

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 19, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: French as a Second Language (Grades 1 to 3)
ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head Designate

RESOURCE

STAFF: Shirley Kawahara, Valerie Leclair, Margaret MacLaren, Rita Maltais,
Kathleen Maser, Stuart Wachowicz, Dorraine Wilcott-Tracey

RECOMMENDATION

That the locally developed course French as a Second Language Three Year Program for use in Edmonton Public Schools, be approved.

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Background: The current French as a Second Language curriculum used in the province of Alberta does not specifically apply to grades one through three. The 1991 Alberta Program of Studies indicates it is to serve ECS to grade twelve, but Alberta Learning consultants have clarified that it is geared for a grade four entry.

As a result schools in the district offering French as a Second Language at the division I level have been struggling without clear curricular direction. The problem is significant seeing that over 1000 students are currently enrolled in French in division I in Edmonton Public Schools. The new locally developed course will achieve a number of objectives:

- allow for consistency of instruction between schools in the district in French as a Second Language at the division I level
- provide a strong base of knowledge and skills to help prepare students entry into the grade four program
- provide a base that will help facilitate the development of a scope and sequence for grades four to twelve that will assist teachers identify the proficiency and achievement level for individual students
- provide an impetus for collaboration and sharing on the part of teachers on issues of curriculum.

The program will be piloted for one year during which time the content will be subject to revision. The pilot will also serve to help identify the best division I resources as well as help the pilot committee make decisions as to recommendations for approaching phonetics.

A copy of the locally developed course is available in the Trustees' Reading Room.

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