

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 7, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: L. Thomson, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Funds for 2007-2008 Professional Improvement Program
ORIGINATOR: E. Schmidt, Executive Director
RESOURCE
STAFF: David Fraser, Marie Tauber

RECOMMENDATION

That the allocation of \$1,200,000 from the 2007-2008 operating budget for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support for the 2007-2008 school year be approved.

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Background

The Professional Improvement Program is guided by Clause 23 of the Teachers' Collective Agreement which speaks to a number of aspects of the program including the maximum amount of money the board may allocate for the program.

It has been a long-standing practice in the district to bring to trustees at this time of year, a request for an allocation of money from the subsequent year's budget for the purpose of granting Professional Improvement Program leaves and/or tuition support.

Establishing the fund at this time allows the district to move forward with distributing information, and for staff to begin formalizing their study plans, which in many cases, includes making application to a post-secondary program.

As a result of this practice, decisions regarding the granting of leaves and tuition are typically announced by early March. Staff members can then begin to make firm commitments regarding their studies and schools and central services can begin to plan and make staffing decisions.

Rationale for Recommendation

Clause 23.7 states the maximum amount the board may allocate as "3/4 of 1% of the annual grid cost, calculated as of the preceding November 30". For the past four years, this amount has exceeded the two million dollar mark and is expected to remain at approximately that level in the next several years.

The \$1,200,000 amount being recommended is the same amount as approved by the board at this time last year and is well below the maximum as permitted in Clause 23.7 of the Teachers' Collective Agreement. This level of allocation is seen as balancing the financial challenges of the district with the continuing interest from staff members in pursuing professional development plans.

Appendix I outlines the history of tuition support granted since its inclusion in the program and also the ten-year profile of the numbers of applications received.

MMT:jw

APPENDIX I - Professional Improvement Program History (Page 3)

PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM HISTORY

| YEAR | FUND MAXIMUM AS PER CLAUSE 23.7 | APPROVED BUDGET | % OF MAXIMUM | ACTUAL \$ GRANTED FOR LEAVE | APPROVED TOTAL LEAVE FTE | ACTUAL \$ GRANTED FOR TUITION |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1997-98 | 1,446,481 | 1,079,200 | 75% | 1,067,902 | 28.99 | n/a |
| 1998-99 | 1,495,774 | 1,079,200 | 72% | 1,030,023 | 26.58 | n/a |
| 1999-00 | 1,552,655 | 1,079,200 | 70% | 1,069,703 | 23.24 | n/a |
| 2000-01 | 1,645,230 | 1,079,200 | 66% | 840,258 | 18.30 | n/a |
| 2001-02 | 1,760,987 | 1,079,200 | 61% | 979,485 | 22.45 | n/a |
| 2002-03 | 1,787,173 | 1,079,200 | 60% | 950,500 | 20.52 | n/a |
| 2003-04 | 2,026,521 | 1,200,000 | 59% | 837,569 | 15.66 | 72,995 |
| 2004-05 | 2,037,432 | 1,200,000 | 59% | 994,320 | 18.62 | 114,045 |
| 2005-06 | 2,232,456 | 1,200,000 | 54% | 1,036,637 | 18.35 | 105,341 |
| 2006-07 | 2,307,846 | 1,200,000 | 52% | 934,471 | 15.77 | 169,269 |
| 2007-08 | | 1,200,000 Recommended | | | | |

COMPARISON BY YEAR OF SUCCESSFUL
TEACHER CERTIFICATED APPLICANTS

| YEAR | TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS | NUMBER SUCCESSFUL |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1997-98 | 47 | 39 |
| 1998-99 | 43 | 36 |
| 1999-00 | 51 | 29 |
| 2000-01 | 29 | 23 |
| 2001-02 | 40 | 28 |
| 2002-03 | 32 | 27 |
| 2003-04 | 43 | 30 |
| 2004-05 | 49 | 33 |
| 2005-06 | 61 | 40 |
| 2006-07 | 67 | 51 |