



# Board Highlights

Regular Meeting of the Board

August 26, 2008

For immediate distribution and publication

## **École Desrochers (Jasper)**

The Board received a letter from the Jasper Royal Canadian Legion indicating their willingness to lease an additional 3,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of space on the main floor conditional to the Board's commitment to guarantee \$2 million in lease costs. Currently, the Board is paying \$100,000/yr for 4,000 ft<sup>2</sup> for the front portion of the building. Since the offer was deemed too expensive, the Board will inform the Legion that it will not be leasing any additional space. The lease agreement between the Legion and Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord will remain in effect until June 2011. The Board will remind the Minister of Education of the urgency to approve the joint construction project proposed by the two local school districts.

During the summer, the Board expended \$55,000 to renovate the portable unit into four small classrooms to better accommodate the secondary program.

## **École La Prairie (Red Deer)**

Last winter, the Board retained the professional services of Group 2 Architecture Engineering to design preliminary plans for a new K-12 school and to consult with parents. However, due to Alberta Education's reticence with respect to a new school, the Board will suspend this expensive approach, but it will continue to promote the project.

In June, the Board asked Alberta Education to conduct a Value Management Review (VMR) in the hopes of building a new school in Red Deer. Department officials explained that a VMR was not warranted since no community or education partners would be involved.

## **Portable and Modular Classrooms**

As part of its capital plan, the Board sought to add 10 portable and modular classrooms, however only one was approved. It will be installed at École La Prairie in Red Deer later in the fall.

Alberta Education's utilization formula indicates that current enrolments are too low to justify the addition of portable units at Ste-Jeanne-d'Arc (65%) and Maurice-Lavallée (83%). Despite the department's initial refusal, the Board, acting in the best interests of students, proceeded to purchase two portables from EPSB and the Province provided \$75,000 to move and install them at Maurice-Lavallée and Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc.

## **École Gabrielle-Roy (Edmonton)**

In August 2007, Alberta Education approved \$3 million for the construction of a new gymnasium but since May twice the Board amended plans as tenders exceeded \$4 million. Following a series of meetings with department officials, architects and the contractor, the project was paired back and the Province

approved a renewed budget of \$3,872,750. Construction is expected to will commence in the next few weeks.

### **Secondary School Request for St. Albert**

On June 26, Lise Roy-Maxwell and Josée Lemire, representing the parents requesting a secondary francophone school in St. Albert, met with Minister Hancock. They were accompanied by Laurent Bolduc, Board chair, and the superintendent. The parents presented arguments in favour of developing a start-up school on the Servus Place site. Although the Minister was not opposed to the concept, he made no commitments except to ask his staff to meet with the senior administrators at Centre-Nord to follow-up on ideas submitted during the meeting.

### **Ritchie School**

Last June, Carole Forbes, chair of the school council at École Maurice-Lavallée, wrote to Minister Hancock describing the advantages of housing the grades 7-8 students at Ritchie School. The Minister responded that he could not intervene in EPSB's decision to deny Centre-Nord's request to lease the school in 2008-09.

### **École Maurice-Lavallée (Edmonton)**

The construction of the garage is completed. It will be used for the school's van and for storing materials for the Industrial Arts program.

### **Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV)**

The Board will inform parents of grade 5 students that the decision to receive the HP vaccine is solely theirs. District schools will be made available to Alberta

Health and Wellness personnel to administer the vaccine since it represents a very effective and proven method preventative method against cervical cancer. The vaccine has been licensed in Canada since 2007 for use in females aged 9-26.

### **Transportation Services 2008-09**

The director of Transportation Services, Lynne Lambert, reported that there will be 91 bus routes and four parent provided transportation this year.

### **By-election on October 20 2008**

The Board will organize a by-election to fill a catholic school board trustee position representing the Edmonton region. The Notice of nomination will be published in early September with nominations to be filed on September 22 between 10:00 and 12:00 at the district's central office (301, 9627 – 91<sup>st</sup> Street, Edmonton).

### **Superintendent's Report**

Two major professional development activities were launched for the first time prior to the new school year: a summer institute held from August 18 to 25 which enabled some 80 teachers to attend a wide range of training sessions; a three-day retreat on *construction identitaire* and leadership for the district's 23 school and central office administrators.

Trustee Martin Blanchet and Henri Lemire attended the graduation ceremonies for the first two graduates of the joint Westwood HS/Boréal francophone program on June 27. Olivier Nault and Michel Chamberland received a French high school diploma as well as the Board's bursary *Ambassadeur du Centre-Nord*. The superintendent commended

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the administration at Westwood High School, Fort McMurray PSB and École Boréal for their foresight in establishing the joint language program.

**Next meeting board**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at La Cité francophone on Septembre 16 at 7:00 pm.

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