

MEMO TO: OCDSB BUDGET COMMITTEE
FROM: THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS
DATE: MARCH 27, 2012
RE: OCDSB REQUEST FOR BUDGET INPUT ON THE FOLLOWING:
THREE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT THAT SUPPORT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL-BEING.

BACKGROUND: The literature on the contributions that arts learning can make in the achievement and fulfillment of the OCDSB Strategic Plan is significant (see ACA Submission to Education Committee for March 19, 2012).

One implication for the OCDSB is that there should be more in-service teacher training in the arts for regular classroom teachers, in Grades 1 – 6. A necessary part of intensified teacher in service training in the Arts is a separate budget to allow for necessary expenses and teacher release time for these training sessions. (Recommendation #1)

In its 2010/11 Budget, the OCDSB allocated \$322,971 specifically to support Music. The 2011/12 Budget allocated an additional and on-going \$300,000 to the 50 elementary schools with grades 7 and 8, specifically to ensure the continuation of Music. None of the other three Ministry Curriculum Arts areas (Dance, Drama or Visual Arts) was mentioned or included in this allocation. (Recommendation #2)

The 2011/12 OCDSB Budget also allocated an extra \$700,000 untargeted monies to elementary schools, and \$500,000 to secondary schools to offset the impact of the new provincial school fee policy. (Recommendation #3)

BUDGET RECOMMENDATION #1:

There should be a separate budget of \$90,000, specifically allocated to the Arts Instructional Coaches for Arts in-service training.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATION #2:

To move towards equity and quality of delivery for all Arts areas at the 7/8 levels, there should be a yearly \$300,000 supplement for consumables and repairs, specifically targeted to cover the three areas of Dance, Drama and Visual Arts.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATION #3:

If, in the 2012/13 OCDSB Budget, there is to be an extra allocation to Elementary schools to help compensate for the Ministry fees guidelines, the Budget should include targeted monies for the Arts.

From: Advisory Committee on the Arts
To: OCDSB Budget Committee
Budget Submission: March 27, 2012