

DATE: March 15, 2016

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Michelle Draper, Caucus Committee Chair

SUBJECT: Report #4 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held March 1, 2016)

ORIGINATOR: Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director Governance, Strategic Services and Support for Schools

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

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 March 15, 2016 Caucus Committee meeting:

Review of Board Policy GA.BP – Student Programs of Study Regarding Second Language Instruction in Grades 4-9

1. *a) the requirement for all students to have equitable access to student programs that include instruction in a second language (in addition to English) in Grades 4 to 9 be confirmed as mandatory at this time; and*

b) a thorough review of the board required components for all student programs of study offered in the District be conducted as part of the scheduled 2016–2017 review of Board Policy GA.BP - Student Programs of Study be approved."

c) in affirming a and b, the Caucus Committee directs the Superintendent to report at a future Caucus Committee meeting a revised Administrative Regulation to clarify application of student exemptions for mandatory second languages for Grades 4- 9."

BACKGROUND – Recommendation 1

At the 2015 Fall Trustee Retreat, the Superintendent of Schools (Superintendent) discussed challenges some schools experience with offering second language instruction for all Grades 4 to 9 students.

Surplus Declaration-Vacant Lot 34 at Archives and Museum

2. *That the non-reserve site legally described as Plan B, Block 4, Lot 34 be declared surplus to district*

need, be approved.

BACKGROUND – Recommendation 2

On November 4, 2014, the Board of Trustees granted Administration approval to pursue the sale of Lot 34 with proceeds to be available for further capital investment in the McKay Avenue Archives and Museum buildings.

Support for Exempt Staff Professional Development

3. *That \$150,000.00 from the Central surplus be allocated to support exempt staff professional improvement leaves and or tuition support for 2016 -2017.*

BACKGROUND – Recommendation 3

Five applications for the 2016-2017 Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program Pilot were received. Assessments of the applications were completed by a committee of district leadership staff from February 3 through February 9, 2016. Based on the assessors' ratings of the applications, it has been recommended that two applicants to the Exempt Staff Professional Improvement Program Pilot receive their full request and that three applicants receive partial support.

The recommended tuition and leave support for exempt staff through this pilot is projected at \$142,446. This includes 1.267 FTE in leaves projected at \$106, 861 and tuition support projected at \$35,585.

Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Bylaw Submission

4. *That the Edmonton Public School Board approve the following proposed amendments to ASBA bylaws to be submitted to the ASBA by March 23, 2016 for debate at the June 6, 2016 Spring General Meeting.*

Recommendation A: That ASBA incorporates a bylaw to create a tier of membership "Health Plan Membership.

Recommendation B: That an amendment to the ASEBP Deed of Trust reflects that membership in ASBA shall not be a requirement for school boards to be eligible for continued participation in group benefits through ASEBP.

Recommendation C: That a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy be developed by ASBA.

Recommendation D: In order to increase engagement in association business and provincial education issues, meetings be audio recorded, posted online, and be available to the public and the membership.

BACKGROUND – Recommendation 4

The Board Chair solicited submissions via email from the Trustees the week prior to the March 1, 2016 Caucus committee meeting. From the recommendations that are passed, the Board Chair will draft rationale and a cover letter with arguments to submit to the ASBA by the March 23, 2016 deadline.

SS:sj