

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 30, 1999

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Alex Taylor: A Special Inner City School

ORIGINATOR: P. Semeniuk, Principal, Alex Taylor School

RESOURCE

STAFF: Sharon Foord, Camie Huber-Anderson, Sylvana Manna, Carolyn Proctor, Karen Whelan, Sandra Yee

INFORMATION

Alex Taylor School is a kindergarten to grade 6 school located in the heart of the city of Edmonton. We are located on the edge of the Asian retail and residential district and approximately 60% of our student population are of Asian background. The resources of most of our families, both financial and personal, are stretched to the limit due to the lack of employment or underemployment. Alex Taylor School is first on the list of high need schools for the 1999-2000 school year.

Sixty-six year 1 to 6 students are organized in three combined grade level classrooms, and 20 students are in a full-day kindergarten program. Our kindergarten program has been extended to a full day to address the learning needs of our students who demonstrate a two-year developmental delay in language and background learning experiences.

Other key strands of our plan to improve student achievement are: a two year cycle with the same teacher; high standards for student achievement and conduct that are known and supported by students and their families; lower class sizes for maximum interaction between students, teachers and the learning environment; field trips and related experiences to strengthen student knowledge base; focus on literacy with daily practice in reading, writing and mathematics in the classroom, with volunteers, and at home; school supplies at no cost to students; daily planners for year 3-6 students; demonstrations of student achievement through report cards as well as a variety of other means, such as morning announcements, assemblies and family nights.

Parents, students and staff believe that we need to effectively serve the diverse learning needs of our student population by providing an environment rich in resources and learning experiences. We believe that we will provide all students with many opportunities to build their skills and to develop as resilient learners. Our goal is to have each of our students gain at least one year in learning each year, to experience success in junior high and to graduate from high school.

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