



Board Highlights

Regular Meeting of the Board

October 19, 2009

For immediate distribution and publication

Official enrolments at September 30, 2009

To better understand why the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord had a substantial decrease in enrolment for the first time since its establishment 15 years ago, two reports were tabled: a quantitative report illustrating the causes of these losses and where students went, and a qualitative report resulting from answers and suggestions made by over 200 employees expressing their perception of the decline and the means to rectify the situation in the future.

Notwithstanding the students who transferred to other district schools, the Board lost 339 students but recruited 200 new students resulting in a net loss of 126 students.

Schools	Sept. 30 2008	Estimated	Sept. 30 2009
Citadelle	110	112	118
Boréal	97	81	77
La Prairie	141	153	126
Notre-Dame	221	225	217
Père-Lacombe	248	230	246
Gabrielle-Roy	335	353	308
Ste-Jeanne-d'Arc	395	389	396
Maurice-Lavallée	630	316	292
La Mission	152	110	118
Desrochers	58	70	51
Saint-Christophe	65	68	68
À la Découverte	72	72	54
Alexandre-Taché		49	78
Joseph-Moreau		297	248
Total	2 524	2 525	2 396

75 students in our preschools have been identified as having needs, 15 special needs and 63 in *francisation*.

Alberta Education budget cuts

Trustees examined the positive and negative effects of provincial cuts on the Centre-Nord's budget for 2009-2010.

Relative Cost of Purchasing Goods and Services	- 35 699\$
Socio-Economic Status	+18 345\$
Fuel Price Contingency	-103 048\$
Fiscal correction (portion of accumulated surplus)	-322 352\$
Total Impact of Budget Cuts	-442 754\$
Projected Budget Deficit 2009-2010	-716 000\$
-126 students	-1 400 000\$
Start-up Joseph-Moreau & Alexandre-Taché	-1 200 000\$
* Enrolment Growth/Decline Grant	500 000\$
Anticipated 2009-2010	-3 258 754\$
Accumulated Operating Surplus	+3 600 000
Estimated Remaining Surplus	
August 31, 2010	341 246\$
* One-time grant	

On October 15, the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and Alberta School Board's Association (ASBA) launched a provincial campaign to « Stop the Cuts » in education. It seems likely that Government will cut education funding by \$400 million next year, not counting the \$80 million already cut this year.

Average Weekly Earnings Index

Given that school authorities in Alberta did not approve the Alberta Teachers' Association's request for a 5.99% wage increase, they each received grievances from the ATA. However, the ATA asked the authorities if they would agree not to exercise their right to go to

arbitration individually because of the strong possibility of an agreement between the Province and the ATA to try to settle the question at the provincial level. The Province maintains its position that the increase should be 4.82% and not 5.99% as the ATA is demanding.

Satisfaction surveys 2008-2009

Trustees reviewed the results of the school surveys administered in June, 2009. The results are from students in grades 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, parents and teachers. Trustees will take these results into consideration during their planning retreat on November 27 and 28.

Accountability Pillar Results

Alberta Education reports annually in two major categories for school authorities : 1. Qualitative results from student and parent surveys from grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers; 2. Quantitative results from tests, exams, fact reports, etc.

Alberta Education summarizes hundreds of pages of results into seven categories and attributes, giving an overall evaluation for each. The Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord has an overall « good » evaluation in the following categories: Safe and Caring Schools; Preparation for Lifelong Learning and an overall « acceptable » evaluation in the following categories: High Quality Learning Opportunities for All; Excellence in Learner Outcomes; Highly Responsive and Responsible.

Superintendent evaluation

The Board ratified the annual evaluation of the superintendent as submitted by the trustees. It was the first time the Board opened the evaluation process by sending evaluation forms to 12 district employees and 12 members of the francophone and greater community. 19 respondents completed the questionnaire.

Henri Lemire awarded excellence in education

Board chair Claude Duret congratulated superintendent Henri Lemire on receiving the ACFA's (Alberta's French-Canadian Association) excellence in education award for 2009.

Influenza H1N1 Virus

At the end of September, the deputy minister of Education provided updated guidelines the Pandemic H1N1

www.education.alberta.ca/admin/healthandsafety/h1n1.aspx.

The *Administrators' Package* documents include important new information, and specifically changes to school influenza surveillance from Alberta Health Services with the following changes in surveillance and protocols:

- Testing of individual mild flu cases will not be completed due to the strain on health resources.
- Schools will no longer be notified of individual cases of H1N1 in their student and staff populations.
- School administration staff is asked to notify Alberta Health Services if there is greater than 10 per cent absenteeism due to illness in the school setting. Public Health will investigate and recommend preventive measures to the school in these cases.
- Public Health staff will work with school authorities to notify the school community about the incidence level of influenza.

Superintendent's report

Agreement with Franco/ACFA provinciale: Beginning at the end of October, all Centre-Nord families will receive a free subscription to the weekly newspaper *Le Franco* until the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Articles and pictures from schools comprise a 4-page monthly insert. This initiative is part of an

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important aspect of the mission of francophone schools: cultural identity.

Daycare in St. Albert: The daycare, under CEPP management, started operating September 14 with 15 children.

Next Board meeting

The next regular Board meeting will be held at École Joseph-Moreau on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at 7pm.

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