

Unofficial enrolments

This year, the Board projected an enrolment increase of 1.1% increase or 2,494 students. As of September 19, there were 2,505 K-12 students with the possibility of a slight increase before the end of September. There were 2,525 students in 2008-2009, 2,396 in 2009-2010 and 2,466 last year.

The increase is most impressive at the kindergarten level. Four years ago, 254 children were enrolled in kindergarten, this year there are 287.

Trustees want to understand the loss of 11 to 12% of its students after kindergarten and after grades 6 and 9. After the official enrolment count of September 30, administration will undertake a thorough analysis of student gains and losses.

New schools in Jasper and Red Deer

The province has provided details on the two types of designs for new schools in Jasper and Red Deer. The first will be Design-Built for 150 to 200 spaces. The second will be a Design-Built-Finance-Maintain (ASAP or P3) for 250 to 300 spaces. In both cases, the structure will be fully managed by Alberta Infrastructure.

The firm Workun Garrick was retained by Alberta Infrastructure for the project in Jasper, while in Red Deer the architectural firm ACI Edmonton will lead the project.

In Jasper, there will be consultation sessions with staff on October 4, and with the parents and public on October 12. In Red Deer, the consultation process is not yet finalized.

The Board submitted a request to the City of Red Deer to build the school on Anders East, the most central site, easily accessible from 32nd Street, with ample space and close to the Colicutt Centre.

Riverbend Point in Fort McMurray

Trustees support in principle the proposed Riverbend Point Development in Fort McMurray as well as proposals to ensure the safe transportation and drop-off of students at École Boréal.

Daon Property Corporation has requested the Board's support for a proposed large development in Fort McMurray, Riverbend Point. Daon Development's development west of Abasand will be home to 10,500 people. The area will be accessed from Abasand Drive past École Boréal. Given that Abasand Drive will be widened to four lanes in front of the school, Daon is committed to creating a school bus drop-off zone for students nearer to the school.

Reimbursement received for École Alexandre-Taché and École Joseph-Moreau

In September 2009, the Board opened two secondary schools: Alexandre-Taché in St. Albert and Joseph-Moreau in south-east Edmonton. Since then, the Board has been trying to recover \$1.8 million invested to open the schools and for leasehold improvements. On August 25, the Minister of Education confirmed a reimbursement of \$629,000 for leasehold improvements at Alexandre-Taché, \$314,000 at Joseph-Moreau and \$116,220 for relocating École À la Découverte to Kensington School, for a total of \$943,000.

Trustees were hoping for a full reimbursement of costs, but are glad to put this matter behind them.

Agreement between the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises (CEF) and the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord (CSCN)

In June 2010, the Board had agreed to explore the feasibility of signing a tuition agreement with Saskatchewan's francophone school authority which opened a preschool to grade 5 francophone program in Lloydminster in 2010-2011. Recently, the departments of Education from Saskatchewan and Alberta individually authorized the two francophone authorities to sign an agreement allowing students residing in Alberta to attend the francophone school

in Lloydminster. The CSCN will receive the Basic Instruction Grant for these students and transfer the funds to Saskatchewan authority according to the terms of the agreement.

École Boréal

Work on the second phase to address water accumulation under the school building is nearing completion. Weeping tiles are being installed around the school. The government allocated \$400,000 for this work and the Board will make up the \$18,884 shortfall.

Next meeting

The organizational meeting of the Board will be held at La Cité francophone on Tuesday, September 20 at 7 p.m., followed by the regular board meeting at 8 p.m.