

**DATE:** March 20, 2018

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Trustee Bridget Stirling, Caucus Committee Chair

**SUBJECT:** Report #3 of the Caucus Committee (From the meeting held March 6, 2018)

**ORIGINATOR:** Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations

**REFERENCE:** [Trustees' Handbook](#) – Caucus Committee - Section 5.4  
[Trustees' Handbook](#) – Section 6 – Board Committees  
[School Act](#) – Section 61

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#### ISSUE

The Board approved the following recommendations at the March 3, 2015, Board meeting: That a resolution be approved directing that Section 5.4 of the Trustees' Handbook be revised to give the Caucus Committee final decision-making power on certain types of matters, and yet constrain that power so it is used only when absolutely necessary.

#### **The following recommendation was approved at the March 6, 2018, Caucus Committee meeting:**

*The funding for Clause 23 Professional Development not be increased due to the additional applications received in comparison to the previous year.*

#### BACKGROUND

In November 2017, the Board approved an allocation of \$1,200,000 to support requests from teachers for tuition and/or leave support to undertake professional improvement activities in the 2018-2019 school year. The allocation was increased by \$100,000 over the previous year due to the trend in increasing requests for support.

For 2018-2019, there were 137 applications for the Clause 23 Professional Improvement Program from teacher certificated staff, compared to 103 applications received in 2017-2018.

The Board of Trustees decided that given their approval for a funding increase in November for leave and tuition support, combined with communication from Alberta Education in December 2017 to limit expenses related to professional development, we would not support further increases this year.