

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 18, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent

SOURCE: M. de Man, Department Head

SUBJECT: Review of French Language Instruction

RESOURCE

STAFF: Jennifer Anderson, Michele Beaudoin, Mike Burke, Charlotte Corothers, Laurie Faber, Sandy Forster, Linda Gagnon, Rashmi Joshee, Rod Kostek, Mark Liguori, Rita Maltais, Helen Marchak, Robert Mazzotta, Valérie Leclair, Claire Tremblay, Stuart Wachowicz, Sherry Woitte

INFORMATION

In June 2001 the district approved a review of its French language instruction. The goal of the review was to gain an understanding of the present state of the French Immersion (FIM) and French Second Language (FSL) programming and the challenges facing these programs. The information would serve to design and implement a strategy, which will:

- a) strengthen program success and
- b) increase student enrolment in both FIM and FSL programs.

At meetings throughout 2000-2001, FIM principals clearly indicated a need for central leadership in helping to reverse a downward trend in both FSL and FIM enrolments. The decline in students studying French is province wide, and in Edmonton Public Schools' numbers have dropped over 30 per cent in the past decade. The decline does not seem to be related to the existence of other language programs. During this time principals, teachers, parents and community organizations expressed concern about the large range of proficiency among students completing a French program at the grade 9 or 12 level. The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages also passed on concerns about the steep decline in French enrolments in the district, a district that at one time was a model for French language programming throughout the nation.

The district recognizes that French is not only one of the International languages, but an official language of Canada, one that is needed if one is to take full advantage of Canadian citizenship. To this end the district struck a steering committee composed of parents, principals, teachers, representing both FIM and FSL schools, and central services staff. The services of Evaluation Plus Inc. were retained to help guide the review, collection, and interpretation of data collected. Evaluation Plus Inc. brought to the project four of the most experienced people in Alberta in the area of French language education, Dr. Wally Lazaruk, Edmond Levasseur, Marcel Lavallée and Alana LaPerle. The district has thus entered into one of the most aggressive language renewal projects in Alberta's history.

The steering committee approved a set of recommendations that resulted from the review's findings. (Appendix I: *Un nouveau jour!* Renewal of French Language Programs in Edmonton Public Schools) Implementation of the recommendations will be made possible by an allocation of \$400,000 per year for three years. Application for additional support for the project has been made to both provincial and federal departments, and is being seriously considered, as the results of the project will be of benefit to French language education from coast to coast. Peace River School Division has already purchased some components resulting from the project to support French Immersion. In addition an influential French Language Advisory Group has been formed to help the district establish partnerships to enhance the opportunities for teachers and students (Appendix III).

Details of the project plan, as recommended by the steering committee and reviewed by Superintendent's Council and principal vertical groups, are found in Appendix II. The district will use document analysis, questionnaires and interviews on an annual basis to determine whether the expected results are being achieved. The key results will be increased student enrolment and distinguished student results, which will be linked to national and international standards. Each goal and strategy will include performance indicators and measures.

Edmonton Public Schools will achieve the goal of having the most effective French language program in the nation and will prove that here in the Canadian west, students can become proficient users of the French language.

The Summary Reports for the program reviews in FSL and FIM are available in the Trustee reading room.

SW:dh

- Appendix I: *Un nouveau jour!* Renewal of French Language Programs in Edmonton Public Schools
- Appendix II: French Language Renewal Project Plan
- Appendix III: French Language Advisory Group

APPENDIX II

FRENCH LANGUAGE RENEWAL PROJECT PLAN

The following are the goals and strategies for a three-year French Language (FIM and FSL) Renewal Project:

GOALS / STRATEGIES		YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
1.	Goal: To plan and monitor the implementation of the program review recommendations Strategy: Creation of a Project Team	Creation Planning Monitoring	Planning Monitoring	Planning Monitoring
2.	Goal: To strengthen French language learning by creating partnerships with local, provincial and federal agencies/ institutions interested in French language learning, including Alberta Learning. Strategy: Formation of an Advisory Committee	Formation Meetings Follow-up	Implementation of partnership projects	Implementation/ evaluation of partnership projects
3.	Goal: To encourage the learning of French and other languages Strategy: Development of supportive French language education policies	Development Validation Approval of policies	Implementation of policies	Implementation/ evaluation of policies
4.	Goal: To align program goals with national and international guidelines/ assessment measures Strategy: Research, development and validation of district program goals with national and international guidelines	Research and development	Validation	Implementation
5.	Goal: To develop an articulated or continuous FSL program from elementary to senior high school Strategy:	Development/ adaptation of learning outcomes for each grade level of FSL Pilot of part of	Identification of samples of student work for each grade level Development/	Implementation/ evaluation

