

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 30, 1999

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Board Response to Recommendations from the Government Review of School Councils

ORIGINATOR: S. Stiles, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Elaine Decker, Victor Tanti

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached response to the school council recommendations documentation, compiled by the Key Communicators Advisory Committee, on behalf of district stakeholders, be endorsed as the district's position (Appendix I and II) for submission to the Minister of Learning.

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The government announced a review of School Councils in the fall of 1998. Stakeholders were given an opportunity to respond to a workbook as well as through involvement in public forums held throughout the province. The Key Communicators Advisory Committee, surveyed district school councils to determine district opinions. From the feedback received, two position briefs were prepared, one on behalf of the Board of Trustees for Edmonton Public Schools and one from the Key Communicators Advisory Committee. These were presented to the Public Forum held in Edmonton on May 15, 1999.

Subsequent to the receipt of submissions and completion of public hearings, *School Councils – Next Steps, Minister's Forums on School Councils Final Report* was released by the government in August 1999. This document, completed by the M.L.A. Working Group marked the completion of the government's review of School Councils. The final report included ten recommendations. Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning has given opportunity for public response to these the recommendations by December 1, 1999. There were a number of recommendations in this final report that have the potential to impact local councils and jurisdictions.

In preparation for a response from the district, a stakeholder survey was developed and sent to principals and school councils. (Appendix I) Over 200 responses were received from school councils, principals, staff, community and parents. (Appendix II). In addition, trustees were surveyed for their response. Overall, there was alignment between all responses. The exceptions were recommendation 6.1 which states, *that school boards and school councils share the responsibility for finding an appropriate community representative.*

Overall the survey to stakeholder groups indicated the majority supported this recommendation. The Board of Trustees for Edmonton Public Schools does not support this recommendation. In addition, recommendation 7.2 which states, *that a portion of the principals' performance assessments be based on their activities and participation in school councils.* Once again the overall stakeholder groups indicated support, while the Board of Trustees for Edmonton Public Schools does not support this recommendation.

In summary, there is alignment between the Board of Trustees and all district stakeholders on the majority of the recommendations. Everyone supports recommendations 1, 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3, 4, 5, 7, 7.1, 8 and 10. All stakeholder groups and the Board of Trustees for Edmonton Public Schools do not support recommendations 6, 8.1, and 9. Recommendations 6.1 and 7.2 are supported by the majority of district stakeholders, but not the Board of Trustees.

SS:ed

APPENDIX I - Survey vehicle for stakeholder groups

APPENDIX II - Stakeholder response to recommendations from School Council Review