DATE:	May 8, 2012
TO:	Board of Trustees
FROM:	Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT:	Locally Developed Courses - Renewals
ORIGINATOR:	Tanni Parker, Assistant Superintendent
RESOURCE STAFF:	Sandy Forster, John Macnab, Stephen Wright
REFERENCE:	N/A

ISSUE

A number of locally developed courses will expire on August 31, 2012 and Board approval is required for these courses to be taught in Edmonton Public Schools from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2015. Two dance courses that were not included in the April 10, 2012 recommendation require Board approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That the locally developed courses Contemporary Dance 25-35 and Jazz Dance 25-35 currently in use in the District, be renewed for the period extending from September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2015.

BACKGROUND

Locally developed courses are developed and authorized by school authorities to provide their students with learning opportunities that complement provincially-authorized curricula. Districts may develop their own courses, or they may seek permission to acquire courses from other districts.

Locally developed courses and resources must be approved and renewed every three years by the developing board. In the case of high school courses, Alberta Education also renews courses on a three-year cycle. They are permitted and governed by Alberta Education policies. All courses developed align to these policies including, such guidelines as the following:
- courses are completed within the year they are started
- a certificated teacher is required for instruction
- unique hours of instruction are required for each course
- waiver of prerequisites provision cannot apply to locally developed courses

RELATED FACTS

Both Contemporary Dance 25-35 and Jazz Dance 25-35 are already in use in Edmonton Public Schools.

CONSIDERATIONS & ANALYSIS

Jazz Dance and Contemporary Dance have been popular and effective courses in the District for many years. Renewal of these courses will not provide new options for students, but will ensure continuity of programming, teaching and learning in these areas.

JM:mp