

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 12, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Community Survey Results 1999-2000

ORIGINATOR: G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Diane Brunton, Linda Wiens

### INFORMATION

The Community Survey is designed to monitor the perceptions of the community regarding education and the district. Results from the survey are used with other district information to assess the overall effectiveness of Edmonton Public Schools' decisions and initiatives.

A review of the Community Survey was undertaken in October and November of 1999 with input from Communications and an external research firm, Hargreaves & Associates Ltd. As a result, a number of questions were changed from the 1999 Community Survey. The questions were either asked in a different rating category or as multiple questions. Therefore, no direct comparative information is available. The 1999 results for these questions have been included in Appendix III to provide some reference information from previous years.

Analysis of the data from the 2000 survey indicates an overall increase in positive responses. Respondents without children in Edmonton Public Schools showed the largest increases. Although this group is traditionally less positive than respondents who have children in our district schools, the margin is decreasing.

Results from the survey are considered accurate within three percentage points nineteen times out of twenty.

#### **Survey Highlights:**

- There was a significant increase in positive responses relating to:
  - way EPS spends its public money
  - encouraging students to stay in school until they graduate
  - responding to public's concerns regarding education
  - effectiveness of the superintendent
  - effectiveness of the trustees

- There was a significant decrease in support for having a choice of different types of schools. However it should be noted that the examples given in the question were different than in previous years and could have influenced the response.
- Over the last several years there has been a downward trend in positive responses to a number of survey questions. These include:
  - working with other agencies to help students
  - having parents pay for anything beyond basic education
  - importance of schools developing French language skills
- Support continues to be low for:
  - placement of special needs students in classroom with regular students
  - schools receiving funding from fund raising
  - schools receiving funding from exclusive supply agreements
  - schools developing heritage language skills
- A majority of respondents indicated they receive most of their information about educational issues from the media (respondents with students in EPS said the school newsletter).
- Respondents commented that the main issues facing education were:
  - lack of funding
  - class size
  - lack of discipline / morals
  - need for life skills programming
  - violence / safety
  - need for better qualified teachers
  - need to meet the needs of all students

Detailed multiyear survey results are provided in graph form in Appendix I. More in-depth analyses are provided in Appendices II to IV.

LW:

- APPENDIX I - 2000 Community Survey Multiyear Graphs
- APPENDIX II - 2000 Multiyear Table of Increases and Decreases
- APPENDIX III - Survey Results from 1999 which have No Comparative Results for the 2000 Survey
- APPENDIX IV - Edmonton Public Schools' Community Questionnaire: 2000