

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 14, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Funds for 2005-2006 Professional Improvement Program
ORIGINATOR: B. Holt, Executive Director Instructional and Curricular Support Services
RESOURCE
STAFF: David Fraser, Marie Tauber

RECOMMENDATION

That the allocation of \$1,390,000 from the 2005-2006 operating budget for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support for the 2005-2006 school year be approved.

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The request for this allocation from the 2005-2006 budget is being brought forward at this time to allow us to move forward with the program and begin to provide information to our staff and assist them with their professional development planning. The recommended allocation is the same amount as that approved by the Board in September, 2003.

Attached is a historical synopsis of the leaves and tuition support granted under this program in appendix I.

Background

The maximum amount which the board may allocate for this program is guided by Clause 23.7 of the September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2006 Teachers' Agreement as follows:

“The Board will, after reviewing the foregoing applications for leave and tuition, determine both the number and the persons to be granted leave and tuition support after considering the seniority of each applicant and the interests of the school system, but having due regard to the Board's undertaking to permit leaves to a maximum of 3/4 of 1% of the annual grid cost, calculated as of the preceding November 30. No more than 30% of the annual amount approved by the Board shall be used for tuition support.”

For the 2005-2006 program, the maximum amount will be determined based on the November 30, 2004 annual grid cost. As this figure is not yet available, we look to the November 30, 2003 annual grid cost to enable us to recommend a prudent amount.

On November 30, 2003, the annual teacher grid cost was \$271,687,660. By applying the formula specified in Clause 23.7, the maximum amount which could have been granted for the 2004-2005 Professional Program was \$2,037,432. The amount recommended and approved by the board at that time (\$1,390,000) was 68% of the maximum allowed.

Based on those figures and given they represent a time where significant teacher cuts were in effect, it is reasonable to predict that the November 30, 2004 annual grid cost, and by extension the maximum funds possible for the Professional Improvement Program will increase due to recent increases in teacher staffing. Therefore, the amount recommended will likely, again, be far less than the maximum allowed by Clause 23.7.

Approval of the recommended amount will allow for continuing support of teachers to participate in professional leaves and to be reimbursed for tuition costs of coursework. As noted in the budget presentation in May, 2004, a portion of the fund (approximately 12%) will be used to continue support for the Teacher and Non-Teacher Development Programs.

MMT:jw

APPENDIX I - Professional Improvement Program History (Page 3)