

**DATE:** June 14, 2016

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Trustee Michelle Draper, Caucus Committee Chair

**SUBJECT:** Report #8 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held June 14, 2016)

**ORIGINATOR:** Dr. Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director Governance, Strategic Services and Support for Schools, Corporate Secretary

**REFERENCE:** [Trustees' Handbook](#) – Caucus Committee - Section 5.4  
[Trustees' Handbook](#) – Section 6 – Board Committees  
[School Act](#) - Section 61

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#### ISSUE

The Board approved the following recommendations at the March 3, 2015, Board meeting: That a resolution be approved directing that Section 5.4 of the Trustees' Handbook be revised to give the Caucus Committee final decision-making power on certain types of matters, and yet constrain that power so it is used only when absolutely necessary.

The following recommendations were approved at the June 14, 2016, Caucus Committee meeting:

#### Use of Revenue from Sale of Surplus School Site

1. *That the \$390,000 received from the City of Edmonton for the sale of the Canon Ridge surplus school site be approved to be expended on the McKay Avenue School building roof repair project.*

#### **BACKGROUND – Recommendation 1**

Edmonton Public Schools has embarked upon an extensive roof rehabilitation process to ensure that the historic McKay Avenue School building can continue to be enjoyed by future generations. Due to unforeseen damage, the project requires \$1.34 million in additional funding. The \$390,000 Capital Reserve funds received from the sale of Canon Ridge surplus site on April 7, 2016, could be applied to the historic McKay Avenue School building roof project.

While the District has diligently maintained the building within our current funding model, a critical need to replace the roof's cedar shingles was identified and initiated. The interior and exterior of the building sustained significant water damage as a result of the aging shingles. In order to fund the project, the District was proactive in raising \$100,000 in private funds and participating in a grant-matching effort with the City of Edmonton and the Province of Alberta. In total, \$1 million was raised to complete the replacement of the shingles.

While challenges are anticipated with any project involving a historical building, the extent of new work required at the historic McKay Avenue School was not foreseeable. Structural issues were uncovered due to rotting rafters and support beams in the six dormers, as well as unforeseen associated hazardous materials abatement, were discovered once the original shingles were removed. A new project scope was developed to completely restore the entire roof structure. This new scope has created estimated cost over runs of approximately \$1.34 million, bringing the total funding required to \$2.34 million. It has become apparent that the District's ability to ensure the building's structural integrity and continue with safe daily operations will need to be reviewed should the complete roof restoration not proceed.

With the recent revenue received from the City of Edmonton's First Place Program for the sale of the Canon Ridge site, it is recommended that the revenue received be directed to the restoration of the historic McKay Avenue School building roof project.

#### **RELATED FACTS**

- An additional \$1.34 million is required over and above the original \$1 million secured to repair the building's roof.
- Additional costs were identified once repairs began, due to unforeseen structural issues associated with the six dormers and timber supports, additional hazmat remediation, and associated architectural and engineering costs.
- On behalf of the District, the Board Chair has sent letters requesting additional funding support to:
  - Minister Ricardo Miranda, Alberta Culture and Tourism
  - Minister Mélanie Joly, Canadian Heritage
  - Mayor Don Iveson, City of Edmonton
- An additional \$125,000 has been secured through the provincial Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP).
- An additional \$225,000 of Municipal Historic Resource rehabilitation grant funding has been requested from the City of Edmonton.
- An application will be submitted for up to \$500,000 through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program - Phase II.
- Lot 34 of the McKay Avenue School site has been declared surplus and a potential sale could provide additional funds for the project.

#### **Banking Resolution to August 31, 2021**

2. *That subject to the satisfactory completion of a banking agreement, the appointment of the Bank of Nova Scotia as principal banker for Edmonton Public School District No. 7 for a five year term commencing September 1, 2016, be approved.*

#### **BACKGROUND – Recommendation 2**

Edmonton Public School Board, as per Board Policy CO.BP – Fiscal Oversight and Accountability, is required to request proposals for the appointment of the District's principal banker at intervals not exceeding five years. The current term ends August 31, 2016.

An extension was granted to the Bank of Nova Scotia as the District's principal banker for the 2015-2016 school year due to the District's process of re-engineering its business processes and financial systems (E-Biz).

### Format of District Recognition Program for 2016

3. *That the Trustees choose one of the three options to be implemented in the fall of 2016.*

*The following option was voted upon:*

*Single Evening Event:*

*An evening District Recognition event will be reinstated for the 2016 school year. The event will include all recipients and guests, principals and district unit managers of nominees, and nominators. The program will be similar to past years, but shorter. Recipients will be acknowledged on stage by Trustees with a brief sentence about their nomination will be shared while they are presented their certificate. A detailed account of why they were nominated would be in the program. Presentations would be held in Eva O. Howard Theatre at Victoria School, followed by a reception in the Atrium at the Centre for Education.*

### **BACKGROUND – Recommendation 3**

In 2015, due to budget considerations and as an opportunity to review the existing program, the Administration, in consultation with the Board, opted to place a moratorium on hosting an evening event for the 2016 District Recognition program. For 2015, Communications collected and screened nominations, created certificates for all recipients and profiled all recipients and teams online. Staff, students, parents and community members nominated for service, merit and team were presented with their District certificate within their school or office location at an event or moment chosen by the principal or department administrator (e.g., school awards night, staff meeting)

During the 2015-2016 school year, Communications surveyed all principals and district unit administrators about program awareness, participation, value and format. Staff from Communications and Governance and Strategic Support Services met two times with a Trustee sub-committee to consider feedback and discuss options for how to shape the program for the 2016-2017 school year.

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