



Board Highlights

Organizational Board Meeting

June 21, 2011

For immediate distribution and publication

New schools for Jasper and Red Deer

The Board extended thanks to Premier Stelmach, Minister of Education Dave Hancock, Minister of Infrastructure Ray Danyluk, the Chair of the Francophone Secretariat Hector Goudreau and MLAs Robin Campbell, Cal Dallas, Mary Anne Jablonski, Luke Ouellette and Raymond Prins, for their individual and collective roles in approving the construction of new francophone schools in Jasper and Red Deer.

In Jasper, the province will build a 200-student K-12 school jointly with Jasper Jr/Sr HS, a 7-12, 375-student school. Additional funding has been allocated for construction costs related to distance and to meet Parks Canada architectural standards.

On June 13, the Town of Jasper conducted a plebiscite to exchange land belonging to Grande Yellowhead RD with Town land used as an off-leash. Citizens voted 60% in favor of the land swap, a critical decision enabling the Boards to build the joint schools on their preferred site.

The Boards will be consulted on the design at the following completion stages: 20%, 60% and 90%.

The tentative construction schedule for École Desrochers is: August 2011, the Province retains the services of a bridging architect; October 2011, presentation of initial design and community consultation; winter 2011, completed design; spring 2012, tenders; June 2012, construction begins; August 2014, completion.

There will be a second budget of 9% from Alberta Education for furnishings and a third unspecified budget for purchasing equipment for Career and Technology Studies.

In Red Deer, the new school will be a public-private partnership (P3), leaving little opportunity for stakeholder consultation. The Board has to identify an appropriate site to build the school as the present school site is deemed too small. The

construction schedule is undetermined, but completion is August 2014.

2011-2012 Budget

The Board adopted its budget for the 2011-2012 school year. Revenues will be \$39.8 million, expenses \$40.8 million resulting in a projected deficit of \$973,982. The accumulated surplus will be reduced to \$650,000 by August 31, 2012, unless the Province refunds \$1.6 million for École Joseph-Moreau and École Alexandre-Taché.

Minister Hancock acknowledged that eight school authorities were hardest hit by the education cuts. As a result, North Central will receive an additional \$135,000 to lower its deficit.

Meeting with the Minister Hancock

On June 9, Paul Dumont and Laurent Bolduc met with the Minister of Education and the Chair of the Francophone Secretariat, Minister Hector Goudreau, to seek reimbursement from Alberta Education for leasehold improvements of \$504,854 to open École Joseph-Moreau and \$1,106,794 to open École Alexandre-Taché. Although the meeting was positive, Minister Hancock did not commit to the funding request.

Board chair will again write to Minister Hancock reminding Government of its commitments and obligations regarding francophone education.

Appointment of school administrators

The Board ratified the superintendent's recommendations for school principals:

- Hélène Gendron at École Desrochers for a probationary one-year term from August 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012.
- Marcel Ouellette at École Alexandre-Taché for a four-year term from August 1, 2011 to August 31, 2015.

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- Jean Doyon at École La Prairie for a four-year term from August 1, 2011 to August 31, 2015.
- Brigitte Kropielnicki as Director of the Réseau d'adaptation scolaire for a four-year term from August 1, 2011 to August 31, 2015.
- Rita Hebert at École Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc for a four-year term from August 1, 2011 to August 31, 2015.
- Arthur L'Abbé at École Notre Dame for a four-year term from August 1, 2011 to August 31, 2015.

The Board received as information the superintendent's assignment of vice-principals:

- François Bergeron at École Alexandre-Taché for a probationary one-year term.
- Caroline Wainman at École Père-Lacombe for a probationary one-year term.
- Lucille Damer at École Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc renewed for a two-year term.
- Grant Paterson at École La Prairie for a two-year term.

Joint Use Agreement St. Albert

The Board approved the amendment to the St. Albert Reciprocal Use Agreement.

Research group on inter/transcultural and immigration (GRITI)

Professors Paul Dubé, Paulin Mulatris and René Langevin from Campus Saint-Jean met with Edmonton principals to explore the feasibility of a school project on student integration and support for immigrant/migrant students. The researchers believe that challenges common to the host country and newly arrived students raise questions about the factors contributing to inclusive practices.

Principals will continue dialoguing with the professors in order to identify the most relevant issues, prepare draft solutions and common practices. Next year, principals and the educational support team will participate in workshops presented by GRITI.

École À la Découverte

The Board will lease space at Kensington School (13410-119 Street) starting in August 2011, to accommodate École À la Découverte. The Board intends to renovate the space but is awaiting provincial funding.

École Alexandre-Taché (St. Albert)

The construction of a science laboratory, a large classroom and a room for individual instruction will be completed in late June.

Soccer Champions

Congratulations to boys' soccer team coaches at Gabrielle-Roy, Armando Carmona and Doug Lawson, and at Maurice-Lavallée, Pierre Eddie and Ronald Déry, for their students' respective victories in the Edmonton Public Schools league and Metro Edmonton HS Association.

Resignation of Natalie Boutin

Natalie Boutin, behavioral counselor, will be leaving the district in late June to assume a position with Alberta Health (Edmonton) as director of the department of Protection of Children Abusing Drugs.

Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at La Cité francophone on Tuesday, August 23 at 7 p.m.

