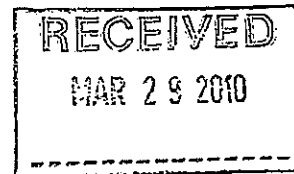


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March 24, 2010

Hugh MacDonald, MLA  
Edmonton Gold Bar  
Critic for Employment & Immigration;  
Finance & Enterprise; Treasury Board  
#102, 7024 – 101 Avenue, NW  
Edmonton, AB T6A 0H7



Dear MLA MacDonald:

Your correspondence of March 12, 2010 to Don Fleming, Board Chair has been forwarded to my office for response. The following information is provided in response to your questions.

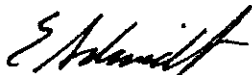
- Q. How much was spent by the EPSB on transportation services for the years 2002 – 2009?
- A. Transportation costs are funded through the combination of a provincial block grant and user fees collected by the District. The amount spent on transportation between 2002 and 2009 was approximately \$209.3 million.
- Q. According to information on page 15 of the EPSB Financial Statements, dated August 31, 2009, the district spent \$2.7 million last year for the lease of space outside school premises. This is a 24.5 per cent increase from the previous year. If the EPSB has so much under-utilized space in its schools why are you spending \$2.7 million to lease space outside Public Schools?
- A. The District has 18 external leases to accommodate students in non-traditional settings.
- Two leases are for spaces the District occupies that are owned by the provincial or federal government, Alberta School for the Deaf and Major General Griesbach.
  - Eight leases are for facilities owned by private education societies or entities with which the District has entered education partnership agreements with.
  - Six leases are in outreach locations outside of the normal classroom settings, for students who are at risk of not continuing their education.
  - Amiskwaciy Academy was a site selected by Aboriginal Elders who preferred program establishment in a non-school setting.
  - Centre High offers programming for fourth-year high school students who cannot be accommodated in regular high schools, and the central business setting is crucial for attracting students and influencing positive outcomes.
- Q. What is the total area in square meters of the space that you leased for the \$2.7 million? Please provide a list of these leases and where they are located.
- A. The total area leased is 64,088.15 square metres, as listed in the attachment.

.../2

- Q. According to your Financial Statements of August 31, 2009, the Operating Reserve balance at the end of last August was \$52.8 million. \$14.7 million of the total was a transfer from operating surplus. Please provide all details on the \$14.7 million transfer.
- A. Edmonton Public Schools operates under a decentralized decision-making model. Under this model each school receives an annual budget allocation, and expenditure decisions for utilization of available funds are made at the school level. At the end of each school year, any surplus or deficit of budget funds is carried forward to the following year. Surpluses are available to the school for future expenditures, while deficits are repaid from future budget allocations. The school may decide to carry forward a surplus to fund some future planned major expenditure. In order to ensure that the District has adequate financial resources to fund these future expenditures, an operating reserve equal to the school and decision unit surpluses has been set up. The transfer of \$14.7 million at the end of 2008-09 represents the additional amount required to fund these surpluses.
- Q. The Greater Hardisty Area Sector Review states that both Capilano and Fulton Place have 115 new housing units realized between 1986 – 2006. What census data supports that statement?
- A. This information was derived by a review of the 1986 and 2006 Federal Census data related to housing unit counts.
- Q. In June 2009 your administration retained Dialogue Partners Inc. to conduct the closure reviews. What is the projected cost for the work done and to be done by Dialogue Partners Inc.?
- A. An amount of \$580,000 was budgeted and approved for Dialogue Partners Inc. to implement the plan for Sector Reviews and conduct the Public Engagement process for the City Centre schools, the Greater Hardisty Area and for the next phase including West 1, Central and South Central sectors.

I trust that this letter provides you with the information you require. Thank you for your support of public education.

Yours truly,



Edgar Schmidt  
Superintendent of Schools

ES:md

Attachment

cc: Don Fleming, Board Chair

**EPSB Leases of External Space**  
**2009/2010**

**Educational Delivery Agreements**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>In Sq. M.</u> <u>Lease Area</u>
Alberta School for the Deaf	Provincial Facility	6240 - 113 Street	19,071.63
Major General Greisbach School	Federal Facility	14315 - 102 A St	4,753.00

**Education Partnership Agreements**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>In Sq. M.</u> <u>Lease Area</u>
Edmonton Christian Schools	Privately Owned-Education Society	5940 - 159 Ave	5,341.00
Edmonton Christian Schools	Privately Owned-Education Society	14304 - 109 Ave	2,696.52
		14345 McQueen Road	4,163.27
Edmonton Christian Schools	Privately Owned-Education Society		1,094.90
Edmonton Christian Schools	Privately Owned-Education Society		2,669.00
Meadowlark Christian School	Privately Owned-Education Society	9825 - 158 Street	2,669.00
Millwoods Christian School	Privately Owned-Education Society	8704 Millwoods Rd	2,915.40
Talmud Torah School	Privately Owned-Education Society	6320 - 172 Street	3,175.00
Transitions at the Y	Bill Rees YMCA	10211 105 Street	1,558.44

**Outreach Sites - For At-Risk Students**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>In Sq. M.</u> <u>Lease Area</u>
Learning Store at Blue Quill	Commercial Space	284 Saddleback Road	235.87
Learning Store at Circle Square	Commercial Space	224,11808 - St. Albert Tr	219.89
Learning Store at Londonderry	Commercial Space	264 Londonderry Mall	240.15
Learning Store at WEM	Commercial Space	1043 WEM	96.89
Learning Store on Whyte	Commercial Space	10007 - 82 Ave	421.39
New Directions at Park Plaza	Commercial Space	11810 - 103 Street	214.23

**Alternative Program - Special Location Requirements**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>In Sq. M.</u> <u>Lease Area</u>
Amiskwacy Academy	Commercial Space	101 Airport Road	7,797.28
Centre High	Commercial Space	10241 - 104 Street	7,424.29

**Total Area in Sq. M. 64088.15**

*\* all leases are for student accommodation*