

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 27, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Responses to Questions Raised at the September 13, 2005 Board Meeting
ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director
RESOURCE
STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Michael Edigar

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the request that the board provide compensation for the lunch fees and transportation costs for Junior High students who had attended Strathearn School be denied.
2. That the request for information regarding the plans for Strathearn School be provided.

* * * * *

Lunch Fees and Transportation Costs

On June 28, the Board of Trustees approved a recommendation to close Strathearn School. Contained within that report were the following statements regarding what transportation would be provided and what the nature of the lunch service would be for students in the Strathearn School attendance area and formerly registered at Strathearn School:

“If Strathearn School were to be closed, elementary students residing in the Strathearn School attendance area would be eligible for subsidized yellow bus transportation to their designated elementary receiving schools. For students residing in the Strathearn School attendance area and attending their designated school, lunch fees for supervision would be waived by the district through to their completion of grade 6 at their designated school. Junior high students would be eligible to purchase subsidized ETS bus passes regardless of what junior high school they choose to attend. The transportation fees would be highly subsidized by the district at the rate set for students who attend their designated receiving school.”

As well, at the June 28, 2005 Board Meeting:

Trustee Fleming asked about the feasibility of providing free transportation for those elementary students currently attending Strathearn School who live in the Strathearn attendance boundary to one of the two designated schools for the duration of their elementary school career.

Mr. McBeath indicated that, if this was the board's desire, he would undertake to authorize arrangements under the summer delegation of authority.

The Chairman polled the trustees and indicated that there was general consent.

As a result of this, students residing in the Strathearn attendance area and attending Kenilworth School or Ottewell School for the Opportunity Program receive subsidized ETS bus passes. Since students reside in an adjoining neighbourhood for junior high, they do not receive free lunch supervision. (J. Bidulock 429-8426)

Status of Strathearn School

Several enquiries have been received regarding each of the schools that were recently closed by the Board of Trustees. The administration is currently reviewing potential district program needs for the facilities. If the buildings are surplus to district need, the administration will review the potential for external leases or partnerships for the facilities and provide information in this regard to representatives from the community. (M. Ediger 429-8430)

CMcC:cg