

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 27, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Update on Receiving Schools

ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director

### RESOURCE

STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Randy Billey, Mike Brown, Don Darling, Les Duxbury, Pamela Hall, Sandra Irving, Dave Jones, Jane Klaray, Kerry-Ann Kope, Rod Kostek, Dean Michailides, Pat Niven, Cathy Pasternak, Dorothy Sombach, Amy- Irene Seward, Morrie Smith

### INFORMATION

The purpose of this report is to provide updated information on the progress receiving schools have made in providing a smooth transition for students coming to those schools from the closed schools of North Edmonton School, Strathearn School, Terrace Heights School and Wellington School. This report includes information regarding enrolment, class sizes, lunch fees, transportation and renovations completed at receiving schools.

In June of 2005, there were 509 students registered at the four schools recommended for closure. As of September 16, 2005, 485 of these students had registered in other Edmonton Public Schools. Furthermore, 344 of these students registered at one of the designated receiving schools. To date 24 students have not enrolled in an Edmonton Public School for the 2005/2006 school year.

Overall the start up of a new school year and the transition of students moving from the closed schools to the receiving schools has been mostly a smooth and positive experience. Schools welcomed the new students and their families with celebrations from ceremonies at school assemblies to social gatherings in the evenings. Principals and staff have worked to make the students and families feel welcome at their new school. Principals have reported positive feedback from the parents of new students and that they are looking forward to building strong partnerships with staff to support student learning.

### **Balwin School**

At the time of closure 190 students had registered at North Edmonton School. As of September 16, 2005 Balwin School has 178 elementary students attending the school. There are 265 junior high students attending Balwin School for a total of 442 students attending Balwin Elementary Junior High School. Of the 190 students who pre-registered at North Edmonton School, 137 chose to attend Balwin School. A total of 41 students chose to attend another Edmonton Public School, many in different areas of the city, which is an indicator that some of the families may have moved out of the North Edmonton catchment area. There are 12 students identified as no longer attending an Edmonton Public Schools

The principal of Balwin School notes that there has been a positive connection made between the elementary and junior high students and staff. This has created a very positive atmosphere in the school and he sees great potential for the staff to work positively together throughout the year. Bringing the staff and students over together from North Edmonton School has created continuity and comfort for students. The renovations that have been completed have created upgraded learning spaces for students in both the elementary and junior high programs. Staff have commented on how clean and bright their new classrooms are at Balwin School.

Although there were a larger than normal number of last minute registrations, the students were welcomed whole heartedly into the new Kindergarten to Grade 9 Balwin School community. Currently elementary class sizes in the regular program range from 12 to 20 with one class of 26 students. The principal is working with staff to review the needs of students to determine if another special needs class could be added, reducing the numbers in some of the elementary classes.

There are currently 163 students that stay for lunch in the regular and Opportunity elementary programs. Balwin School is not charging lunch fees for students in the regular or the special needs Opportunity program. Balwin School does not charge fees for lunch supervision at the junior high level.

In order to assist students from North Edmonton walking to Balwin School, a “walking school bus” was put into place. The walking school bus was operational for the third day of school on September 6 and will continue until the end of September. There were a few students who participated in the walking school bus. As of September 16, 2005 only one student continued to participate in the program. Additional support was provided from Student Transportation in order to provide assistance in the organization and management of the walking school bus. As of September 30, 2005 the walking school bus at Balwin School will be phased out as there is not a demand for the service.

Major facility upgrades were made to Balwin School to accommodate the new elementary program. Classroom and washroom facilities were modified to accommodate the elementary children and a new kindergarten classroom was created. Renovations to existing space to provide more classroom space for both elementary and junior high classes were completed. Modifications were completed to construct two classrooms in unused CTS space. Two large classrooms were reconfigured into three new classrooms. Two new computer labs were also created. The Planning Department is meeting with the Balwin Playground Coordinator, the Balwin Parent Advisory Committee and the City of Edmonton's Community Recreation Coordinator in early October to facilitate the creation of a new playground at Balwin School.

### **Rosslyn School**

Rosslyn School has exceeded its projected enrolment of 450 and now has 584 students enrolled. As of September 16, 2005, there were 60 students from Wellington School registered at Rosslyn School. Rosslyn has seven and eight classes at each grade level with class sizes ranging from 24 to 30 students.

The principal of Rosslyn School reports a successful start up to the new school year. Rosslyn School staff welcomed all new students with a Kick-Off Barbecue that was very well

attended. Scheduling went well as 99 per cent of students were registered in their first or second choice of complementary courses.

Rosslyn School provides a supervised lunch program, however, no lunch fees are charged to any students. The renovations completed at Rosslyn School consisted of installing new flooring in the music room. Other classrooms in the school also received new flooring as planned earlier in the year. The principal will continue to work with the Facilities department to continue other projects such as a new CTS lab.

### **Dickinsfield School**

A total of nine students from Wellington enrolled in the Behaviour and Learning Assistance program at Dickinsfield. There are a total of 12 students in the Behaviour and Learning Assistance Class.

The Dickinsfield School principal reports that the start up of the Behaviour and Learning Assistance program at Dickinsfield went very well. Although the intent was to transfer the teacher with the students, this did not occur as the teacher accepted another position.

Modifications were made to an existing room to accommodate the needs of the Behaviour and Learning Assistance program. All renovations were completed for school start-up.

### **Queen Elizabeth School**

A total of 14 students are attending the Individual Support program at Queen Elizabeth School who attended Wellington School previously. There are currently 14 students in the Individual Support program with space for up to two additional students should the need arise.

