



Board Highlights

Regular Meeting of the Board

December 15, 2008

For immediate distribution and publication

Minister's Education Leadership Recognition Award (MELRA)

Dumont accepted the MELRA awards presented by the Minister of Education, Dave Hancock.

On November 28th, school board trustees Claude Duret, Karen Doucet, Martin Blanchet, Fred Kreiner and Paul

The trustees praised school leadership teams for their excellent work that led to the Board's recognition in nine categories:

- Safe and Caring was **Very High** with an overall evaluation of **Excellent** in 2008.
- High School Completion Rate was **High** in 2006 and 2007, and **Very High** in 2008, resulting in an overall evaluation of **Excellent** in 2008.
- Diploma Examination Participation Rate was **Very High** in 2006, 2007 and 2008, resulting in an overall evaluation of **Excellent** in all three years.
- Transition Rate was **Very High** and **Improved** in 2008, resulting in an overall evaluation of **Excellent**.
- Work Preparation was **Very High** with an overall evaluation of **Excellent** in 2008.
- **Very High Achievement** in Fine Arts
- **Significant Improvement** in High School Completion Rate (3 yr)
- **Significant Improvement** in Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ Exams)
- **Significant Improvement** in Practical Arts

Individual Jurisdiction Results – Severe Disabilities Profile Review

Trustees were informed of Alberta Education's ministerial report «Severe Disabilities Profile Review» whose purpose was to determine if jurisdictions were conforming to provincial policy with regard to the documentation concerning «special needs» students. Following a request under FOIPP, every school jurisdiction obtained their results as to whether or not they were conforming to the severe disabilities profile provincial policy.

Trustees praised Michelle Tardif, school leadership teams and special educators for their excellent work as 97% of their files conformed to provincial policy. Only two other school boards performed as well.

Transfer of responsibilities for technical support and services

Trustees approved a transition plan for the transfer of responsibilities in the area of technical support and services from WorkingNet to the school board for April 1, 2009 at the latest.

The superintendent explained that at this stage of the board's evolution, it would be better to move the technical support and services team into Board's team.

The new position, Director of technical services, has been announced. The Board will announce 2-3 job postings for technicians as Board employees in the near future.

School calendar 2009-2010

The school calendar for 2009-2010 has been approved.

The Minister of Education has asked school authorities to start the school year earlier in order to maximise high school student participation at WorldSkills which will be held in Calgary from September 1 to 7, 2009. The Board will send some 200 students from grades 9 to 12 to WorldSkills on Thursday, September 3rd.

Highlights of the 2009-2010 calendar are:

- ◆ August 25 – First day for teachers
- ◆ August 28 – Staff opening day at École publique Gabrielle-Roy
- ◆ August 31 août – First day for students
- ◆ November 11-12-13 – Fall break
- ◆ December 21 to January 1 – Christmas vacation
- ◆ February 4-5 – Teachers' Convention
- ◆ March 29 to April 5 – Spring and Easter break
- ◆ June 25 – Last day for students K-9
- ◆ June 28 – Last day for students 10-12
- ◆ June 30 – Last day for teachers
- ◆ Each school will choose a date for a Professional development day for teachers.

Grade level of achievement results

The board has received the analysis of the 2007-2008 Grade level of achievement results for grades 1 to 9 in English, French and Math. Teachers use their professional judgment to determine whether students meet, are above or below expectations for their grade level achievement.

Caroline Boudreault named vice-principal of École Boréal

The Board ratified the superintendent's recommendation to name Caroline Boudreault vice-principal for a one-year probationary term. She will be assigned to École Boréal for the 2008-2009 school year.

École La Prairie (Red Deer)

Trustees mandated administration to explore leasing options with Chinook's Edge SD for space at River Glen School to accommodate francophone students from grades 7 to 11 in 2009-2010.

Catholic High School (St. Albert)

The Board mandated administration to initiate talks with Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools to explore the possibility of opening a starter school at the high school level based on a Tri-Campus model.

Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta

After a long wait, the Minister of Education has finally approved the request from the province's five francophone school boards to fund a bank of questions for students and teachers. The federation will receive \$1,288,000 over three years to hire an education consultant and assistant to lead this initiative to the benefit of all 32 francophone schools in Alberta.

Our school district has already collected around 4,000 questions to contribute to this project.

Alberta government child care initiative

Child and Youth Services, Red Deer region, has officially declined the Board's request for a child care modular at École La Prairie. The Board will resubmit a proposal next April.

Superintendent's report

This year, the five francophone school boards in Alberta will take part in the professional development project for school leaders: «Moving and Improving: Building System Leadership Capacity: Towards an Alberta Framework». Nine anglophone school boards and five francophone boards (acting as one entity) will work within the leadership project framework offered by the College of Alberta

School Superintendents. Nine of our school principals are involved with this project.

Education Minister Dave Hancock is the promoter of a youth consultation initiative: « Alberta Education Student Engagement Initiative: Speak Out - Regional Forum ». École Maurice-Lavallée will host the only French public forum for around fifty students

from Gabrielle-Roy and Maurice-Lavallée on Wednesday, Feb.4.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting of the *Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord* will be held January 13, 2009, exceptionally, in St.Albert.

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