

TO: Trustees

FROM: Nadine Segal, System Superintendent
School Services - Special Programs

DATE: 20 September 2006

RE: REVIEW OF FRENCH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

In February 2005, the Board passed the following motion:

Whereas, the Library and Learning Resources Department has undertaken to prepare a review and analysis of existing library materials in TDSB schools;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) that the review, with specific emphasis on French language library resources in French Immersion and Extended French schools, be enhanced;*
- (b) that additional French language resources, including textbooks, required to support the Optional French programs with a cost analysis be identified; and*
- (c) that a report be presented on the cost analysis to the Administration, Finance and Accountability Committee by the end of the current school year or earlier, if possible.*

In March 2006, the Board passed the staff recommendations resulting from the System Review of French Immersion and Extended French programs. These included a referral to the budget process by December 2006 of a plan for additional materials and support to students and teachers in Extended French/French Immersion programs.

The Library and Learning Resources staff compiled a school-by-school database of existing French library materials in French Immersion and Extended French schools. (This is available electronically by e-mailing a request to linda.ireland@tdsb.on.ca). From January 2004 to the present, 55,130 items were purchased, totaling 135,945 French items in school libraries. The Library and Learning Resources staff has provided a recommended list of library materials, with prices, from which schools may enhance their library collections. This is also available electronically, upon request.

The French as a Second Language (FSL) department surveyed schools to determine textbook shortages in the 2005-2006 school year. Schools were asked to conduct a grade-by-grade inventory of available texts in Mathematics, Social Studies and Science. Forty-one of fifty-five elementary schools responded. All schools reported having sufficient texts in most grades but requested augmenting the number of class sets or modules or to update to more current texts when they became available from publishers.

- Mathematics, all schools reported having available texts from Grades 1-8. Funds were requested in order to replace damaged texts and to purchase more current published materials when available for an approximate cost of \$107,040.
- Science and Technology textbooks are sold in packages of titles (curriculum strands). Most schools reported having some sets and requested \$192,218 to increase the number of packages available.
- All schools reported having some texts available for Social Studies and History/Geography but requested \$67,861 to update texts, specifically in the junior division. It should be noted that some schools teach portions of the Social Studies curriculum in English in this division.

In the 2005-2006 school year, \$97,426 was spent on textbook purchases in French Immersion and Extended French schools. In the three phase expansion of the grade 4 Extended French program (2004-2006), twenty-one schools received \$7,000 for classroom and library resources for each year as the program expanded. From the 2006 Federal Government Renewal Initiative for FSL, \$630,583 was spent on textbooks and library resources. Additional project proposals will be submitted for the Renewal Initiative for 2006-2007.

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