

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: October 10, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dosdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Bonnie Doon Mall Outreach Program

ORIGINATOR: P. Hall, Principal, Kenilworth School

RESOURCE

STAFF: Roxanne Eyben

INFORMATION

The Bonnie Doon Mall Outreach Program was originally located in the Kameyosek area. That site no longer being available brought about the move to the Bonnie Doon Shopping Mall, where, under the leadership of the principal at Kenilworth School, it is now beginning its fourth year of operation. Students are referred to the program from various schools and social agencies, primarily from southeast Edmonton.

The southside junior high principals identified the need for junior high outreach programming readily accessible to their students. These principals expressed concern about individual students who brought issues to their schools. Generally issues and concerns described included; a poor sense of self-esteem, lack of confidence in academic ability, poor academic performance, difficulty relating to peers, difficulty relating to adults (teachers and parents), inconsistent or diminishing school attendance, and difficulty in managing their behavior. Some of the students recommended for outreach have been out of school programming for short or long periods of time. Many of the students required significant advocacy with health care, child welfare, counseling or other community based resources.

Alberta Learning requires junior high outreach programming in the areas of mathematics and language arts and allows for flexible attendance. The Bonnie Doon Mall Outreach Program exceeds these requirements. The Bonnie Doon Mall Outreach Program has a goal of returning students to the regular junior high or senior high program in one school year or less. Full day attendance is required of students and instruction is provided in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, and health. In addition, a variety of option courses are offered each year in response to student needs and interests. The program is highly structured requiring prompt daily attendance and high expectations for work ethic and behavior. The program coordinator follows up on issues presented by students, using resources such as consulting services (social worker,

psychologist, reading specialist), probation services, child welfare workers, counseling agencies, and attendance board.

Students attending the Bonnie Doon Mall Outreach Program have greatly benefited from their attendance in the program. Their attendance average has risen from partial and non-attendance to 90 per cent. Academic achievement has shown a significant increase. Student work ethic and attitude towards school, teachers, peers and even home has become much more positive. Those students who previously exhibited behavior and anger management distresses have been able to overcome those barriers and accept responsibility for their actions. Overall, 75% of the students who have attended the Bonnie Doon Mall Outreach Program have been successfully re-integrated into the traditional school setting. The program typically provides programming for 60 students each school year.

As with all Edmonton Public Schools, regular student progress is reported and all students have Individual Program Plans. Parents have been especially pleased with the continuous flow of information from the school regarding their children, and school staff is pleased with the regular unsolicited communication from parents regarding the progress of their children.

Southside junior high principals review this program at their monthly support meetings and continue to express a high level of support for the benefits provided to students.

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