

DATE: April 5, 2016

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Summer Programming Pilot Project – Greater Lawton Area Schools

ORIGINATOR: Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director, Governance, Strategic Services and Supports to Schools

RESOURCE STAFF: Nancy Petersen, Lynn Schlacht

REFERENCE: n/a

ISSUE

Trustee Martin requested Administration to provide “a high level overview of the Summer Programming Pilot Project at a future board meeting.”

BACKGROUND

In order for the District to better understand the impact of summer programming in relationship to mitigating the summer learning gap in high socially vulnerable communities, staff from Governance and Strategic Supports (GSS) are working with a cohort of schools in the greater Lawton area and key community partners to plan and deliver a summer program at Rundle School this year.

CURRENT SITUATION

The program will be available to Grade 1–6 students currently attending Abbott, R. J. Scott and Rundle schools. The following are key elements to the program:

- The Family Centre and Boys and Girls Big Brothers Big Sisters will be the two key agencies whose staff will oversee the program on-site in the summer.
- Lynn Schlacht, Principal Rundle School, is taking a lead role on behalf of the schools in planning the program with our partners.
- The program will run during the month of July and it is anticipated that up to 50 children will be registered by the end of June.
- The program is being designed based on the success of other summer program models currently implemented in Edmonton, such as Summer at City Centre Education Program (CCEP) and the summer program at Balwin School.
- The program is being developed to reflect summer programming health and safety practices being promoted at the Edmonton Out of School Time Table.
- The program also includes a deliberate focus on activities that will promote student literacy growth throughout the summer. Frontier College has been engaged to support with this aspect of the program development and delivery.
- The types of specific activities being planned for the program include, but are not limited to, cooking, art, recreation, music and day trips. The nature and rigour of the activities will reflect the

type of things that engage children’s thinking, promote literacy growth and provide experiences that serve as the foundation for future learning.

- Aside from the two hosting organizations, the following community agencies are currently involved in the planning and committed to providing their expertise or service as appropriate to support program delivery: E4C, Edmonton Public Library, School of Music, City of Edmonton, and Frontier College.
- There will be a daily snack provided in both the morning and afternoon; lunch will be brown bag, with food on hand should a child not have a lunch.
- Parents will need to get their children to camp at Rundle School each day; there will be yellow bus service to support taking children out for field trips.
- There will also be a parent engagement component to the camp provided by the Family Centre.
- During the camp there will be a strategic effort made to engage the children and their families with some of the programs and services directly in the area that will be available in August to support ongoing safe and engaging summer activities for the children. These will include, but not limited to, the community library, the community recreation centre and the Boys and Girls, Big Brothers Big Sisters club house located right in the Rundle community.
- There will be an evaluation of the program using both quantitative and qualitative evidence. This evaluation will assess the impact on student reading levels and will include student and parent feedback around the program. The exact details of how this evaluation will be conducted are still being worked through at this time. The evaluation plan will be finalized prior to the start of the program.

KEY POINTS

- There will be a summer program at Rundle School this year to examine how quality summer programming may mitigate the summer learning gap in high socially vulnerable areas.
- There will be an evaluation component to the program to measure the impact on students’ reading levels.
- The program will be developed and delivered in partnership with key community partners.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

N/A

NP:np