



# Board Highlights

Regular Meeting of the Board

June 23, 2009

For immediate distribution and publication

## **Budget 2009-2010**

The Board approved the budget for the 2009-2010 school year. The budget is based on projected enrolments of 2,525 students. Teaching staff increases from 188.8 to 196.36 full-time positions, support staff decreases from 67 to 62 and custodial staff increases from 19 to 22 because of the opening of two new schools. Finally, revenues will increase from \$35.1 million to \$37.4 million resulting in an projected deficit of \$716,000.

## **School fees 2009-2010**

The Board approved school fees for 2009-2010: \$85 for kindergarten, \$65 for elementary, \$105 for junior high and \$115 for high school. Depending on the options selected by high school students, there may be additional fees for music, outdoor education, home economics and industrial arts. These rates remain unchanged since 1998.

## **Business plan 2009-2012**

The Board approved the district's Three-year Education Plan for 2009-2012. It is posted on the Board's website [www.csrcn.ab.ca](http://www.csrcn.ab.ca)

## **Alexandre-Taché and Joseph-Moreau schools**

The Board will take possession of Ritchie School on July 1. The principal of École Joseph-Moreau, Marc Potvin, was delighted to report that approximately 120 families visited the school during two open houses held June 16 and 17.

The Board is anxiously awaiting Minister Hancock's response concerning two important decisions: 1) the Minister's long-term financial support for the upgrading of École Joseph-Moreau at \$400,000 and École Alexandre-Taché at \$800,000; 2) the Minister's authorization to proceed with sole source tendering for the renovations at the Youville Centre for École Alexandre-Taché.

## **Appointment of school administrators**

The Board ratified the superintendent's recommendation to appoint Nicole Payette principal for a four-year term. She has been principal at École La Prairie since 1996.

The Board ratified the superintendent's recommendation to appoint Lucille Damer (École Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc) and Dennis Ralston (École Père-Lacombe) assistant principals for a two-year term.

## **Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Origin Influenza Virus)**

The superintendent reported that Alberta Health confirmed a case of Influenza A H1N1 at École Maurice-Lavallée, late in the afternoon of June 19. The parents were informed by telephone and by letter on June 22. The next day, the school was informed that the student, still anonymous based on health policy regulations, was no longer contagious.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is not recommending the closure of schools at this time, even if a confirmed case of H1N1 Influenza Virus is identified. To prevent the spread of the virus, the Agency recommends

health safety precautions such as washing hands frequently and staying at home if fever or cough is present in a child.

### **High School Completion Framework**

**Recently, Alberta Education announced the High School Completion Framework, a new grant of \$4.2 million to motivate students to stay in school and to increase the high school completion rate.**

**All school boards will receive \$55,000 plus \$5/student grades 10 to 12; the CSCN will receive approximately \$56,925.**

Presently in Alberta, the completion rate after five years is 79.5 %; the Province is aiming for 82% by 2012.

### **Follow-up to meeting with Conservative Party MLAs**

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Ken Kowalski, as well as ministers Hector Goudreau and Dave Hancock, wrote to the trustees thanking them for their visit with a dozen MLAs last April 15. They say they are open to considering the Board's recommendation to include "first right of transfer of closed public and catholic schools" and to create a distinct queue for infrastructure projects submitted by francophone authorities.

### **Moving and Improving: Building System Leadership Capacity Initiative**

Congratulations to Nicole Bugeaud, assistant superintendent, who managed this training program for nine school administrators. The principals from Centre-Nord participated in a

series of training workshops offered by educational experts considered as being among the most authoritative in the educational field in Canada: Ben Levin, deputy minister of Education in Ontario; Michael Fullan and Ken Leithwood from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE).

### **Bill 44**

Board chair, Claude Duret, sent a letter to Premier Ed Stelmach to inform him of his reservations concerning Bill 44, now adopted despite opposition voiced by the ATA, the ASBA, CASS and all school boards in the province.

### **Superintendent's report**

Congratulations to Kamal Touisse, graduate from École Gabrielle-Roy, who will receive one of the University of Alberta's most valuable and prestigious scholarships, the *Scholastic Distinction A Chancellor's Entrance Citation* valued at over \$15,000.

Congratulations to Rita Hébert, principal, and staff at École Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc on receiving the award for Excellence in Inclusive Education 2009 from the Autism Society of Edmonton Area.

### **Next Board meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on August 25, at 7 p.m. at La Cité francophone.

