

DATE: June 20, 2017

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Pilot Sound School Library
(Response to Request for Information #215)

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Lorne Parker, Executive Director

**RESOURCE
STAFF:** Josephine Duquette, Nancy Petersen, Christopher Wright

REFERENCE: April 11, 2017, Board meeting (Trustee Draper)

ISSUE

The following information was requested:

Given the recent provincial announcement of funding for the K-6 school in Pilot Sound (McConachie), and the District's advocacy work with the City to explore partnerships as part of the District's new school construction and recent Memorandum of Understanding with the Edmonton Public Library, would the Administration please advise of any potential partnership opportunities to create a community and school library space at the new school.

BACKGROUND

With the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Superintendent and Edmonton Public Library's Executive Director met to discuss opportunities for our two organizations to further collaborate and partner. There was mutual agreement to explore a shared space initiative in the Pilot Sound area.

A meeting was held on May 19, 2017, between District administration and representatives from the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) where preliminary exploratory discussion took place.

CURRENT SITUATION

At the May 19, 2017, meeting, the following key points emerged:

- The recent announcement for provincial funding for a K-6 school in McConachie aligns with this opportunity.
- Such an initiative will consider a shared understanding of purpose and vision for the shared space.
- There will need to be work done around a shared understanding and commitment to the nature of the resource collection available in the shared space.
- Logistics related to staffing, community access, technology and safety will be addressed.
- Participants in the meeting agreed that the establishment of a Steering Committee will be beneficial to moving forward with this opportunity.

Subsequent to the initial meeting, District Infrastructure shared preliminary plans for the McConachie facility with EPL for their review and consideration. Any modifications to the site required to support a shared learning commons would need to be identified and incorporated into the design fairly quickly in order to remain on target with the overall school design schedule.

KEY POINTS

- The new K-6 school in McConachie could be designed to facilitate a shared learning commons space between the District and EPL.
- Such a project will need to give consideration to factors such as staffing, safety, the nature of the resource collection and community access.
- Staff from both organizations have been assigned to support these exploratory discussions and an initial meeting was held on May 19, 2017.
- Collaborative planning to continue in the fall.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

N/A

JD:kk