

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 10, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATOR: A. Habinski, Executive Director, School and District Services  
B. Holt, Executive Director, Instructional and Curricular Support Services

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Gloria Chalmers, Mary Ellen Deising, Stuart Wachowicz

INFORMATION

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #279, MARCH 25, 2003 (TRUSTEE MARTIN) PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE “POVERTY UNIT” BEING TAUGHT TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS REFERRED TO IN AN ARTICLE FROM SEATTLE UNIVERSITY AND WHETHER OR NOT THIS WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE DISTRICT:** Einstein Middle School in Seattle, Washington, has the following featured classes: Technical Education, Service Learning, Science, Soul of Salmon Project and Literature Project. The year-long poverty unit was offered in grade 8 as part of the Service Learning class. According to information on the school website, the eight grade block from Einstein Middle School went into the community to learn about the homeless. They recorded what they learned in photographs, poems and stories based on interviews and these are posted on the website. It is unclear whether or not a poverty unit is always part of Service Learning and whether or not Service Learning is only offered at grade 8. Although two requests have been made for additional information, no response has yet been received. Should the district receive more information, appropriateness of such a unit for district use will be considered. (G. Chalmers, 429-8398)

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #308, MAY 13, 2003 (TRUSTEE BONKO), PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR SECOND LANGUAGES:** The federal government recently announced an initiative to double the number of bilingual Canadians, those having a working capacity of both official languages, within 10 years. The detailed version of the *Action Plan* is found at a government web site: [www.pco.bcp.gc.ca/aia/default.aspLanguage=E&Page=ActionPlan](http://www.pco.bcp.gc.ca/aia/default.aspLanguage=E&Page=ActionPlan)

Of the large amount of funding referred to in the government announcement, \$381.5 million will be available for education over the next five years. Of this, \$137 million will be available to assist with French Second Language and Immersion programs across Canada. This translates into about \$3 million per year available for students in the province of Alberta in support of French Second Language Programs and French Immersion.

It should be noted that this amount will not be distributed to school districts on a pro-rated basis. Rather the amount will be targeted toward specific projects that are designed to

systemically support French language learning. In this regard Edmonton Public Schools has made application for increased support for the district's French Renewal Project. The amount to be made available to the district will be announced in late June 2003 (Stuart Wachowicz 429-8186).

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #323, MAY 27, 2003 (TRUSTEE NICHOLSON) PROVIDE LONGITUDINAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE AND ALLOCATIONS TO SCHOOLS AND CENTRAL SERVICES FOR THE BUDGET DISCUSSION:** Appendix I provides information on revenue and allocations for schools and central services . (M. Deising, 429-8063)

APPENDIX I – Budget Comparison

DB:BH:AH:hc