The principal of Queen Elizabeth School is planning to integrate the students in the Individual Support program as much as possible. The addition of the Individual Support program has been embraced by both students and staff as a positive influence on the learning community.

Modifications to a classroom and washrooms were made in order to accommodate the needs of the Individual Support program.

### **Kenilworth School**

As of September 16, 2005, there were 23 students from Strathearn School Junior High program who chose to attend Kenilworth Junior High School. A total of 24 students chose to attend other Edmonton Public Schools. The average class size for the regular program from grades seven to nine is approximately 28 students. The addition of the students from Strathearn School did not have a significant impact on class sizes except for some option classes.

The principal of Kenilworth School reports that the start up of the new year went very well. The staff and students of Kenilworth School hosted a formal welcoming of Strathearn School students to the Kenilworth family at a special assembly. The principal anticipates growing a strong and positive relationship with the new students and parents as the year progresses. The greatest challenge for the school was in terms of organizing for options. The principal is

positive about the experiences the students will have in the grade based options. Students and staff will benefit from the gained access to new resources.

Kenilworth School charges \$40.00 per year for a supervised lunch program. Students living in the former Strathearn School attendance area and formerly registered at Strathearn School do not pay the lunch fee. There is a direct ETS route from Strathearn School to Kenilworth School. Junior high students are provided with subsidized ETS passes. No renovations were required to accommodate the addition of new students.

### **Rutherford School**

As of September 16, 2005, 18 students are attending the regular program and three students are attending the Behaviour and Learning Assistance program at Rutherford School from Strathearn School. The smallest class size currently at Rutherford School is 14 students and the largest class size is 28 students. As a result of the addition of students from Strathearn School, the principal was able to organize with single grade classrooms except for one combined class of grades 5/6.

The principal of Rutherford School reports that the start up of the school year went extremely well. The addition of the Behaviour and Learning Assistance program has brought two new highly skilled staff members to Rutherford School. This provided a sense of continuity and comfort for the students in transition. Staff and parents are satisfied with the organization of single grade classrooms enabled by the addition of new students. The school has also been able to acquire new resources to support their programming.

At Rutherford School, 19 students living in the former Strathearn School attendance area and formerly registered at Strathearn School do not pay the lunch fee. There are currently five students requiring transportation to Rutherford School from the Strathearn area. Transportation service continues for students currently attending the elementary Behaviour and Learning Assistance program at Rutherford School. The principal continues to work with Student Transportation to streamline service for students.

Renovations included upgrades to two classrooms and modifications were made to convert another classroom to accommodate the Behaviour and Learning Assistance program.

### **Holyrood School**

As of September 16, 2005 there were a total of 35 students attending Holyrood School from Strathearn School. A total of 15 students from the Strathearn Elementary program chose to attend other Edmonton Public Schools. Currently there are two students in the elementary program who have chosen not to attend an Edmonton Public School. At Holyrood School there is currently an average class size of 18 students in classes from Kindergarten to grade three and an average class size of 21 in grades four to six. The addition of students from Strathearn School permitted the principal to create an additional 2½ classrooms in the regular program at Holyrood School.

The principal of Holyrood School reports a positive start up to the new school year. He credits this in part to a new group of students joining the school becoming actively involved in extra-curricular activities, classroom participants and volunteering to provide service to the school. He believes that most of the parents are pleased to be at Holyrood School and are positive about the change.

Currently approximately 33 students at Holyrood School living in the former Strathearn School attendance area and formerly registered at Strathearn School do not pay the lunch fee. There are 14 students going to Holyrood School who are receiving free busing due to the closure of Strathearn School. Renovations were required to accommodate the addition of new students. The staff room was relocated. The space has been converted to a new classroom. The flexibility and patience of the Holyrood School staff is recognized as making the first days at Holyrood School successful for all students. The principal continues to work with Facilities Services to ensure all work on the upgraded spaces is completed by the end of September.

### **Ottewell School**

As of September 16, 2005, there were 10 students who enrolled in the Opportunity program at Ottewell Junior High School. Additionally 10 students from Strathearn School chose to register at Ottewell Junior High School in the regular program.

The principal of Ottewell School reports that overall students have experienced a successful transition. The principal also reports that the school put supports in place to meet the needs of students in classes by hiring additional teaching assistants, coordinating a variety of tutoring programs and utilizing staff to meet the needs of all students. The transfer of the opportunity classroom to the school with staff has made for a smooth and positive transition.

### **Forest Heights**

A total of 32 students from Terrace Heights School registered at Forest Heights School for the 2005/2006 school year. Six of those students are attending the Strategies program. Due to the addition of the students from Terrace Heights School, the principal was able to organize all single grade classes instead of combined classes. Class sizes in the regular program range from 14 to 22 students. The total enrolment at Forest Heights School is 280 students. This is up from the projected enrolment of 232.

The principal and staff of Forest Heights School were proactive in welcoming the Terrace Heights School families into the Forest Heights School community by conducting open houses, school tours and a Spring Fling to bring the communities together. The principal believes there is a new excitement in the building with the merging of students and staff including three teachers from Terrace Heights School.

There are currently 32 students from Terrace Heights School staying for lunch at Forest Heights School. These students are not being charged lunch fees. There are currently 16 students receiving free busing to Forest Heights School due to the closure of Terrace Heights School.

The library experienced upgrades and modifications. Three open space classrooms were converted into separate classroom spaces. The principal expressed appreciation for the work of the school staff in moving materials and equipment from the library and classrooms to accommodate the renovations.

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