GOALS / STRATEGIES		YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
	Development adaptation of learning outcomes for each grade level of FSL; identification of samples of student work for each grade level Development/adaptation of assessment tools; identification/development of appropriate learning resources; and pilot of part of program this fall	program September 2002	adaptation of assessment tools; Identification/development of appropriate learning resources	
6.	Goal: To increase instructional time for French Strategy: Examination and preparation of sample timetables; development of regulations; review with principals; and obtain board approval	Examination and preparation of timetables, consultation with principals Development of guidelines and regulations Review with principals Obtain board approval	Implementation	Implementation and evaluation
7.	Goal: To enhance availability of quality learning resources Strategy: Identification and selection of learning resources.	Specification of needs Identification and selection of learning resources	Purchase of needed learning resources. Development/ adaptation of learning resources	Purchase of needed learning resources. Development/ adaptation of learning resources
8.	Goal: To meet professional development needs. Strategy: Development and implementation of a professional development plan.	Development and implementation of a professional development plan	Implementation of a professional development plan	Implementation and evaluation of professional development plan
9.	Goal: To increase student enrolments in FSL and French immersion programs. Strategy: Development and implementation of a marketing plan and marketing materials.	Development and implementation of a marketing plan and marketing materials	Development and implementation of marketing materials	Development and implementation of marketing materials Evaluation of marketing plan and materials
10	Goal: To increase student contact with francophone communities. Strategy: Development and implementation of a plan to increase student contact with francophones.	Development and implementation of a plan to increase student contact with francophone communities	Implementation of a plan to increase student contact with francophone communities	Implementation/ evaluation of a plan to increase student contact with francophone communities
11	Goal:	Identification and	Implementation of	Implementation

GOALS / STRATEGIES		YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
	To recognize graduating students for their achievements in French immersion and FSL programs. Strategy: Identification and implementation of incentives and programs to recognize student achievement.	implementation of incentives and programs to recognize student achievement	incentives and programs to recognize student achievement	and evaluation of incentives and programs to recognize student achievement
12	Goal: To recognize French immersion teachers, administrators and support personnel Strategy: Identification and implementation of incentives and programs to recognize teachers, administrators and support staff.	Identification and implementation of incentives and programs to recognize teachers, administrators and support staff	Implementation of incentives and programs to recognize teachers, administrators and support staff	Implementation and evaluation of incentives and programs to recognize teachers, administrators and support staff
13	Goal: To obtain additional funds for French immersion and FSL program. Strategy: Identification of funding programs and application for funding to provincial, federal and private agencies.	Identification of funding programs and application for funding to provincial, federal and private agencies	Application for funding to provincial, federal and private agencies. Expenditure of funds in priority areas	Application for funding to provincial, federal and private agencies Expenditure of funds in priority areas
14	Goal: To enhance consulting services to schools offering FIM and FSL programs. Strategy: Hiring of one full-time consultant for FIM and one full-time consultant for FSL, with bilingual support staff.	Hiring of one full-time consultant for FIM and one full-time consultant for FSL, with bilingual support staff	Provision of services to schools of one full-time consultant for FIM and one full-time consultant for FSL, with bilingual support staff	Provision of services to schools of one full-time consultant for FIM and one full-time consultant for FSL, with bilingual support staff Assessment of impact of services
15	Goal: To develop/adapt/ translate learning resources and other needed documents/ services for FIM programs. Strategy: Creation of collaborative development and implementation projects with neighboring school districts	Creation of collaborative cost-sharing development/ implementation projects with neighboring school districts	Implementation of collaborative cost-sharing development/ implementation projects with neighboring school districts	Implementation of collaborative cost-sharing development/ implementation projects with neighboring school districts
16	Goal:	Define program	Implement the	Implement the

GOALS / STRATEGIES		YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
	<p>To define the program offerings in the Kindergarten to Grade 12 French immersion program.</p> <p>Strategy: Creation of French Immersion Program Working Group.</p>	<p>offerings in K to Grade 12.</p> <p>Increase the course offerings in senior high school.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of a late immersion program.</p>	<p>renewed definition and programming</p>	<p>renewed definition and programming</p>
17	<p>Goal: To investigate how services for special learning needs can be enhanced in French immersion.</p> <p>Strategy: Investigation of arrangements to provide special needs services in French.</p>	<p>Investigation of availability and feasibility of special needs services in French.</p>	<p>Implementation of available special needs services in French.</p>	<p>Implementation of available special needs services in French</p>

APPENDIX III

FRENCH LANGUAGE ADVISORY GROUP

Sal	First	Last	Title	Address
Dr.	Richard	Slevinsky	Directeur adjoint/Assistant Director Direction de l'éducation française French Language Services Branch	9 th Floor Devonian Bldg. 11160 Jasper Ave. Edmonton, AB T5K 0L2
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Dr.	Nasrin	Rahimieh	Professor of Comparative Literature Associate Dean (Humanities), Faculty of Arts	6-14 Humanities Centre University of Alberta Edmonton, AB T6G 2E5
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Ms.	Michèle	Gregoret	President, L'Alliance Française d'Edmonton	#202, 8627 rue Marie-Anne Gaboury (91 ^e) Edmonton, AB T6C 3N1
Mr.	Raymond	Lamoureux	Directeur général, Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta	Bureau 303, 8627 – 91 ^e rue Edmonton, AB T6C 3N1
Mr.	Ray	Martin	Trustee, Edmonton Public Schools	Centre for Education
Mr.	Mark	Liguori	Principal	Vernon Barford
Ms.	Pamela	Hall	Principal	Kenilworth
Ms.	Lori	Price-Wagner	Principal	Rutherford
Ms.	Christiane	Campbell	Teacher	Harry Ainlay
Ms.	Wendy	Malanchen	Teacher	Delwood