by each individual school to determine the true cost of supporting after-hours access under the JUA.

The district recovers approximately \$128,000 annually from fees charged for adult JUA bookings. This revenue is added to the district's contribution and returned to schools under the Community Use Allocation. (M. Colgan, 429-8537)

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #200, NOVEMBER 12, 2002, (TRUSTEE ODYNSKI) WHAT WOULD BE THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF OUR SCHOOLS AND DISTRICT IF WE HAD ACTUALLY RECEIVED SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE ARBITRATION AWARD?** If sufficient funds were provided to the district to cover the cost of the arbitration award, the district would have received an additional \$16.2 million. This would have enabled the district to maintain the 2001-02 level of service. (D. Power, 429-8141)

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