



Board Highlights

Regular Meeting of the Board

October 14, 2008

For immediate distribution and publication

Oath of Office by Trustee Karen Doucet

Karen Doucet swore an oath of office as new Catholic board trustee of the *Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord*. She was acclaimed in September and replaces Josée Devaney who served as trustee for the past four years.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

The catholic trustees of the *Conseil scolaire catholique Centre-Nord* will inform the parents of grades 5 and 9 girls that the administration of the vaccine for human papillomavirus is optional and based on parental choice. The Board reaffirmed its decision to allow the regional health authorities to immunize students in all of its nine catholic and three public schools.

For more information, consult the Alberta Health website at:

www.health.alberta.ca/public/immunization.html

Official Enrolments

Trustees received information with respect to the official student enrolments as at September 30, 2008. Although the Board had budgeted for a 2.8% increase, growth was limited to 0.56% or 14 more students than last year. This is the lowest enrolment increase since the inception of the school board in 1994.

Schools	Students Sept. 30 2007	Students Sept. 30 2008
Citadelle	112	110
Boréal	103	97
La Prairie	135	141
Notre-Dame	216	221
Père-Lacombe	236	248
Gabrielle-Roy	344	335
Ste-Jeanne-d'Arc	409	395
Maurice-Lavallée	608	630
La Mission	161	152
Desrochers	65	58
Saint-Christophe	57	65
Publique du Nord	64	80
Total	2 510	2 524

Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Exam Results

The Board was informed of the results for the Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams for the 2007-2008 school year. The summary for grades 3, 6 and 9 indicate:

- Students achieved the “acceptable” standard on 7/11 tests, the standard of “excellence” on 5/11 tests and achieved above provincial average on 9/11 tests.
- Grade 3 results in Math and English were lower than in the last five years.
- Grade 6 students achieved the “acceptable” standard in five subjects and the standard of “excellence” in 3/11 tests.
- For the first time, grade 3 students wrote *Français 3*, but Alberta Education will not be releasing results before October 2010. The reason given by the department is that the test was not challenging enough for students and, as a result, the provincial average was considered too high.
- The participation rate for *Centre-Nord* was higher than the provincial average: 99% vs. 95.8%.
- The 82.8% average for 10 subjects in grades 3-6-9 is the best combined result in the past five years and is higher than the provincial average of 77.3%.

The summary of Diploma Exam results indicate:

- Grade 12 students achieved the “acceptable” standard and attained results higher than the provincial average on 3/10 exams. Students achieved the standard of “excellence” on 2/11 exams.
- The 82.2% average for all grade 12 exams is the lowest achieved in the past five years and lower than the provincial average of 85.8%.
- The participation rate is very high, 47.6% compared to 32.1% for the province, and serves to explain why the district’s overall average is lower than the provincial average.

Accountability Pillar Results

The Board received the results of the Accountability Pillar as reported by Alberta Education for 2007-2008.

The Centre-Nord results are far better this year. In the seven categories identified by the department, the Board improved in four: 1. Safe and Caring Schools; 2. Student Learning Opportunities; 2. Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship; 4. Continuous Improvement. Moreover, the Board maintained its results in three categories: 1. Student Learning Achievement Grades K-9; 2. Student Learning Achievement grades 10-12; 3. Parental Involvement.

Government of Alberta Child Care Modular Initiative

The Board was pleased to learn that its request to open a day care facility adjacent to École La Mission in St. Albert had been approved by Child and Family Services, Edmonton Region. The Board will acquire a modular unit and the day care program will be operated by the *Centre d'expérience préscolaire et parascolaire* (CEPP) and will be able to accommodate 17 preschool children with priority given to toddlers from 18 to 36 months old.

A similar request has been made for École La Prairie in Red Deer.

Lodging in Fort McMurray

The Board will apply to obtain property rights on three housing units in Fort McMurray at the cost of \$40,000 each through the Wood Buffalo Housing

and Development Corporation.

The Corporation started construction on a new apartment building in the Timberlea Landing Meadow Creek Village, a 350 unit project to be completed by October 2009. This investment allows the Board to house renters for a determined period of time. Once available, the Board could sell the house it purchased last June to accommodate new employees due to the lack of housing in the area. This year, three teachers from École Boréal, two with families, are leasing space in the Board's house.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Laurent Bolduc who will receive the *Prix Guy-Lacombe - Services à la communauté* award at *Rond Point* in Calgary on October 17.

Congratulations were extended to Colin Oberst, parent of two students at École Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc (Hugo et Isabella Breault-Oberst), and husband of Natalie Breault. Mr. Oberst is the composer of *Canadian Gold*, the new theme for Hockey Night in Canada. M. Oberst won \$100,000.

Next Board Meeting

Exceptionally, the next Board organizational meeting and regular meetings will be held at *La Cité francophone* on Tuesday, November 18 at 7pm.

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