

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

October 11, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Funds for 2006-2007 Professional Improvement Program

ORIGINATOR: Bob Holt, Executive Director
Instructional and Curricular Support Services

RESOURCE
STAFF: David Fraser, Marie Tauber

RECOMMENDATION

That the allocation of \$1,390,000 from the 2006-2007 operating budget for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support for the 2006-2007 school year be approved.

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The request for this allocation from the 2006-2007 budget is being brought forward at this time to allow us to move forward with the program and begin to provide information to our staff and assist them with their professional development planning. The recommended allocation is the same amount as that approved by the Board in September, 2004.

Attached is a historical synopsis of the leaves and tuition support granted under this program in appendix I.

Background

The maximum amount which the board may allocate for this program is guided by Clause 23.7 of the September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2006 Teachers' Agreement as follows:

“The Board will, after reviewing the foregoing applications for leave and tuition, determine both the number and the persons to be granted leave and tuition support after considering the seniority of each applicant and the interests of the school system, but having due regard to the Board’s undertaking to permit leaves to a maximum of 3/4 of 1% of the annual grid cost, calculated as of the preceding November 30. No more than 30% of the annual amount approved by the Board shall be used for tuition support.”

For the 2006-2007 program, the maximum amount will be determined based on the November 30, 2005 annual grid cost. As this figure is not yet available, we look to the November 30, 2004 annual grid cost to enable us to recommend a prudent amount.

On November 30, 2004, the annual teacher grid cost was \$297,660,774. By applying the formula specified in Clause 23.7, the maximum amount which could have been granted for the 2005-2006 Professional Program was \$2,232,456. The amount recommended and approved by the board at that time (\$1,390,000) was 62% of the maximum allowed.

Based on those figures and given the level of change to overall teacher staffing between November 2004 and the present time, it is reasonable to predict that the November 30, 2005 annual grid cost, and by extension the maximum funds possible for the Professional Improvement Program will not change significantly for this coming year's calculation. Therefore, the amount recommended will likely, again, be far less than the maximum allowed by Clause 23.7.

Approval of the recommended amount will allow for continuing support of teachers to participate in professional leaves and to be reimbursed for tuition costs of coursework. As noted in the budget presentation in May, 2005, a small portion of the fund (approximately 12%) will be used to continue support for teacher participation in the Staff Development Program, and for the development and implementation of the custodial, support and exempt components of the Program.

MMT:jw

PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM HISTORY

YEAR	MAX FUNDS POSSIBLE AS PER CLAUSE 23.7	APPROVED BUDGET	% OF MAXIMUM	ACTUAL \$ GRANTED FOR LEAVE	ACTUAL \$ GRANTED FOR TUITION	MAX FTE POSSIBLE FOR PAID LEAVES AS PER CLAUSE 23.7	APPROVED TOTAL LEAVE FTE
1996-97	1,420,492	1,079,200	76%	1,020,844	n/a	41.95	30.37
1997-98	1,446,481	1,079,200	75%	1,067,902	n/a	42.78	28.99
1998-99	1,495,774	1,079,200	72%	1,030,023	n/a	43.44	26.58
1999-00	1,552,655	1,079,200	70%	1,069,703	n/a	44.58	23.24
2000-01	1,645,230	1,079,200	66%	840,258	n/a	44.30	18.30
2001-02	1,760,987	1,079,200	61%	979,485	n/a	46.66	22.45
2002-03	1,787,173	1,079,200	60%	950,500	n/a	47.80	20.52
2003-04	2,026,521	1,390,000	69%	837,569	72,995	48.80	15.66
2004-05	2,037,432	1,390,000	68%	994,320	114,045	44.75	18.62
2005-06	2,232,456	1,390,000	62%	1,036,637	105,341	47.95	18.35
2006-07		1,390,000 Recommended					

COMPARISON BY YEAR OF SUCCESSFUL
TEACHER CERTIFICATED APPLICANTS

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS	NUMBER SUCCESSFUL
1996-97	61	37
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