

DATE: May 8, 2012
TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Educational Opportunities (Trustee Request #191)
ORIGINATOR: Tanni Parker, Assistant Superintendent Student Learning Services
RESOURCE STAFF: N/A
REFERENCE: April 10, 2012 Board Meeting (Trustee Ripley)

ISSUE

The following information was requested: Provide information on three to five educational opportunities that could be considered for students if the District had an extra \$5 million to invest.

BACKGROUND

N/A

CURRENT SITUATION

On a yearly basis, through the development of a decision unit plan, district staff allocate resources (financial and human) to support those initiatives that will move toward the attainment of the Priorities, Vision and Mission of the Board. Alberta Education's direction and/or initiatives also dictate what work district staff will undertake in a given year. Listed below are a number of initiatives or opportunities that would provide additional support for students if the District had \$5 million to invest.

KEY POINTS

There are a number of opportunities that this investment would make possible.

- The investment of \$3 to \$5 million could result in the hiring of additional 30-50 teachers to provide lower class sizes.
- Full time Reading Recovery teacher in each elementary school. The reading recovery teacher could be trained to work as a literacy coach and support teachers in teaching literacy across the content areas.
- Development and implementation of system-wide interventions for students not reading or writing at grade level. These interventions would address the needs of all students from K-12.
- Development, training and ongoing support of inclusive learning coordinators in each school to work directly with inclusive learning team and liaise with parents and external partners.
- Recruitment and retention of psychologists, reading and other specialists to work with school staff to support at risk students. These staff members would provide functional assessments and provide ongoing support to teachers to develop inclusive classrooms and inclusive schools.

- Formalize a partnership with another Ministry an external agency to develop, implement and sustain a high quality intervention program for students with mental health issues.
- Recruitment and retention of high quality Educational Assistants to support the development of inclusive classrooms and schools. For current Educational Assistants this investment could allow for the development of ongoing job embedded professional learning opportunities.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive and articulated Early Years Program that would encompass student support from pre-K to Grade 3. This program would embrace the tenets of early childhood development and create high quality learning environments that are play based.
- Develop and implement a cohesive technology plan that addresses the use of technology as an integral part of the learning process. This would include the provision of assistive technology.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

N/A

TP:ja