

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 27, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: 2001-2002 Modernization Block Fund
ORIGINATOR: G. Reynolds, Department Head
RESOURCE
STAFF: Bob Clark, Robert Craig, Brian Fedor, Faye Parker

RECOMMENDATION

That the following projects for inclusion in the district's 2001-2002 block modernization fund from Alberta Infrastructure be approved:

1. Ottewell School modernization – \$2.77 million
2. Kildare School modernization – \$1.81 million
3. Queen Elizabeth School Career and Technology programming upgrades – \$0.62 million
4. Contingency - \$0.18 million

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In July 2001, Alberta Infrastructure informed the district that the block modernization program that commenced in 2000-2001 would continue for 2001-2002. The district's allocation for 2001-2002 under this program is \$5,382,578. The main intent of the block allocation is to provide school boards with an opportunity to identify local priorities, which did not score high enough on the provincial audits to receive consideration for capital approvals in the near future. This block fund allocation and the previous one are intended by the government as a transition mechanism that allows the district to reconcile its previous capital plans and priorities while moving to capital plans based on the provincial government's facility audits.

Alberta Infrastructure requests that districts inform them of the projects that will be undertaken as part of the block modernization fund. The purpose of this report is to obtain board approval for the above-recommended projects in order that work can commence.

Rationale for Recommended Projects

1. Ottewell School

Ottewell School continues to be a highly utilized facility. Its September 30, 2001 enrolment was 702. Its provincial rated capacity is 750. It is in need of upgrading and was identified as a high district priority in previous capital submissions. It had originally been included in the district's 2000-2001 Block Modernization plan, but at the suggestion

of Alberta Infrastructure, was moved into the capital submission for 2000-2001. This project was subsequently not approved, and it is therefore being included in the 2001-2002 modernization block fund to ensure that the necessary work can be carried out.

2. Kildare School

Kildare School will be receiving a four-classroom addition as approved in the 2001-2002 capital submission. The district had also requested a modernization of Kildare School, which received a provincial audit rating of 750. The modernization was not included in our capital approvals, and as a result, it is recommended that it be undertaken through the block modernization fund. This approach will provide the district with economies of scale in carrying out both projects simultaneously. More importantly, it will minimize the length of time that students and staff will be disrupted by the construction.

Kildare is a highly utilized school. It is a district site for the Chinese (Mandarin) bilingual program as well as offering a regular program. Its September 30, 2001 enrolment was 556. Its provincial rated capacity is 540, and the school currently relies on 5 free-standing portables.

3. Queen Elizabeth School

It is proposed to upgrade the home economics and industrial arts facilities at Queen Elizabeth School in order to improve the school's ability to offer an up to date selection of Career and Technology Studies courses. An architectural consultant has conducted a detailed review of these facilities and identified the upgrading needs.

Queen Elizabeth School is currently underutilized, with a September 30 population of 862 students and a provincial rated capacity of 1840. Other senior high schools on the north side such as Ross Sheppard, M. E. LaZerte and Eastglen are all highly utilized, and it would be beneficial to the school and the district if Queen Elizabeth were able to attract a higher number of students.

The provincial facility audits rated Queen Elizabeth School at 410, which means that it would not qualify for consideration in the district's capital plan in the foreseeable future. This rating also suggests that the school is in relatively good condition, and that this investment would be well placed.

BF:RC:fp