MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of Education
    Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities
    Director of Provincial Schools Branch

FROM: John DeFazio
      Regional Manager

DATE: October 26, 2006

SUBJECT: Curriculum Review – The Arts
          Regional Focus Group Sessions – Toronto and Area
          November 20 and 23, 2006

We are currently working in partnership with the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch of the Ministry of Education to organize one-day focus group sessions to gather input for the review of The Arts, Grades 1 to 8 and The Arts, Grades 9 to 12 curriculum policy documents. These will be combined in one focus group session.

District school boards are invited to send twelve (12) representatives with experience in these subject areas to the sessions. We are asking boards to ensure that participants be selected as follows:

- Four (4) elementary teachers – 1 primary, 1 junior, 2 Grades 7/8, e.g., representing Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts
- Five (5) secondary classroom teachers – e.g., representing 1 Dance, 1 Dramatic Arts, 1 Media Arts, 1 Music, 1 Visual Arts
- Three (3) board representatives – e.g., consultant/coordinator/principal with expertise in the arts at the elementary and secondary level.

School authorities and provincial schools are invited to send one representative to each of the focus groups sessions.

Participants should be prepared to discuss the strengths of the current curriculum policy documents, to identify potential areas for improvement and to comment on how a specific change may impact on the curriculum. Board representatives may wish to consult with their colleagues prior to coming to the sessions by asking the following questions:

1. What are the strengths of the curriculum? Why?
2. Are there specific areas that need improvement? If so, what are they?

3. What impact, if any, would a specific proposed change have on the curriculum? For example, what needs to be considered within the grade? Within the discipline? Across other disciplines?

The Focus Group Dates and Times follow. The registration form and the expense claim template are attached. Registration is due no later than November 10, 2006 to agi.ruhland@ontario.ca.

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<th>Focus Group Sessions for the Arts - Grades 1-12</th>
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| Halton DSB, Halton CDSB, Upper Grand DSB, Wellington CDSB | Monday, November 20, 2006 | Burlington Holiday Inn  
3063 South Service Rd.  
Burlington, ON L7N 3E9 |
| Peel DSB, Dufferin Peel CDSB, Toronto DSB and Toronto Catholic DSB | Thursday, November 23, 2006 | Renaissance Airport Hotel  
801 Dixon Road, Toronto ON M9W 1J5 |

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Registration and Continental breakfast  
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. - Session

Expense Claim Information

The Ministry will reimburse participants for the cost of:

- Travel (at the rate of $.40 per kilometre)
- Parking
- Supply teacher coverage, where required to cover classroom teachers, is at the board’s per diem rate.

Participants are to submit their claims to their own board for reimbursement. Each board must then submit a signed, original board invoice and itemized Expense Claim (template attached). Please attach a copy of all receipts to the school board invoice. Please forward these forms to Paul Bertrand, Education Officer, in the Toronto and Area Regional Office as soon as possible or by December 22, 2006.

For questions or further information please contact Agi Ruhland (agi.ruhland@ontario.ca) at 416 325-5031 or Paul Bertrand (pbertrand@ontario.ca) at 416 325-6835.

We value the input from school boards and school authorities and thank you for your continued support.

cc: Sue Durst