



# Board Highlights

## Regular Meeting of the Board

December 14, 2010

For immediate distribution and publication

### Satisfaction surveys 2009-2010

Trustees reviewed the satisfaction survey results of May and June, 2009. The results and written comments were obtained from students in grades 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, parents and teachers.

### Disposition of Property

Recently, the provincial government amended the Disposition of Property Regulation which clarifies the question of *reserved* land and the transfer of closed schools. The regulation stipulates that school boards must have a policy to determine whether school buildings and/or land exceed their needs. Henceforth, it will be easier for the government to identify which surplus lands could be used for other public education needs, and thus more easily transferred to another school jurisdiction. If school districts don't find any public education use, the buildings and lands could be used for other needs.

### Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta

The Federation asked Josée Devaney, secretary-treasurer, to attend the first meeting of the ministerial Advisory Committee for Utilisation Formula. The goal of the committee is to review the utilization formula for calculating space in Alberta schools.

### Archbishop Smith and catholic school board chairs committee of the Edmonton diocese

At the most recent meeting between Archbishop Smith and the 10 Chairs of the Edmonton diocese catholic school boards, committee members discussed the sacramental preparation of students for First communion, First reconciliation and Confirmation. Parishes and parents have the main responsibility for preparing students for these sacraments; however, there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of students receiving sacraments.

Centre-Nord trustees studied an internal survey completed by the 11 catholic school principals that reveals predominating factors explaining the decrease in sacramental reception: 1) parents' negative experience with the Church 2) non-practising or disengaged catholic parents 3) parents not comfortable with the priest/parish.

As possible solutions, principals suggest: 1) parishes becoming more dynamic, welcoming and friendly 2) schools should play a bigger role between the family and the parish 3) have catechists prepare the children when the parents cannot.

### École Gabrielle-Roy

After four months of waiting, the exterior and interior work is almost complete and students will have access to the gym in early January.

### École Alexandre-Taché

The superintendent was invited by Alexandre-Taché's school council to provide an update on the future of their school. Parents are worried that the eventual construction of a school will have to wait after the completion of the Board's top priorities, which are new schools in Jasper and Red Deer. Parents worry that students will become discouraged and abandon the francophone system. They don't like that the school lacks a gymnasium and that grades 7-9 students have to go to École La Mission while grades 10 and 11 to St. Albert HS for physical education. Otherwise, the parents are very satisfied with the school and staff.

### Plant Operations and Maintenance

At the request of Centre-Nord's administration, the School Finance Branch, Alberta Education revised the POM grant increasing its contribution by \$278,653 resulting in a new budget of \$2,968,975.

**Next Board meeting**

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



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