



# Board Highlights

## Organizational Board Meeting

May 17, 2011

### Parent subcommittee for acquisition of equivalent school – Alexandre-Taché

A delegation of eight parents whose children attend or will be attending École Alexandre-Taché (St. Albert) met with trustees to emphasize the importance of acquiring a junior/senior francophone high school on a permanent site in St. Albert. They claim the right to a school equivalent to that provided to students of the majority.

The parent Ad hoc committee has begun meeting MLAs and the Mayor, has written to the Minister of Education, written articles for local newspapers and is proposing a Town Hall meeting with parents, MLAs and trustees in October.

### Preliminary budget 2011-2012

Trustees reviewed the preliminary budget for the 2011-2012 school year. The projected deficit is \$ 1.1 million with deficits in all departments. According to estimates, the accumulated surplus will be \$650,000 on August 31, 2012, unless the Board is reimbursed \$ 1.8 million by Alberta Education for the opening of École Joseph-Moreau and École Alexandre-Taché. The chair and vice-chair will be meeting Minister Dave Hancock on this matter in June.

### Possible sale of land adjacent to École Notre-Dame

The Board mandated administration to explore the possibility of selling the land adjacent to École Notre-Dame to the City of Edmonton, which is considering the 2.66 acre site for the possible construction of a new fire station replacing the one presently located directly south-west of the school.

For immediate distribution and publication

### Bill 18 (Education Act)

The Board received Bill 18 which will likely replace the current School Act. Minister Hancock explained that the bill was adopted at first reading; second and third readings will not be voted on until the fall or spring 2012.

The former School Act underwent a major rewrite in 1988. Over the last three years, the government has actively consulted with Albertans on the future of education through several key initiatives that have helped shape Bill 18.

The preliminary reaction of trustees is that the content coincides with the legislative gains for francophone education and clarifies the management model of blended boards.

Citizens can participate in a forum (<http://www.education.alberta.ca/engage>) on transforming public education. . Moreover, a pamphlet on Bill 18, is available at <http://education.alberta.ca/department/policy/education-act.aspx>

### Janitorial contract at École Citadelle (Legal)

The Board mandated administration to sign a one-year contract for janitorial services at École Citadelle with the sole bidder, Jacques Martel or his representative. Mr. Martel is married to school trustee Ginette Martel. Accordingly, the other trustees are responsible for approving the contract and Mrs. Martel knowingly declared her pecuniary interest and will withdraw from any discussion that could impact the contract.

### **École Desrochers**

Grande Yellowhead Regional Division has established a process to consult the residents of Jasper regarding their request to exchange two sites for the possible construction of a new school, Jasper Jr / Sr HS - Desrochers. Paul Dumont, chair, and Henri Lemire, superintendent, attended an information meeting on May 16. Trustees Laurent Bolduc, Kevin Bell and Karen Doucet will participate in an evening of presentations and discussions on May 30. Finally, the Town will hold a plebiscite on June 13.

### **École À la Découverte**

The Board received a formal response from EPSB that it can lease space in Kensington School (13410-119 Street). Next year, École À la Découverte will occupy some exclusive spaces at the school, including administration, secretarial, four classrooms, an activity room, staff lounge and a multi-use office. The two schools will share a library, gymnasium and playground.

Soon, principal Mireille Prevost will invite parents to visit the school, meet the staff, explain the procedures for the next school year and answer questions regarding the move.

### **FCSFA (Federation of francophone school boards in Alberta)**

The FCSFA will participate in a consultative process and discussions led by Heritage Canada to prepare the next Protocol agreement for minority language education and second language education (2013-2014 to 2017-2018).

### **Michel Lapointe**

Congratulations to Michel Lapointe, K & E teacher at École Maurice-Lavallée, who received the Award of Excellence in Catholic Education from the Council of Alberta Catholic School Superintendents. The award recognizes the efforts of teachers who model catholic values, who motivate students and help them grow spiritually, and who have a thorough knowledge of the curriculum and teachings of the Catholic church.

### **Next Board meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at La Cité francophone on Tuesday, June 21 at 7 p.m.

