

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

October 8, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATORS: B. Holt, Executive Director Instruction and Curricular Support Services
A. Habinski, Executive Director School and District Services

RESOURCE
STAFF: Gloria Chalmers, Mike Falk, Donna Leask

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #165, SEPTEMBER 10, 2002 (TRUSTEE NICHOLSON): PREPARE A LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO EDMONTON POLICE SERVICES FOR SPONSORSHIP OF THE ABORIGINAL ART PROJECT 2002 FOR THE CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE. Attached for trustee information is a copy of the letter of appreciation sent by Mr. Don Fleming, Chairman, Edmonton Public Schools to Chief Bob Wasylshen. (D. Leask, 429-8303)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #166, SEPTEMBER 10, 2002 (TRUSTEE ODYNSKI): PROVIDE A LISTING OF THE NAMES OF THE ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF EACH. Attached is information pertaining to the district's Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee. This committee provides a vehicle for the district to receive ongoing input from the Aboriginal community regarding Aboriginal education issues in district schools. Additional members are currently being sought, in particular parent members and high school student members. (D. Leask, 429-8303)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #172, SEPTEMBER 24, 2002 (TRUSTEE MARTIN): PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING WHETHER ANY SCHOOLS HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN A MODIFIED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR SUCH AS EASTWOOD AND PARKDALE GIVEN THE GREAT SUPPORT FOR THIS AT THOSE SCHOOLS. IF NOT, WHY NOT? Requests for information on use of a modified, year-round calendar have been received from two schools in addition to Eastwood and Parkdale schools, one of which led Donnan School to implement a modified 11-month school calendar.

Without surveying the school principals and communities who have not expressed interest in this option, the question of why there has been little expressed interest is difficult to answer. However, the following may be considered:

- The modified calendar programs have not been in operation long enough to allow meaningful longitudinal studies to determine how such calendars affect student

achievement in Edmonton schools. School administrators may express an interest once these studies have been done.

- Parents may have a desire to retain the traditional calendar if they have children in more than one school. This facilitates scheduling of family vacations and activities.
- Many schools, especially in California, that introduced year-round schooling did so in order to deal with lack of space. When a facility operates year-round, it raises questions regarding time for maintenance and renovations as well as additional storage space for teachers on vacation. (M. Falk, 429-8437)

AH:BH:cg

Appendix I: Letter to Chief Bob Wasylyshen

Appendix II: Biographies for Members of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee