

Presentation from Gabrielle-Roy school council

The chair of École publique Gabrielle-Roy's school council, Ibrahim Karidio, and the president of the parents' committee, Souleiman Bouraleh, shared their priorities with trustees:

- services to help students with learning difficulties, especially those not pursuing postsecondary studies
- services in language acquisition (francisation and English as an additional language)
- new heating and ventilation system for the school
- new main entrance
- new playground

New school principal at École Maurice-Lavallée

The Board ratified the superintendent's recommendation of appointing Kim St. André-Brady as principal of École Maurice-Lavallée for a one-year probationary term. Ms. St. André-Brady is a native of Girouxville (Alberta), a graduate in Education from the University of Alberta and holds a Masters in Leadership from the University of Portland. Ms. St. André-Brady taught at Maurice-Lavallée from 2001 to 2005. She currently teaches at Beaumont Composite High School where she is head of the French immersion department.

She succeeds Vladimir Pasek who is retiring at the end of the school year.

New school in Red Deer

On March 19, Red Deer City Council unanimously rejected the Board's request for the Aspen Ridge site citing mainly that there would be senior high school students and that their municipal plan does not allow such a configuration. The City is prepared to assist in identifying an alternative site, however the only site that can immediately accommodate a K-12 school is the existing school site.

On April 2, City Council approved \$20,000 to move a rink further east of the school. The Board requested a regular size soccer field once construction is ended. The City also adopted First Reading for the rezoning of school property and surrounding terrain to "Direct

Control District 31" which should speed up the approval process.

Centre-Nord administration continues discussions with the City to address the construction and long-term maintenance of a shared parking lot. Government will fund the construction of the lot.

Trustees stressed the importance of proceeding with the construction on the present school site as soon as possible. It is hoped that the old Kinsmen Hall will be demolished eventually to allow for better configuration of the parking lot. Alberta Infrastructure fully supports the Board's requests and will ensure that the school be included in the ASAP III bundle.

Public hearings will be held April 16 and City Council could adopt the rezoning in the second and third reading at that time.

École Desrochers

Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord (CSCN) and Grande Yellowhead (GYPSD) have submitted a proposal to Parks Canada on how they plan to comply with a federal regulation for staff housing. The study suggests that 14 bedrooms be designated to meet the accommodation requirements based on 2/3 : 1/3 split between the two boards. The criterion can be achieved by building additional housing, buying an existing residence or buying equity shares in the Jasper Community Housing Corporation cooperative development project. If the proposal is accepted by Parks Canada, the boards will provide an initial fee and a 10-year lease for each unit purchased.

The Town of Jasper withdrew its five conditions thus finalizing the land swap with GYPSD

Last December, the Minister of Education met with members of the Jasper Sustainability Club for Youth who are requesting the installation of geothermal heating and voltaic electricity in the new school. Since, Alberta Infrastructure has confirmed that Government will not invest in these initiatives estimated at \$3-4 million.

Talks with ACFA Centralta on the lease agreement for École Citadelle

Following two meetings between Board administrators and representatives of ACFA Centralta, trustees mandated administration to analyze development costs for moving the secretarial area and developing two classrooms in the Legal community centre.

Negotiations for the acquisition of Ritchie School

Edmonton Public Schools will conduct a cost analysis study for the possible demolition of the east wing (1954) of École Joseph-Moreau. The study will be conducted by ACI Architect.

2012-2013 school calendar

The Board adopted the 2012-2013 school calendar:

- August 29, 2012 – First day for teachers
- September 4, 2012 – First day for students
- December 24, 2012 to January 4, 2013 (inclusive) – Christmas Break
- March 25 to April 1, 2013 (inclusive) – Spring Break
- June 27, 2013 – Last day for students
- June 28, 2013 – Last day for teachers

Survey Results: TELL them FROM me

Centre-Nord is participating in a three-year pilot project to implement a new survey sponsored by Alberta Education. The questionnaire was administered to 48,000 students attending 200 to 250 Alberta schools, including Alexandre-Taché, Gabrielle-Roy, Joseph-Moreau and Maurice-Lavallée.

TELL them FROM me is a dynamic web-based survey based on an evaluation system designed to obtain accurate and specific information on student engagement.

Trustees were impressed with this approach on student engagement and hope that the Ministry will continue to subsidize the survey beyond 2013.

Alberta Education grant to design a website for teaching refugee students

Superintendent Lemire explained that he has accepted Alberta Education's offer to undertake the translation, adaptation and design of a website to facilitate the education of refugee students.

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

On March 15, the directors of the Fédération met with Minister Lukaszuk to request three joint studies with the Ministries of Infrastructure and Education: a) future capital projects; b) a renewed formula for equivalence; c) a demographic study on enrollment trends in francophone schools.

The Fédération wrote to the Minister of Education thanking him for correcting the issue of voting rights and candidacy rights, and his intent to include them in the proposed amendments to the new Education Act. Unfortunately, with the announcement of the provincial general election, Bill 2 died on the order paper.

Excellence in Catholic Education Award

Congratulations to Dennis Ralston, teacher at Père-Lacombe, appointed who will receive this distinction from the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta.

Sports-study program at École La Mission

Claude Viel, principal, confirmed that 17 grades 4-6 students are enrolled in a new sports-study program to be introduced in 2012-2013.

Next meeting

A meeting between school council chairs and Board trustees will be held on Saturday, April 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at La Cité francophone.

The next regular Board meeting will be held at La Cité francophone Tuesday, May 8 at 5:30 p.m.