

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 22, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Funds for 2010-2011 Professional Improvement Program

ORIGINATOR: B. Tams, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Bev Crossman, David Fraser, Bonnie Zack

RECOMMENDATION

That the allocation of \$1,200,000 from the 2010-2011 operating budget for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support for the 2010-2011 school year be approved.

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Background

The Professional Improvement Program is guided by Clause 23 of the Teachers' Collective Agreement which speaks to a number of aspects of the program including the maximum amount of money the Board may allocate for the program.

It has been a long-standing practice in the District to bring to Trustees at this time of year, a request for an allocation of money from the subsequent year's budget for the purpose of granting Professional Improvement Program leaves and/or tuition support.

Establishing the fund at this time allows the District to move forward with distributing information, and for staff to begin formalizing their study plans, which in many cases, includes making application to a post-secondary program.

As a result of this practice, decisions regarding the granting of leaves and tuition are typically announced by early March. Staff members can then begin to make firm commitments regarding their studies and schools and central services can begin to plan and make staffing decisions.

Rationale for Recommendation

Clause 23.7 states the maximum amount the Board may allocate as "3/4 of 1% of the annual grid cost, calculated as of the preceding November 30". For the past five years, this amount

has exceeded the two million dollar mark and is expected to remain at approximately that level in the next several years.

The \$1,200,000 amount being recommended represents a reduction of \$100,000 (a 7.7% decrease) to the amount approved by the Board at this time last year. This amount is consistent with the amount of funding approved for the five year period between September 2003 and June 2008. In light of the current fiscal situation, this reduced level of allocation is seen as balancing the financial challenges of the District with the continuing interest from staff members in pursuing timely professional development.

Appendix I outlines the history of tuition support granted since its inclusion in the program and also the ten-year profile of the numbers of applications received.

BT:bc

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APPENDIXII - Comparison by Year of Successful Teacher Applicants (Page 4)

APPENDIX I

PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM HISTORY						
YEAR	FUND MAXIMUM AS PER CLAUSE 23.7	APPROVED BUDGET	% OF MAXIMUM	ACTUAL \$ GRANTED FOR LEAVE	APPROVED TOTAL LEAVE FTE	ACTUAL \$ GRANTED FOR TUITION
2000-01	1,645,230	1,079,200	66%	840,258	18.30	n/a
2001-02	1,760,987	1,079,200	61%	979,485	22.45	n/a
2002-03	1,787,173	1,079,200	60%	950,500	20.52	n/a
2003-04	2,026,521	1,200,000	59%	837,569	15.66	72,995
2004-05	2,037,432	1,200,000	59%	994,320	18.62	114,045
2005-06	2,232,456	1,200,000	54%	1,036,637	18.35	105,341
2006-07	2,307,846	1,200,000	52%	934,471	15.76	169,269
2007-08	2,342,776	1,200,000	51%	938,042	15.46	150,920
2008-09	2,392,026	1,300,000	54%	763,271	11.67	274,958
2009-10	2,504,746	1,300,000	52%	382,159	44.24	349,969
2010-11		1,200,000 Recommended				

APPENDIX II

**COMPARISON BY YEAR OF SUCCESSFUL
TEACHER CERTIFICATED APPLICANTS**

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS	NUMBER SUCCESSFUL
2000-01	29	23
2001-02	40	28
2002-03	32	27
2003-04	43	30
2004-05	49	33
2005-06	61	40
2006-07	67	51
2007-08	68	45
2008-09	53	50
2009-10	64	64