

## CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### REPORT TO THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES

October 2, 2001

To: Board of Trustees

From: Dr. Brendan Croskery, Acting Chief Superintendent of Schools.

Re: Report of the French Immersion Development Team

Purpose: Report to the Board for Approval

Executive Limitations Reference: #8 – Communication and Counsel to the Board

Originator: French Immersion Development Team

Resource Persons: J. Crarer, C. L. Bellam, Co-Chairs, French Immersion Development Team as established by the Board of Trustees pursuant to Board Resolutions on January 23 and March 20, 2001.

#### I. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. THAT the Board approve the Vision Statement, Guiding Principles, Goals and Strategic Plan as presented in Attachments I, II, III and IV in order to implement a system plan for French Immersion within the Calgary Board of Education.**
- 2. THAT the Board develop a governance policy for French Immersion giving consideration to the Vision Statement and the Goals presented.**
- 3. AND FURTHER THAT the Board approve the formation of an implementation committee in order to forward with the vision.**

#### II. ISSUE

Both South of the Bow and North of the Bow French Immersion Pathfinding Teams, as well as the Chinook Park/Kingsland Pathfinding Team, have consistently requested that a system accommodation plan be developed for the placement and location of French Immersion programs in CBE schools. Further, they have indicated their desire that the system articulate a clear vision for French Immersion instruction.

#### III. BACKGROUND

On January 23, 2001, the Board of Trustees requested that a French Immersion Task Force be established to formulate a system plan for French Immersion in the Calgary Board of

Education. The committee was asked to report back to the Board with recommendations for a strategic plan of action to guide a system accommodation plan that would achieve program excellence, equity, access and sustainability and growth of French Immersion programs in Calgary. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Trustees proposed draft Terms of Reference for the Development Team, with a recommendation that these Terms of Reference be reviewed by the French Immersion Development Team and brought back to the Board for ratification. The French Immersion Development Team began their work on April 30, 2001.

The Committee met weekly and prepared drafts of a vision for French Immersion and guiding principles for decision-making within the Calgary Board of Education. Input was received from the French Immersion Pathfinding Teams North and South of the Bow and the Chinook Park/Kingsland Pathfinding Team. General input meetings were planned for all parents of students in French Immersion programs on the evenings of June 13 and 18, 2001. Continuous consultation was sought through the French Immersion Principals' Group. These meetings resulted in the creation of a strategic plan for the period 2001 – 2006.

The membership of the French Immersion Development Team has been established as follows:

N. Close	Trustee
L. Nishimura	Trustee
J. Crarer	School Support Services (Co-Chair)
C. L. Bellam	Director CLC 7 (Co-Chair)
S. Baillargeon	School Support Services
C. Llewellyn	Transportation
I. Schmidt	Property and Planning
S. Craig	North of the Bow Pathfinding Team
H. Patrick	South of the Bow Pathfinding Team
P. Stefanson	Canadian Parents for French
C. Bazinet	Calgary Council of Home & Schools Association
M. Gretton	Southern Alberta Heritage Languages Association
L. May	Report Writer

#### **IV. ANALYSIS**

The French Immersion Development Team has

- articulated a clear vision for French Immersion in the Calgary Board of Education (Attachment I).
- developed guiding principles to facilitate decision making on program excellence, growth, access and equity (Attachment II).
- identified six goals necessary for a successful strategic plan of action (Attachment III).
- identified actions and strategies for a strategic plan (Attachment IV).

## **V. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

We recognize that Federal Official Language Grants are granted to the Calgary Board of Education to cover extra costs related to French Immersion programs. In order to implement the French Immersion Development Team's recommendations, we foresee that additional costs would need to be considered at budget time. These costs could include:

- relocation of programs
- marketing
- professional development

## **VI. CONCLUSION AND IMPLEMENTATION CONSEQUENCES**

We believe that the implementation of this plan will result in the provision of French Immersion programs based on the principles of excellence, equity and access.

**DR. BRENDAN CROSKERY**  
**ACTING CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**