

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 14, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Punjabi International Language and Culture

ORIGINATOR: B. Holt, Executive Director, Instructional and Curricular Support Services

RESOURCE

STAFF: Pradeep Bains, Parminder Delhon, Amandeep Dhami, Satinder (Sema) Dhillon, Aruna Kalra, Melody Kostiuk, Verinder Maan, Kuldip Riar, Vandana Shaw, Stuart Wachowicz

RECOMMENDATION

That the draft Program of Studies **Punjabi Language and Culture K-3** be approved for use in the district.

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Background: In the fall of 2003 Curriculum and Programs and Planning conducted a needs assessment in the district to determine the demand for a Program of Studies for Punjabi Language and Culture.

Punjabi is now one of the fastest growing languages in Alberta with over 6,000 Punjabi speakers in the Mill Woods area alone. There was considerable interest in the study of Punjabi, sufficient to warrant the development of a curriculum and the identification of a location to offer the course.

The Program of Studies is based, as all of our second languages, on the Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education: Common Curriculum Framework for Programming in International Languages (Kindergarten to Grade 12), which ensures outcomes in reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar, oral, global citizenship and strategic learning outcomes interaction and culture are identified on a grade level basis. The Program of Studies is also accompanied by a Guide to Implementation which provides direction and explanation of pedagogy, assessment and best practices.

The district is most grateful to the Punjabi community members and Punjabi speaking teachers who took part in this development.

The district has been contracted to complete for the Province of Alberta a Grade 4-12 Punjabi curriculum with accompanying Guides to Implementation. The work accomplished in the K-3 development will be very useful as a base for the larger initiative.

The proposed K-3 Program of Studies is in draft form and will be reviewed next spring and revised as necessary. It is the intent of the district to complete a K-12 version in addition to the provincial 4-12 program. Punjabi instruction will commence in the district at Meyokumin School in September 2004, for kindergarten and grade 1 with the intent of growing to a K-6 program and an eventual extension to junior and senior high school.

Copies of the courses are available for viewing in the Trustees' Reading Room.

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