

Auditor's report for 2010-2011 fiscal year

Trustees approved the audited financial statement presented by King & Company Chartered Accountants. For the 2010-2011 fiscal year, a deficit of \$348,410 was recorded on revenues of \$36,661,951 and expenses of \$37,589,629. The balance of accumulated surpluses to August 31, 2011 is \$2,160,446.

2011-2012 Budget

The Board adopted the updated budget for the current school year, including the reinstatement of \$861,000 received in October 2011 from the \$107 million addition made to the provincial education budget by Prime Minister Allison Redford. The Board reduced its deficit to \$508,400. Given an accumulated surplus of \$2,160,446, the Board does not require ministerial approval to approve its budget.

Students with special needs at March 1, 2011:

- 529 students in francisation
- 322 students in ESL
- 15 preschool children with special needs
- 66 preschool children with special needs in francisation
- 31 preschool children with special needs
- 241 students with special needs

2011-2014 Three-year Education Plan and 2010-2011 Annual Education Report

The Board adopted the 2011-2014 Three-year Education Plan and the 2010-2011 Annual Education Report. The report will be available for consultation on Centre-Nord's website.

Our Children, Our Future: Getting It Right – Bill 18 (Education Act)

The new Minister of Education, Thomas Lukaszuk, continued public discussions on Bill 18, the new Education Act which will be presented to the Legislature in spring 2012. CSCN Chair Paul Dumont, students, parents, teachers and teacher aides participated in forums held in Edmonton, Fort McMurray and Red Deer.

Delegation from École Alexandre-Taché

Nicole Burrows and Tom Sutton, representatives of the parent committee requesting an equivalent high school in St. Albert, presented their concerns to the Board. Their committee has undertaken a series of steps to make government understand that École Alexandre-Taché has seen tremendous growth this year, but that despite the two new classrooms, parents remain concerned about inadequate physical spaces, the lack of a gymnasium and the surroundings at Youville Centre. Committee members want to promote the issue in the St. Albert community through the media. They wrote to the Minister and are proposing to organize a public forum in late February where they plan to invite elected members.

Request for Modus mobile classrooms

Trustees ratified a recommendation to apply for two modular classrooms for École Notre Dame subject to the approval of Alberta Education. The application could be denied given that AE anticipates the construction of only 40 new modulars for 2012-2013.

Minister of Education Thomas Lukaszuk to visit École La Prairie

Minister Lukaszuk has asked to visit École La Prairie on Wednesday, December 7, to meet parents and talk with students. The school has prepared a wonderful program for him.

Meeting with the new Minister of Education Thomas Lukaszuk

On November 18, Board vice-chair Karen Doucet attended a meeting between the Minister and board chairs and superintendents from the Edmonton area. Mrs. Doucet thanked Government for two new schools, the fact that the school gymnasium planned for École La Prairie is too small and the successful implementation of a team of 13 accompagnatrices pédagogiques (pedagogical support team).

New school in Jasper

There are more frequent meetings of the Planning Committee for the building of a new joint school for École Desrochers because the architect must submit a final design to Alberta Infrastructure before January 15. Two additional meetings are planned in December.

CSCN representatives are:

- Laurent Bolduc, vice-chair
- Murray Ostrander, president, school council
- Hélène Gendron, principal
- Marie-Claude Faucher, teacher and former principal
- Ashley Hayes, student
- Richard Amyotte, operations manager
- Henri Lemire, superintendent

New school for La Prairie in Red Deer

Two important elements remain to be addressed in the construction of the new school in Red Deer: the City's approval of the Board requested site and securing a gymnasium meeting the standards for a high school.

For the site, the Board is still requesting Anders East as its first choice, or Aspen Ridge as an alternative. The City of Red Deer is expected to make that determination before the end of February.

For the gym, the Board challenges the Alberta Infrastructure formula whereby École La Prairie is entitled to a 430 m² gym, an area deemed inadequate for a K-12 school with a catchment population of some 150,000 people. A survey of other francophone Authorities found that their new K-12 schools all have gyms of 595 m² or more.

The overall allocation for the new school is 2810 m², but the Board requested the addition of 189 m² to enlarge the gym and to add a mezzanine resulting in a design of 2999 m². Officials calculate the additional space at \$2,828/m², plus 10% for other costs or a total of \$587,941. The Board approved a transfer of \$600,000 from its accumulated surplus to its capital reserves to finance the overage. The Board will undertake to claim funding for this expansion from Alberta Education in recognition of the fact that the area allocated for the gym is less than the usual standard for a high school.

Agreement with Fort McMurray Public Schools

CSCN entered into an agreement with Fort McMurray Public Schools that allows grades 7-9 students to attend McTavish School in 2011-2012, while remaining 'residents' of École Boréal.

École À la Découverte

The superintendent provided an update of work done at the school to meet the terms of an agreement with Edmonton Public School Board as part of École À la Découverte's lease at Kensington School. Most of the work has been completed or will be in the next few weeks.

Date of next meeting

The next regular meeting will be held at La Cité francophone on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 5: 30 p.m.

Dates for upcoming concerts and Christmas activities (December):

- 5 - La Prairie band at 7 pm
- 7 - Alexandre-Taché at 7 pm
- 8 - La Mission at 7 pm
- 11 - Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc choir at St-Thomas at 1:30 pm
- 14 - Boréal at 7 p.m., Notre-Dame at 6:30 pm
- 14 - St. Christophe at 6:30 pm
- 14 - Desrochers
- 15 - Père-Lacombe at 7 pm
- 20 - Citadelle at 5:30 pm
- 20 - La Prairie at 7 pm at Living Stone Church (2020, 40 Avenue, Red Deer)
- 21 - Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc, grand-parents' concert at 1:15 pm
- 22 - Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc, parents' concert at 7 pm
- Jan. 26 - Gabrielle-Roy at 7 pm
- Spring 2012 - Joseph-Moreau et À la Découverte