

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

October 14, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATOR: R. MacNeil, Assistant Superintendent  
T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Roland Labbe, Darwin Martin

INFORMATION

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #130 SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 (TRUSTEE HUFF) WHAT WILL THE IMPACT BE ON THE SCHOOLS IN CENTRAL EDMONTON IF DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT GOES AHEAD?:** The City of Edmonton is in the process of reviewing and assessing the pros and cons of closing and redeveloping the Edmonton City Centre Airport (ECCA). Reports back to City Council are scheduled for October 8, 2008 and February 2009. There is no definitive date for a final decision on the redevelopment.

The ECCA is 217 hectares in total gross area. If this area were to be developed, the development would be expected to generate 434 elementary, 217 junior-high and 217 senior high school students. This generation factor balances slower and more rapid development periods within the extended build-out period for an area. In a report made public in July of this year on the development potential of the ECCA lands, three development scenarios were generated. All three scenarios propose high intensity development with medium to high density land uses. The scenarios forecast anticipated populations of 32,000, 34,000 or 37,000 residents. The District has not experienced significant student generation from neighbourhoods experiencing medium to high density housing development. Examples of neighbourhoods that have recently experienced medium to higher density housing intensification are presented in the chart below.

Neighbourhood	% Increase in Units	% Increase in Population	Change in % of Pre-School Residents	Change in % of Elementary -Aged Residents	Change in % of Junior High Aged Residents	Change in % of Senior High Aged Residents
Downtown	+42	+41	-4	-33	+21	+39
Riverdale	+37	+26	-23	-26	-5	+16
Garneau	+33	+34	-9	-26	+9	+52
Oliver	+14	+14	-76	-61	-72	+21

Based on 1996 Federal to 2005 Civic Census statistics

Edmonton City Centre Airport is located within Edmonton Public Schools' Central Sector. There are 27 schools in the Central Sector surrounding the ECCA. This includes three junior high schools, four elementary-junior high schools and 20 elementary schools. There are 13,947 provincially-rated elementary-junior high student spaces in the Central Sector. A map of the 1.6 km radius of each of the six closest schools to the ECCA is illustrated in Appendix I.

In 2007-2008, there were 6,316 resident elementary-junior high students living in the Central Sector. A total of 8,653 students attended elementary-junior high schools in the Sector, 4,873 who resided within the Sector and 3,780 who resided outside of the Sector. A total of 5,294 student spaces in the Central Sector were unused, and residency has declined eight per cent since 1984. While a single new elementary-junior high school could house students generated from development of the ECCA, the entire development could be served by expanding the school boundaries of surrounding elementary and junior high schools, which all have excess capacity.

At the high school level, Victoria School for the Performing and Visual Arts is the local school for the ECCA area. Eastglen School, Queen Elizabeth School and Ross Sheppard School are high schools surrounding the ECCA. There is sufficient capacity within these four high schools to accommodate resident high school students generated by ECCA development. Final school accommodation plans would be developed within the context of a formal City land development planning process, if initiated.

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #131 SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 (TRUSTEE COLBURN): FURTHER TO TT#118 - PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS THAT HAVE USED SCHOOLZONE OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. ALSO, PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING HOW SCHOOLZONE WORKS AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE BENEFIT OF NEW TRUSTEES.**

The following shows the number of schools joining SchoolZone since 2004.

<b>School Year</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>
<sup>1</sup> 2003-04	11
2004-05	20
2005-06	20
2006-07	22
2007-08	17
<sup>2</sup> 2008-	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>

<sup>1</sup> Pilot Project

<sup>2</sup> There will be another intake of schools in January 2009

**Parent access to information using SchoolZone:**

When a parent logs onto SchoolZone using their confidential logon credentials they are presented with a News panel. It contains **Class News** (entered by the classroom teacher) for the classes their child attends. **School News** is also available; it often contains school

newsletters, daily morning announcements, upcoming events and letters from the Principal. If the parent has more than one child, they can toggle between their children's information from a drop down box, without having to logon for each child. The parent can also select the **Homework** tab. The child's teacher may have entered daily homework, course outlines, calendar or unit themes, field trip permission forms, priorities for the week along with uploaded assignments like spelling words or reading lists. Some teachers include marking rubrics and photos of sample projects to help communicate expectations and desired results. Parents can also select the **Student Profile** tab which contains a variety of student specific information, such as Provincial Achievement Test data. **Attendance** calendars showing excused or unexcused absence can be viewed, resulting in fewer schools using phone out methods to notify parents of absences. **Student timetables** showing classes and teacher names as well as day rotation are available. Many teachers put marks into SIS for tests or assignments and create **interim marks reports** that they upload into SchoolZone, allowing parents and students to view current progress. As well, parents can see a **course history** of all completed courses and final marks. At the high school level parents and students can view a list of courses needed for graduation, and the current progress their child is making toward these **graduation requirements**.

Prior to using SchoolZone, schools would have used a variety of methods to share this type of information with parents. Newsletters would be printed and hand distributed or mailed out, which was both time consuming and costly. Attendance may have been reported via automated telephone systems, or phone outs by office staff or volunteers (often messages were erased before the parent heard it). Interim marks reports were printed and distributed in class (or mailed out), not always reaching the hands of parents. These traditional distribution and communication methods are still used in some instances by schools, especially for parents without computer access or SchoolZone accounts. SchoolZone provides parents with 24/7 access, from home or work, using any computer connected to the internet. This ease of access and reliability of information is very popular with parents and supports them to be more engaged in their child's education. More information can be found on the District Technology Website, at <http://dt.epsb.ca/content/section/4/93/>

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APPENDIX I - Schools Around Edmonton City Centre Airport

**SCHOOLS AROUND EDMONTON CITY CENTRE AIRPORT  
1.6 km Radius Around Each of the Six Nearest Schools**

