



Board Highlights

Regular Meeting of the Board

September 16, 2008

For immediate distribution and publication

Preschool Programs

Preschool enrolments appear to be lower this year in certain district schools. At other district schools, the volunteer preschool parent committees are finding it very difficult to recruit and hire preschool educators. The board has requested an assessment of the state of preschool programs and recommendations on how the Board could play a greater role in preschool education.

Capital Projects

The Minister of Education has responded to the Board's request concerning the prioritization of its capital projects. In his letter, the Minister rejects the argument that the Board has three equally important projects. He states that if the Board refuses to the projects according to their priority, someone else may do it in their stead.

École Desrochers (Jasper)

Minister Hancock responded to a letter from Board chair Laurent Bolduc stating that the joint project for a new school in Jasper is considered supportable and will be considered for approval by the Treasury Board. The Board will write to the Minister asking him to specify when he thinks an announcement on the school will be made.

École La Prairie (Red Deer)

The Board will contact Chinook's Edge School Division to inform them of its interest in negotiating an agreement to acquire River Glen School, situated in the heart of Red Deer. This school of around 300 students has a capacity of 800 and Chinook's Edge is

looking to sell the school and build a new high school elsewhere within its district. River Glen School was recently renovated and has all the facilities of a regular high school.

École Gabrielle-Roy (Edmonton)

Construction of the new gymnasium will begin in mid October.

Alberta Government Child Care Program

The Board has asked the superintendant to apply (in partnership or alone) for a grant to acquire two modular units to offer either out-of-school child care and/or daycare services adjacent to an elementary school in the Edmonton area and in Red Deer.

Satisfaction Surveys 2007-2008

Trustees reviewed the results of the school surveys for 2007-2008. The results will be posted on the Board's web site at www.csrcn.ab.ca

Appointment of Director of Student Services

The Board approved the superintendant's recommendation to appoint Michelle Tardif as director of the « *Projet Espoir en santé mentale* » (mental health project) and director of Student Services for a four-year term from September 2008 to August 2012. Ms. Tardif has held this position on a probationary basis since March 11, 2008.

Joint Use Agreement Proposal – Jasper

The Board has approved in principle the Joint Use Agreement proposal with the Municipality of Jasper.

Annual Evaluation of the Superintendent

The Board ratified the superintendent's annual evaluation report submitted by the Evaluation Committee: Claude Duret, vice-president, Fred Kreiner, Paul Dumont and Denis Vincent.

By-election on October 20, 2008

Trustees reviewed the pamphlet calling for candidates for the by-election of a Catholic board trustee to be held on October 20. The deadline for nominations is Monday, September 22 between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm at the central office of the *Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord*.

Superintendent's Report

The position of Communications and Recruitment coordinator will be filled by Denise Lavallée, from Edmonton, starting September 22. She holds a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Ottawa and an Administration Certificate from the *Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières*. She has worked for FJA (the

provincial French youth association), CHFA (CBC French radio), five years at *École Plamondon* and as a freelance writer for *Le Franco* and the *Lac La Biche Post*.

Congratulations to Arthur L'Abbé and his team at *École Notre-Dame*, recognized for a second consecutive year by the Fraser Institute with an honorable mention in the "Improvement in Academics" category by the 2008 Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education. The prize is awarded to schools where academic results have improved greatly and consistently over the last five years. The award's ceremony will be held at the Fairmont Palliser in Calgary on November 13.

Meeting Dates

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14 at la Cité francophone.

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301, 8627, RUE MARIE-ANNE-GABOURY
EDMONTON (ALBERTA) • T6C 3N1
TÉL. : (780) 468-6440
1-(800) 248-6886
TÉLÉC. : (780) 440-1631