

DATE: May 25, 2021

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Information on the Joint Use Agreement July-August and Summer Programming (Response to Request for Information #101)

ORIGINATOR: Kathy Muhlethaler, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE STAFF: Leanne Fedor, Kris Uusikorpi, Christopher Wright

ISSUE

At the public Board meeting on April 12, 2021, Trustee Janz requested that Administration provide information on the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) summer bookings for July-August and summer programming:

- Which schools have participated in the programs in the last two years?
- What are the barriers to offering school space?
- What could enhance access to these opportunities?
- Which schools will be offering programming this summer?
- How does the Division's JUA opportunities compare to that of the Edmonton Catholic School Division (ECSD) or Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord (CSCN)?
- How frequently does the Division deny requests and what other accommodations are being provided?

BACKGROUND

Provide information that addresses the request, including any historical circumstances for context.

CURRENT SITUATION**Joint Use Agreement Summer Bookings and Summer Programming**

Through the REACH Summer Access Program, the Joint Use Steering Committee has ensured access to summer programming for students in vulnerable communities for a number of years. Through a number of partner organizations, REACH organizes summer programming, with space provided at 'no cost' by the Joint Use members school jurisdictions and the City of Edmonton.

Summer Access was temporarily interrupted by the pandemic last summer, but may return this summer. REACH and Joint Use Steering Committee will align with Alberta Health Services guidelines for 'summer camps' should such activities be approved.

In preparation, the Joint Use Steering Committee is collaborating with REACH Edmonton to provide communications to partner organizations, including expectations related to safety plans and school facility use. It is expected that, where possible, daily camp activities will be based outdoors.

School jurisdictions are beginning to work with potential school sites that may host Summer Access programming.

The facility use season for Joint Use corresponds with the school year running from the fall through June. For the months of July and August when Joint Use Agreement bookings are not offered, the Division supports Summer Access through a program coordinated by REACH Edmonton. Summer Access typically operates in the month of July and the first week of August. REACH works with socially vulnerable, non-profit youth groups, the City of Edmonton and the three Edmonton School Divisions to help provide opportunities for youth to continue learning and to build confidence, capacity, self-efficacy, cultural identity and academic ability during the summer months.

In 2019 (the last year Summer Access occurred), over 1,800 participants were accommodated at 23 Division schools for Summer Access. Last summer, the pandemic temporarily interrupted the Summer Access program.

Which schools have participated in these programs?

2019 Summer Access - School List

Aldergrove	Glengarry	Kim Hung	Sherwood
Avonmore	Hillcrest	Lee Ridge	Svend Hansen
Brander Gardens	Inglewood	Mary Butterworth	T.D. Baker
Calder	Ivor Dent	Mayfield	Westlawn
Callingwood	John A. McDougall	Rosslyn	Youngstown
Ellerslie	Kate Chegwin		

What are the barriers to offering school space?

Availability of Multiple Spaces Within the School

Access to school rooms may be limited in the summer because of scheduled deep cleaning and minor maintenance projects. Summer Access groups do adjust for this and have either split up their summer camp across multiple schools or changed their schedule/program.

Major Maintenance and Renovation Projects

Many of our major maintenance/renovation projects are scheduled in the summer to avoid interfering with school operations during the school year. These major projects reduce the number of available sites to host Summer Access.

Summer School and/or other Programming

Schools with plans to accommodate summer school/other concurrent summer program activities are unavailable to host Summer Access due to room availability.

While not a 'barrier', the ability to host summer programming must be considered within the context of summer custodial coverage, which is required throughout the duration of the Summer Access program. The number of participants in some summer access groups has grown significantly over the years and has had an impact on the capacity of the on-site custodial staff. In addition to the deep cleaning work typically done over the summer, the access for summer programs has added a significant amount of daily cleaning for custodial staff. Division custodians are specifically trained to deal with the

maintenance of operations, security systems and the general upkeep in Division schools. Every effort is made to balance summer programming opportunities at schools, while ensuring school facilities are ready for September start-up.

Existing Tenants in Schools

Property Management Joint Use works with Leasing Services to coordinate as best as possible when there is a tenant in the school also operating child care for the community over the summer months.

P3 school Agreement

The Government of Alberta's school P3 agreement restricts P3 schools hosting Summer Access.

Specificity of Areas of the City Requested by Summer Access Groups

Most of the requested schools are located in the north and southeast areas of the City as that is where most Summer Access participants live. The concentration of school requests in those areas of the City reduces the number of available schools.

What could enhance access to these opportunities?

Summer Access groups could apply for grants to cover wages and other expenditures when running their summer camps. Some grants can only be awarded within defined location boundaries resulting in groups requesting to access the same schools and areas every year. If location boundaries are expanded or removed, the Division could possibly offer more opportunities to support Summer Access.

Which schools will be offering programming this summer?

We have begun to engage with schools on hosting Summer Access for this upcoming summer and will identify available schools. The key component for summer camps to proceed this year is based on the go ahead and approval from Alberta Health Services.

How do our JUA opportunities compared to that of ECSD or CSCN?

In 2019, Edmonton Public Schools offered 23 schools and 1,773 hours of Joint Use. ECSD offered 11 schools and 1,045.5 hours and CSCN offered one school and 190 hours. Additionally, our Division has permitted some Summer Access groups to use school space in August for their programs, even though August is a month Summer Access is not typically offered. On a proportionate basis, space offered for summer access appears equitable across the jurisdictions.

How frequently do we deny requests and what other accommodations are being provided?

Year to year, and depending on the number of approved maintenance and renovation projects, specific schools that are requested may not be available. Division practice is to offer an alternative location within our Division and we also work very closely with REACH, the City of Edmonton and the other Boards to find spaces for all groups that have submitted requests for space in schools.

KEY POINTS

- In 2019 (the last year Summer Access occurred), over 1,800 participants were accommodated at 23 Division schools for Summer Access.
- Barriers to offering school space for Summer Access include:
 - Lack of availability of multiple spaces within the school
 - Major maintenance and renovation projects
 - Summer school and/or other programming

- Existing tenants in schools
- P3 school agreements which restricts hosting Summer Access
- Specificity of areas of the city requested by summer access groups
- In 2019, Edmonton Public Schools offered 23 schools and 1,773 hours of Joint Use. ECSD offered 11 schools and 1,045.5 hours and CSCN offered one school and 190 hours.
- Division practice is to offer an alternative location within our Division if a requested location is unavailable. We also work very closely with REACH, the City of Edmonton and the other Boards to find spaces for all groups that have submitted requests for space in schools.

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