

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 21, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head

RESOURCE
STAFF: Veda Lastiwka, Stuart Wachowicz

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #121 (TRUSTEE ODYSKI) PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING THE MARINE BIOLOGY 25 SUMMER COURSE: HOW MANY STUDENTS TAKE THE COURSE? WHO TEACHES THE COURSE? HOW DO STUDENTS FUND THE COURSE; I.E. TRAVEL TO THE WEST COAST?

The recently renewed locally developed course, Marine Biology 25, will be offered in the fall of 2002 by Jon Paul Cooper, a teacher at Victoria School. Twenty to thirty students are expected to enroll in this course. Associated with the course may be a field trip to the Bamfield Marine Research facility in British Columbia. This facility is specially designed to accommodate field experiences in marine Biology for a maximum of 30 students, in addition to supervising teachers. It is anticipated that about 20 students from Victoria will chose to take this trip.

The trip is not a part of the course, but is available to those students who may desire this opportunity, as it serves to complement the outcomes of the Marine Biology 25 curriculum. It is an additional chance for “hands-on” enrichment and seeing a real life version of what is studied in the Marine Biology course. Not taking the field trip in no way negatively impacts a student’s results in the course.

The trip will be offered in the spring, hopefully in conjunction with Spring Break, and will be about seven days in length. The cost of the trip is \$500 - \$600 per student. This includes air fare, meals, housing, transportation and all aspects of the educational experience at the Bamfield facility. Fund raising by students helps to defer the cost, with the students picking up the balance. (I. Neitsch, 429-3010, S. Wachowicz, 429-8186)

TRUSTEE REQUEST #124, MAY 7, 2002 (TRUSTEE WOODROW) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE COST OF THE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT PROJECT TO DATE. To date, Personnel Recruitment and Staffing has expended \$39,205.50 for Consulting Services’ involvement in developing the Language Proficiency Assessment procedures and tasks. Monies totaling \$1,976.40 were paid to various language experts for translating tasks and/or validating the assessment tool.

Additional expenditures for this project, which were not tracked, include supplies and services, estimated to be in excess of \$6,000, and the time of staff in Student Assessment and Personnel Recruitment and Staffing from 1997-98 through 2001-2002. It is not possible to attach a dollar value to the time of the many volunteers who assisted with development. (V. Lastiwka, 429-8088)

MdM:hc