

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 14, 2010

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Board of Governors, Edmonton Public Schools Foundation

SUBJECT: Foundation Report – Full-Day Kindergarten

ORIGINATOR: D. Fraser, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Sandra Bassett, Tanni Parker, Alva Shewchuk, Sandra Woitas

### RECOMMENDATION

That the \$125,000 in donations realized during 2009-2010 school year through the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation be used to fund one full-day kindergarten program during the 2010-2011 school year.

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During the 2009-2010 school year the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation's Board of Governors raised over \$175,000 to support early learning intervention and student success. Of that amount, \$125,000 was realized immediately. The remaining \$50,000 was donated through the Foundation's one to five year donation term options and will be realized accordingly.

Administration has provided background information (Appendix I) identifying the history of full-day kindergarten programming in the District. The appendix also provides the criteria that administration currently uses to identify the location of high needs student populations. After applying this criteria, one school has been identified for additional programming for the 2010-2011 school year.

The Board of Governors will continue to focus its efforts on raising friends and funds to create a sustainable funding base to support additional early learning opportunities and full-day kindergarten programs.

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APPENDIX I Full-Day Kindergarten Background and School Selection Criteria



## **Full-Day Kindergarten Background and School Selection Criteria**

### **Background**

Full-day kindergarten programming began in 1998-1999 as an early intervention initiative to assist schools that had high populations of students residing in their attendance area that were identified as socially or economically disadvantaged. The initiative began at Norwood School and by 2005 had expanded to 18 schools with the assistance of Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) funding. In 2007-2008, when AISI resources were no longer available, the Board of Trustees approved sustained funding for full-day kindergarten for the 18 formerly involved schools and for an additional seven schools.

There were 25 schools providing full-day day kindergarten in 2009-2010. For 2010-2011, the number of schools offering full-day kindergarten programming is 22.

Since its inception, schools involved in this initiative were selected according to their ranking on the District's high needs list which was based on Statistics Canada data and district transiency rates

### **Criteria for Selecting Schools**

The District no longer generates a high needs list as it has in the past. In its place a High Needs Index has been developed that takes into account the following four factors:

1. Social vulnerability – based on factors coming out of the 2006 census
2. Diversity of population – this number reflects English Language Learners, First Nations, Inuit, Métis students, as well as special needs students at the school
3. Student achievement in mathematics and language arts (Grade Level of Achievement [GLA] and Highest Level of Achievement Test [HLAT] measures), and
4. Mobility of student population

These factors reflect the needs of the student population currently attending the school and are predictive of the population that will be enrolling in the school in the following year.

Additionally, four other factors are considered.

- Sufficient number of attendance area students
- Facility condition
- Available student space
- Support of the principal, staff and parents

### **Identified School**

Following application of the criteria, the administration has determined that Tipaskan School would benefit from full-day kindergarten programming.

### **Further Considerations**

What is not known at this time is whether it is the intent of the District Foundation to continue to fund this full-day kindergarten program after the 2010-2011 school year or if that would become a District level cost.