

Delegation from École À la Découverte school council

President Paraquet Koubemba and three members of the school council submitted a letter to the Board of trustees and made a presentation on their perception of the situation at their school. They are disappointed for not having been consulted on the choice of the Kensington School site, that the school was not fully ready, the lack of adequate access to facilities such as music, art and gym, and the lack of lockers. Mr. Lemire responded that the Board had also experienced frustrations during the summer because of funding confirmation delays from Alberta Education putting Edmonton Public Schools in an impossible situation to complete the work on time. However, Supt. Lemire explained that the Board had already undertaken to correct the items raised by the school council. Paul Dumont, Board chair, added that the Board is committed to improving the facilities and to preparing for more students in the future.

Vice-chair Laurent Bolduc explained that the Board is lacking equivalency with English schools in half of its buildings, which is unfortunate. "The trustees expend a great deal of effort trying to make the government understand the inadequacy of these schools," he said.

Official enrolments

This year, the Board has increased by 45 students (1.8%), 17 more than budgeted. There are 2,511 students from kindergarten to grade 12 compared with 2,466 last year. It is encouraging to note the increase in enrolments in kindergarten from 230 to 290 children in one year.

New school in Jasper

The architect responsible for the initial design of the new school, Robert Rabinovitch, and officials from the departments of Education and Infrastructure, consulted staff for their conception of a school with exclusive and shared spaces. A few days later, Mr. Rabinovitch consulted parents from École Desrochers, and later in the day, parents and members of the public in Jasper. The next step is a brainstorming (design charrette) on October 27

with parents, principals, students, teachers, administrators and elected officials from Centre-Nord and Grande Yellowhead Public Schools.

New school in Red Deer

Since the construction of the new École La Prairie is a P3 partnership, Alberta Infrastructure is responsible for the design and construction, as well as responsible for the acquisition of the Anders East site; the Board is awaiting confirmation from the City of Red Deer.

Recently architect Ron Nemeth from ACI Architecture Inc. consulted with a committee of Red Deer parents and Centre-Nord administrators with respect to the interior design of La Prairie, a school designed for 250 students, including two portables.

The schedule proposed by the government is: December 1, draft design; January 15, final design; February 15, permit application development.

Provincial diploma exam results

Trustees received diploma exam results from January and June 2011. At the grade 3-6-9 levels, results were equal or superior to provincial results in 10 out of 13 tests. In grade 12, the results are above the provincial standard in only two of 10 exams.

Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA)

The Board accepted that ASBA represent its interests in discussions with the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Teachers' Association in order to reach a provincial framework agreement addressing these elements: term school board funding, teachers' salaries, and a mechanism for dispute resolution.

Ad Hoc Committee for the annual conference of Fédération des parents francophones de l'Alberta (FPFA)

The Board invited all 14 school council members to participate in the FPFA conference and attend two workshops specifically designed to allow parents

to dialogue with the seven trustees. Boite d'idées... échange avec le Centre-Nord will take place at La Cité francophone on Saturday, October 29 from 9:45 am to 11:15 am, and 1:30 pm to 3 pm. Elected officials and parent representatives will discuss topics, such as school promotion, cultural-based activities, pre-kindergarten programs, tri-communication among parents/school council/Board.

Request from Paroisse Sainte-Anne

The francophone parish Paroisse Sainte-Anne and Centre-Nord entered into an agreement allowing parishioners to use the school gym at École Notre-Dame starting October 23 for Sunday mass.

Date of next meeting

The next regular meeting will be held at La Cité francophone on November 29 at 5:30 pm.