

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 23, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dosdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Curriculum Additions and Deletions – Locally Developed Courses, Junior High

ORIGINATOR: A. McBeath, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Mike Burke, Stuart Capstick, Carla Cummings, Pat Hogaboam, Lea Homer, Sid Shugarman, Larry Soper, Stuart Wachowicz

RECOMMENDATION

That the following locally developed junior high courses be approved for use in the district:

Public Speaking and Debate 7

Academic Challenge: The Discovery Option 7 / 8 / 9

Humanities 9

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Background: Locally developed courses at the junior high level are intended to complement the Alberta curriculum, and at the same time allow students to pursue specific interests, expand their knowledge base in an area, develop or refine skills. The courses are submitted by schools and with the assistance of Central Services are placed in a format acceptable to the provincial standard for locally developed courses.

Public Speaking and Debate 7 is designed to enhance the program of students who chose to focus on language arts and social studies. Through the process of focusing on thinking, drafting, writing and speaking, students acquire competencies that can help them confidently express their ideas in a clear, precise and effective manner.

Humanities 9 is designed for students who have demonstrated competence in language arts, and who wish to be challenged to “reflect on the significance of cultural values and the fundamentals of human existence, to think about and discuss essential, universal themes and to grapple with the intricacies of the human condition.” Through a study of history, particularly western Europe and Britain, where our language had its origins, the writer’s mode of thought and historical reality can be analyzed.

Academic Challenge: The Discovery Option 7/8/9 is a course of study designed to act as a delivery vehicle for key aspects of the Academic Challenge program. The course allows significant enhancement of the Alberta curriculum by furthering knowledge and skill outcomes. It allows school time and resources to extend students’ studies in a guided way, beyond the scope and detail of the regular curricular program.

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

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