

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 15, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Curriculum Additions

ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Georg Arndt, Wilma Bayko, Bruce Coggles, Crystal DeJong, Norman Mathew, Stuart Wachowicz, Stephen Wright

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the locally developed course **Math 35 – Calculus BC (Advanced Placement)** be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools.
2. That the locally developed course **Drill and Parade 35** be revised to be offered for 3 or 5 credits.

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Background and Rationale:

1. Math 35 – Calculus BC (Advanced Placement): Advanced Placement (AP) is a cooperative educational endeavour between high schools and post-secondary institutions. It allows high school students to be recognized for high level work done while in high school, resulting in a waving of introductory courses in a given subject. Advanced Placement courses are well recognized in North American universities, with equal or better acceptance than International Baccalaureate courses. Receiving credit in an AP course thus provides the student with a significant advantage, both in terms of acceptance and access to higher level programs and courses.

Advanced Placement has two levels of calculus courses. Calculus AB is equivalent to one semester of university calculus, while calculus BC is equivalent to the first two semesters of university level calculus. Due to the combination of student interest and ability, at least one district high school wishes to offer Calculus BC. The course enhances the chances of success in mathematics and engineering programs. At present there is approximately a one in three drop-out rate in first year engineering. Engineering students must take at least six courses per semester, rather than the normal five. Taking Calculus BC in high school serves to significantly reduce the workload in the first year of engineering, or mathematics.

2. Drill and Parade 35 is a course already approved by the board for use in supporting the program at L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy. The course has been revised to allow two versions of the course to be offered, one for 5 credits (as previously approved) and the new version for 3 credits with two of the five modules removed. This is to permit students to attain skills in drill and parade as per agreements with the cadet corps and to also allow students time to pursue the grade 12 courses needed by some students.

A copy of the courses is available for viewing in the Trustees' Reading Room.

SW:dh