

Budget 2012-2013

For the first time, Alberta Education has published the budget profile of each school district

<http://www.education.alberta.ca/admin/funding/2012jurisdictionfunding.aspx>

Figures indicated by Alberta Education for Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord provide an overall budget increase of 4.6% compared to the provincial average of 3.5%. This 4.6% increase is based on a projected enrollment growth of 2.2%. The Department allocates \$724,000 for inclusion in recognition that the number of students with special needs has significantly increased, but the grants had been frozen in recent years.

Capital Plan 2013-2016

The Board adopted the 2013-2016 Capital Plan with three main priorities:

1. École Alexandre-Taché (7-12, St. Albert): Build a 7-12 high school in St. Albert to accommodate up to 300 students.
2. École Joseph-Moreau (7-9, Edmonton): Acquire Ritchie School and land from EPSB, modernize the school, including a new east wing, redoing the heating and ventilation, redesigning the administration area and main entrance, and developing a second parking lot west of the gymnasium.
3. École publique Gabrielle Roy (K-12, Edmonton): Request essential modernization to replace the 1951 heating and ventilation systems, building a new main entrance, and refurbishing the administration area and other essential work.

Request for modular classrooms

Since government refused the Board's request for two modular classrooms for École Notre-Dame, the Board mandated administration to request Alberta Infrastructure cover the costs of moving the modular classroom at École La Prairie to École Notre Dame during the summer of 2012.

New school in Red Deer

The City of Red Deer held a public forum on March 5 to hear arguments for and against the Board's request for the redesignation of the Aspen Ridge school site to build the future École La Prairie. The city received 115 responses to its survey of neighborhood residents and more than 95% oppose the new school.

The City of Red Deer must adopt or reject second and third reading of the motion on March 19. In the meantime, the Board unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Being that the Province of Alberta has recognized that the existing École La Prairie must be replaced since it is in poor condition and does not have the functionality to offer good quality secondary programming,

Being that Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord is required to acquire the best possible site for the construction of the École La Prairie,

Being that the City of Red Deer has a legal responsibility under the Municipal Government Act to confer a suitable site for the construction of the new school, and

Being that any delay in approving Conseil's request could significantly delay the construction of the new school and generate additional costs,

Conseil reiterates its decision to request the Aspen Ridge school site for building the new École La Prairie.

Interim 2012-2013 school calendars

The Board adopted the 2012-2013 school calendars in principle. A first round of consultations took place in the schools and a second will take place before the adoption of the calendars by the Board in April.

Reimbursement of costs at École À la Découverte, Alexandre-Taché and Joseph-Moreau

Although Minister Dave Hancock had authorized a refund for these capital projects last August, the release of funds was long overdue. The Board has just received the provincial contribution for these three projects that, in fact, cost about \$1.6 million.

À la Découverte	\$116,220
Alexandre-Taché	\$629,000
Joseph Moreau	\$314,000
TOTAL	\$1,059,220

Grant from Secrétariat francophone (Government of Alberta)

The Board received an \$18,000 grant from Secrétariat francophone to support projects and initiatives for students:

- Participation of 10 youth and three chaperones from Maurice-Lavallée at the International Robotics Competition in St. Louis (Missouri)
- Support towards Gabrielle-Roy's school council for the purchase of playground equipment
- Participation of 100 grades 5-9 students from eight schools in the regional competition of Génies en herbe
- Participation of six district schools in sporting activities on Saturdays
- Support towards École Alexandre-Taché for the implementation of an optional component of the Knowledge and Employability program

Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (FCSFA)

On March 15, directors of the FCSFA will meet Minister Lukaszuk to request three joint studies with the Ministries of Infrastructure and Education: i) future capital expenditures (new schools, major modernizations, additions, etc.); ii) a renewed formula for the equivalence grant; iii) a demographic study on enrollment trends in francophone schools. Board Chair Paul Dumont will participate.

Talks with ACFA Centralta on the lease agreement with Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord

In February, 16 representatives of ACFA (French-Canadian association), the Parish, Village of Legal and Centre-Nord participated in a work session to discuss the future of the Centre scolaire-communautaire and the extension of the lease which expires in July 2012. The parties agreed to form a working committee to explore the formation of a management committee composed of delegates from the ACFA, Village of Legal and Saint-Émile Parish(ex-officio).

École À la Découverte

Board administration continues its efforts to negotiate more space in Kensington School for the 2012-2013 school year to facilitate long-term development of École À la Découverte. The Board would like to develop more exclusive space for francophone students in the north wing, a library, another office and two classrooms.

École Desrochers

The Board adopted a resolution stating its support in principle towards the efforts of the Jasper Sustainability Club for Youth to identify solar and thermal systems for the new École Desrochers/Jasper High School.

Congratulations

Mireille Prévost, principal at École À la Découverte, has announced that she has been chosen as an Field Experiences Associate at Campus Saint-Jean from September 2012 to June 2014. The principalship will be announced shortly.

Congratulations to Lise Hennessy whose nomination was ratified for the Edwin Parr Award of the ASBA. Lise is a beginning teacher at École Citadelle (Legal) and has an outstanding record in her first year of teaching.

Congratulations to Suzanne Foisly-Moquin. The Catholic Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord nominated her for the prestigious Justice James Higgins Award sponsored by the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA). The recipient is an Ontarian.

Congratulations to François Bergeron, assistant principal at École Alexandre-Taché, who was nominated for the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Purchase of wind energy

Following consultations with experts, the Board decided not to participate in the proposed purchase of wind power as presented by the Commodity Purchasing Consortium (CPC). The Board will inform the CPC of its decision. The contributing factor was the Board's unwillingness to sign a 25-year contract.

Next meeting

The next regular meeting will be held at La Cité francophone on Tuesday, April 10 at 5:30 p.m.

A meeting between Board trustees and the presidents of school councils is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.