

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 11, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Acting Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Community Survey Results 2000-2001

ORIGINATOR: G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE
STAFF: Diane Brunton, Linda Wiens

INFORMATION

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

Analysis of the data from the 2001 survey indicates a slight overall increase in positive responses from the previous year as well as a positive trend over the past three years. This is especially true for respondents who do not have children attending Edmonton Public Schools. This group is traditionally less positive than respondents with children attending district schools. However, the margin of difference between these two groups is progressively narrowing.

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

Survey Highlights:

- There is a significant increase in positive responses relating to respondents' support for schools receiving their funding from sponsorships, i.e., companies provide money, price discounts, equipment, materials or services in exchange for recognition at events or in school notices about events.

Over the past several years there has been a positive trend in response to a number of survey questions. These include:

- satisfaction with the overall quality of education
 - satisfaction with the condition of Edmonton Public School buildings
 - satisfaction with the overall effectiveness of Trustees
 - satisfaction with the overall effectiveness of the Superintendent
 - preparing students for the world of work
 - preparing students to be responsible citizens
- There has been a downward trend in positive responses relating to:
 - support for parents paying for anything beyond basic education
 - the importance of developing French language skills
 - Support continues to be low for schools receiving funding from fund raising and schools receiving funding from exclusive supply agreements. However there has been an increase in support for these two indicators when compared to last year.
 - Respondents commented that the main issues facing education were:
 - class size
 - lack of funding
 - lack of discipline/morals
 - curriculum issues
 - meeting the needs of all students
 - need for qualified teachers
 - violence / safety

Detailed multiyear survey results are provided in graph form in Appendix I and II.

LW:

- APPENDIX I - 2001 Community Survey Multiyear Graphs
- APPENDIX II - 2001 Multiyear Table of Increases and Decreases
- APPENDIX III - Edmonton Public Schools' Community Questionnaire: 2001