



Points saillants

Réunion du Conseil

November 18, 2008

Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Trustees approved the audited financial statement presented by auditors from King & Company Chartered Accountants. For the fiscal year 2007-2008, a surplus of \$587,278 was recorded on revenues of \$33,139,577 and expenses of \$32,552,299.

The surplus is mostly due to the one-time grant of \$210,000 for the opening of *École publique du Nord*, an increase of \$120,000 for Operations and Maintenance, unanticipated revenue of \$42,000 for the Fort McMurray Cost of Living Allowance (COLA).

Minister's Education Leadership Recognition Award (MELRA)

On November 28th, the Minister of Education will present award certificates to school boards whose annual results demonstrate significant improvement and/or very high achievement in eight categories. Last year, the *Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord* received two honourable mentions, and this year will receive eight in the following categories:

- Diploma Examination Participation Rate was **Very High** in 2006, 2007 and 2008, resulting in an overall evaluation of **Excellent** in all three years.
- High School Completion Rate was **High** in 2006 and 2007, and **Very High** in 2008, resulting in an overall evaluation of **Excellent** in 2008.
- Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate has been **High** for the past three years, resulting in an overall evaluation of **Good**.
- Transition Rate was **Very High** and **Improved** in 2008, resulting in an overall evaluation of **Excellent**.
- Safe and Caring was **Very High** with an overall evaluation of **Excellent** in 2008.
- Work Preparation was **Very High** with an overall evaluation of **Excellent** in 2008.
- Education Quality was **High** with an overall evaluation of **Good** in 2008.

- Citizenship was **High** and **Improved** in 2008, resulting in an overall evaluation of **Good**.

School Year Calendar 2009-2010

The calendar for the 2009-2010 school year was approved in principle. The main elements are: staff starts August 25; students start Monday, August 31, K-9; students finish Friday, June 25; high school students finish Monday June 28; last day for teachers, June 30.

Class Size Initiative

Every year, the Alberta Education asks school authorities to post on their website the average student/teacher ratio per category and per school. The Board has met and exceeded the recommended class size in three categories, but as with the majority of school boards, the average class size for K-3 is slightly higher than the recommended average due to the very small classes in schools outside Edmonton. Still, since the inception of class size funding in 2005/2005, the Board has reached, for the first time, the lowest class sizes in grades K-3.

Results from past three years and Alberta Commission on Learning recommended guidelines

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	Recommended
K-3	19.1	19.2	17.9	17
4 - 6	19.3	19.9	18.2	23
7 - 9	20.5	20.0	17.8	25
10 - 12	21.2	17.2	19.3	27

Regional Skills Centres

The Board adopted, in principle, a motion to participate in a feasibility study for the eventual establishment of the Heartland Skills Centre in the Edmonton/Sherwood Park/Fort Saskatchewan region.



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École La Prairie (Red Deer)

A new modular classroom will be moved and installed in early January. The project is estimated at \$167,874 for construction and \$81,788 for installation.

On December 2, the superintendent, accompanied by officials from Alberta Infrastructure and Education, will visit École La Prairie.

Government of Alberta Child Care Modular Initiative

Child and Youth Services, Region 6 has approved the Board's request for a modular Modus unit to be installed at École La Mission next May or June. A committee comprised of representatives from the Board, the *Fédération des parents francophones de l'Alberta*, the *Institut Guy-Lacombe de la famille*, the *Boîte à surprises* preschool, and the *Centre d'expérience préscolaire et parascolaire* (CEPP) will see to the establishment of the daycare at École La Mission. The modular unit will be the property of the school district, but the daycare's program will be the responsibility of CEPP.

The daycare service will be provided for francophone children in a modular unit intended for 17 preschool aged children with priority given to toddlers 18 to 26 months old.

The Board is waiting for an official answer from the Red Deer Child and Youth Services Region where a second modular unit could be installed at École La Prairie.

School Bus Safety 2008-2009

The Alberta government announced a 10-point action plan following the recommendations in a report on improving school bus safety. The top two recommendations must be implemented before March 31 2009:

1. Flashing amber lights will be mandatory on all school buses whenever the eight light (red and amber) warning system is required to be used. 2. Strobe lights will be a requirement for all buses whenever the eight light (red and amber) warning system is required to be used.

Funding Plan for Infrastructure Maintenance and Renovation

Trustees were informed of the Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal budget submitted to Alberta Education, representing an investment of \$955,040 in the school board's buildings.

Revised Budget

The Board approved the revised budget for 2008-2009 based on official enrolment numbers on September 30, 2008.

Policies

The Board mandated administration to accept the offer made by the Western Communities Foundation to equip its schools with defibrillators, to train staff and to develop a policy on the use of defibrillators in schools.

The Foundation provides, free of charge, automated external defibrillators to interested schools. Alberta Education fully supports this initiative.

Policy G-7230 – Denunciation – adopted at second reading.

Important dates:

The next regular Board meeting will be held at La Cité francophone on Monday, December 15 at 7p.m.