

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 25, 2010

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Locally Developed Courses – Addition
ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Sandy Forster, John Macnab, Stephen Wright

RECOMMENDATION

That the following new locally developed course, acquired from Edmonton Catholic School Division be approved for the school years from 2010-2013:

Theory of Knowledge 25-35 (IB)

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Background:

Recently the International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization audited local high schools and made the recommendation that the IB Theory of Knowledge program be offered over two school years, not one, as is currently the case in the District. Edmonton schools currently offer the locally developed course, Theory of Knowledge 35, in the Grade 12 year. To give schools the ability to offer Theory of Knowledge over two years, the District had planned to acquire Theory of Knowledge 25 from Edmonton Catholic School Division in the 2010-2011 year. Due to the recently-announced two year moratorium on developing and acquiring Locally Developed Courses, we request that the Board now approve the acquisition of Theory of Knowledge 25, before the May 31, 2010 deadline recently imposed by Alberta Education.

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 as well.

Locally developed courses 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 can not apply to locally developed courses.

The course will be available in the Trustees' On-line Reading Room.

SF:JM:ek