



Board Highlights

Regular Meeting of the Board

February 9, 2010

For immediate distribution and publication

Notice of school closure for École À la Découverte

Some parents were present and expressed their views in favour of keeping école À la Découverte next year. Trustees explained that a parent information and consultation meeting is being held at the school on February 11 at 7:30 p.m. The intent of this preliminary meeting is to gauge the current level of support for the school by the parent community. Trustees reminded parents that last month's motion to begin the school closure process does not represent a final decision of the Board.

2010-2011 School calendar

The Board approved the 2010-2011 school calendar. Calendar highlights are:

- ◆ August 26 – First day for teachers
- ◆ August 27 – Staff opening day at Gabrielle-Roy
- ◆ August 30 – Professional Development Day for Teachers
- ◆ August 31 – First day for students
- ◆ November – 10-11-12 – Fall break
- ◆ December 23 to January 4 – Christmas vacation
- ◆ February 10-11 – Teachers' Convention
- ◆ March 28 to April 1 – Spring Break
- ◆ April 22 – Good Friday
- ◆ April 25 – Easter Monday
- ◆ June 28 – Last day for students
- ◆ June 29 – Last day for teachers

School board elections

The Board decided not to hold an advance poll prior to the school board elections on October 18, 2010.

Ad hoc committee on casinos

The first meeting of the ad hoc committee on casinos was held on February 2. The committee is made up of trustees Claude Duret, Martin Blanchet and Paul Dumont, as well as three parents, Simone Désilets from Maurice-Lavallée, Mélanie Méthot from Père-Lacombe and Tom Sutton from La Mission.

School leases

Alberta Education approved the following school leases: Ritchie School – EPSB (École Joseph-Moreau), \$357,296; Jasper Legion – (École Desrochers), \$92,761; Centre scolaire communautaire de Legal (École Citadelle), \$58,734; Youville Centre in St. Albert (École Alexandre-Taché), \$110,023.

Lease agreements for St. Patrick (École À la Découverte) and GYRD (École Desrochers) are not finalized.

Superintendent's report

Congratulations to the PANTHÈRES from École Joseph-Moreau : Zoë Boisvert, Yves Dempsey, Émanuelle Dubbeldam, Cameron French, James Hryniw, Kasandra Langlois, Nathan Liebrecht, Alida Soto and Nicholas Westbury. Last January 23, the team won the overall prize among 24 teams at the First Lego League competition at NAIT. Thanks to this prestigious prize, the PANTHÈRES will have the honour of representing Alberta at the international competition in Atlanta, Georgia in April. Special congratulations go to their robotics option class teacher Annie Dansereau and to Michel Gariépy, her mentor from École Maurice-Lavallée.

Charles Balenga, director of Christian Immigrant Support Services (CISSI), a non-profit organization affiliated with Ellerslie Baptist Church, and Centre-Nord have concluded an agreement allowing adult volunteers to help students with their homework, encouraging them to pursue their studies and to become independent learners. The program targets certain students in grades 3 to 6 at École Père-Lacombe, once or twice a week.

Congratulations to district schools that have raised over \$13,000 in donations for the Sœurs de Sainte-Croix and Red Cross to aid Haïti.

Alberta Weekly Average Index (AWAI)

The disagreement between the Province and the Alberta Teachers' Association has been resolved through arbitration. The conclusion is that the agreement between the two parties must be respected as initially negotiated. Consequently, teachers will receive a 5.99% pay increase retroactive to September 1, 2009. The remaining portion of the retroactive

increase will be paid in March. What remains unclear is whether school authorities will have to assume this cost in their own budgets. For Centre-Nord, this represents an expense of about \$171,000. Next year, the AWAI will be about 3.2%. Then again, Centre-Nord will have to await the government decision on whether or not school authorities will be reimbursed. The cost difference would add some \$500,000 to the Board's 2010-2011 projected deficit.

Next meeting and events

The next regular board meeting of the *Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord* will be held on Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. at La Cité francophone. Exceptionally, the April meeting will be held on Monday, April 12.

Official opening of École Alexandre-Taché on April 21 at 7 p.m.

Official opening of École Joseph-Moreau on April 27 at 7 p.m.



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