

## Correspondence from Minister of Education Jeff Johnson

The Board wrote to Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta (Francophone school boards' association) expressing dissatisfaction with a letter from the Education Minister explaining the postponement for three to four years of the funding framework review, including the Francophone Equivalency Grant. The Board is concerned with the omission, in the Minister's letter, of the recognition of the unique mandate of francophone authorities regarding the development of students' cultural identity, support for families whose home language is not French and community partnerships.

## Board Chairs' meeting with Minister of Education

On October 9, Chair Paul Dumont attended a meeting convened by the Minister of Education with a dozen school officials from Zone 23. Mr. Dumont emphasized the importance of targeted funding to better serve undereducated students, the need to renew leases at five schools, the need for provincial support in obtaining land for the construction of new schools, and the additional costs related to school transportation.

## Official enrolment 2012-2013

Trustees are pleased with the increase in enrolments for 2012-2013, in particular the increase in Kindergarten. The Board had budgeted for 2567 students.

### Enrolment

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
2 525	2 396	2 466	2 511	2 577

### Kindergarten enrolment

2008-09	2009-10	2009-10	2011-12	2012-13
254	229	230	294	318

## Provincial achievement tests and diploma exam results

Trustees received the results of the grades 3-6-9 provincial achievement tests from last June, and the diploma examination results for grade 12 students from January and June 2012.

## École Alexandre-Taché (St. Albert)

Minister Jeff Johnson will visit École Alexandre-Taché on November 14 where he will join inclusive education students who operate the school's Bistro. As well he will meet Board and parent committee representatives to discuss the need for a shared or distinct francophone high school in St. Albert.

## Lease agreement with ACFA Centralta

Before renewing its lease, ACFA and Centre-Nord are conducting independent appraisals of the community centre's market value in order to establish a new lease rate for the next five to seven years. The present lease expired in July 2011. The Board is seeking to renovate the community centre to accommodate junior high school students and school administration. The appraisal reports will be submitted to Alberta Education at the end of October.

The Board retained architectural services to assess the costs related to increasing the size of two classrooms on the third floor. The Board requested \$500,000 from the Province for these improvements as well as leasehold improvements in the community centre. A response is expected soon.

Superintendents from Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools and Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord are recommending to their respective boards that a Value Management Study be undertaken by the ministries of Education and Infrastructure. The study committee will convene trustees and officials from both Legal schools, parent members of the school councils, municipal representatives and ACFA Centralta to explore options for the future of École

Citadelle and Legal school. The study could commence in December or January in Legal.

## **Acquisition and modernization of Ritchie School (École Joseph-Moreau)**

Ron Nemeth from ACI Architects Inc. finalized the design for École Joseph-Moreau. A cost-analysis report for the modernization is forthcoming. Trustees want to meet school council representatives from École Joseph-Moreau, École Notre-Dame, École Père-Lacombe and École Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc to present the design, get feedback, and encourage them to form a sub-committee specifically for generating enthusiasm for the proposed acquisition and renovation, and to assist the Board in its lobbying efforts. The supper meeting will be held at École Joseph-Moreau on November 14 at 6 p.m.

## **École Desrochers**

Board officials attended a meeting to evaluate the new school's design currently completed at the 30% stage. It is likely that construction will not begin until the spring of 2013.

## **New bus route**

Centre-Nord has added a bus route in downtown Edmonton to reduce three of its longest bus routes.

## **Energy contract**

Trustees reiterated their position not to participate as a partner in a consortium of school jurisdictions seeking to develop a wind energy project.

## **Next Board meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at La Cité francophone on Tuesday, November 20 at 6 p.m.