

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 16, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Music Performance Standards

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

### RESOURCE

STAFF: Raymond Baril, Roberta Baril, Craig Brennan, Rita Burns, Patricia Estabrooks, Sandy Forster, Shirley Funk, Gerhard Kruschke, Patricia Matheson, Emma Oskin, Betty Radford, Rob Speers, Stuart Wachowicz

## INFORMATION

### **Background and Rationale**

This report is to provide the Board of Trustees an update on the development of Music Performance Standards for the district. On May 21, 2002, a report was presented outlining a project to enhance the quality of music education programs across the district. Subsequently, over the 2002-2003 school year, a committee of ten K-12 music teachers from across the district representing all divisions, along with the music consultant and curriculum staff, developed draft Music Performance Standards and supporting documentation. The draft standards and supporting documentation will be reviewed by Superintendent's Council and all principals in the fall of 2003.

The Music Performance Standards are intended to provide a basic framework for all public musical performance. They incorporate the expectations of the Program of Study for K-12 music as outlined by Alberta Learning, and define best practices of music teaching with a focus on musical performance standards. They will also inform administrators and district music teachers about what is an acceptable standard for public music performance.

The standards will benefit all music students and clarify and bring equity to the expectations for musical performance. They move music beyond entertainment towards a body of knowledge based on concept and skill development. They also help justify the resourcing of music education and enhance its role in the development of a well-rounded student.

### **Draft District Music Performance Standards**

Four components have been developed for each division (elementary, junior high and senior high school) to facilitate common implementation of the standards:

- performance rubrics that support standards for musical performance in elementary, junior and senior high choral and instrumental music. Rubrics outline standards of performance in four categories: unsatisfactory, adequate, proficient and excellent
- critical learnings required for students of music studies at the elementary level, and for junior high and senior high school levels in choral or instrumental music
- performance practice and etiquette criteria

- best practices for optimizing quality learning opportunities in music instruction from K-12, in four key areas:
  - curriculum and scheduling
  - staffing
  - materials and equipment
  - facilities

It is the intention of the curriculum unit to provide all music teachers and school administrators with a CD containing illustrative examples of performances that meet the district Music Performance Standards.

The music standards project will be piloted in the 2003-2004 school year and amendments to the document will be made in accordance with teacher experiences with the pilot. Implementation of the Music Performance Standards will be phased in beginning with schools expressing an interest in 2004-2005, with a plan for full implementation in September 2005. This will allow for curriculum to support inservicing for all district music staff by September 2005.

A copy of the Draft Music Performance Standards is available for viewing in the Trustees' Reading Room.

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