

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 23, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Funds for 2009-2010 Professional Improvement Program
ORIGINATOR: B. Tams, Assistant Superintendent
RESOURCE
STAFF: David Fraser, Bonnie Zack

RECOMMENDATION

That the allocation of \$1,300,000 from the 2009-2010 operating budget for the purpose of granting professional improvement leaves and tuition support for the 2009-2010 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 \$1,300,000 amount being recommended represents the same amount approved by the Board at this time last year. This amount continues to be 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.

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APPENDIXII - Comparison by Year of Successful Teacher Applicants (Page 4)

APPENDIX I

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
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	15.76	169,269
2007-08	2,342,776	1,200,000	51%	938,042	15.46	150,920
2008-09	2,392,026	1,300,000.00	54%	763,271	11.67	274,958
2009-10		1,300,000 Recommended				

APPENDIX II

**COMPARISON BY YEAR OF SUCCESSFUL
TEACHER CERTIFICATED APPLICANTS**

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS	NUMBER SUCCESSFUL
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
2007-08	68	45
2008-09	53	50