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V-C

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Trustee

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Trustee

Nathalie Lachance
Trustee

Ginette Martel
Trustee

Henri Lemire
Superintendent

Josée Devaney
Secretary Treasurer

ATA / Board negotiations

Since August, 2012, the Government of Alberta, the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and the Alberta School Boards Association attempted to renew a long-term agreement for teachers across the province. In March, Premier Allison Redford and ATA President Carol Henderson signed a global agreement that must be ratified by the 62 school boards and the ATA local bargaining units before May 13.

Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord supports, in principle, the Framework Agreement between the Government of Alberta and the ATA, despite some reservations.

2013-2016 Capital Plan

The Board adopted its 2013-2016 Capital Plan. The priorities are: 1) construction of a junior/senior high school in St. Albert; 2) acquisition and eventual modernization of École Joseph-Moreau; 3) temporary expansion in the Legal Community Centre in order to accommodate École Citadelle's junior high program and school administration; 4) opening a K-3 francophone school in Beaumont.

Voter identification

The Board decided to amend its policy on elections by ensuring that voters show identification as a condition for voting in the school election on October 21, 2013. The municipalities of Edmonton, Red Deer and Jasper already stipulate this condition.

Equipment and furniture for École Desrochers (Jasper) and École La Prairie (Red Deer)

Alberta Education confirmed its contribution towards the purchase of equipment and furniture for the two new schools. Desrochers will receive \$738,072 and La Prairie \$632,645.

Éthique et culture religieuse course piloted at École La Prairie

The Board approved the introduction of the Éthique et culture religieuse course as an alternative to the religious studies course for all students attending École La Prairie in Red Deer.

This decision was taken following discussions with the school council and consultation with parents who wanted alternative programming for families requesting exemption from religious instruction. The course was developed in 2008 by the Quebec Department of Education.

2012-2013 Report on Student Outcomes and School Climate

For a third year, the Board participated in piloting the student survey Tell Them From Me, with 975 respondents from four francophone secondary schools: Alexandre-Taché, Gabrielle-Roy, Joseph-Moreau and Maurice-Lavallée. The trustees were proud to note that in virtually all 48 categories, our students responded more positively than the Canadian average.

École Alexandre-Taché

Trustees asked administration to accelerate the process for acquiring an adequate, fully developed site in St. Albert for the future École Alexandre-Taché. The Board is seeking a firm commitment from the City of St. Albert for a site large enough to accommodate a school of 400-450 grades 7-12 students.

Renewal of the lease with ACFA Centralta (Legal)

The Board is about to renew its lease for École Citadelle in a portion of the Community Centre. The original 10-year lease with ACFA Centralta for use of the gymnasium, kitchen and art room expired in 2011, and has been renegotiated yearly since. Alberta Education refused to increase its contribution beyond the rate of \$58,000 established in 2003.

LRT Strathearn station

Trustees received a report describing the market valuation for a sliver of land the City of Edmonton needs for extending the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) from Mills Woods in the southeast to downtown Edmonton. The Strathearn station will be located on the north side of École Gabrielle-Roy's school grounds along 93rd Avenue. The evaluation by Bourgeois and Company estimates that the requested 13,504 sq. ft. (0.31 acre) has a market value of \$189,000.

Retirement

Congratulations to staff who announced their retirement

- Rita Hebert: principal at École Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc since 2003 and principal at École Père-Lacombe from 1994 to 2003.
- Lucille Damer: assistant principal at École Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc since 1996.
- Denise Moulun-Pasek: curriculum consultant (secondary) at Centre-Nord since 2003; presently on secondment at Alberta Education.
- Michel Gauthier: teacher at École La Prairie since 2007 and assistant principal from 2007 to 2010.
- Paulette Sparrow: teacher at École Maurice-Lavallée since 2008.

Congratulations to Larry Lynch

Congratulations to Larry Lynch, teacher at École Alexandre-Taché, who will receive the Excellence in Catholic Teaching Award for Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord. This prize is awarded by the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta to one teacher per catholic district in Alberta.

Congratulations to Elyse Bryant

Elyse Bryant from École La Prairie is the winner of the bus safety poster in the grade 2 category. The provincial contest was launched during the 2012 School Bus Safety Week and is sponsored by the Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council.

Acquisition of land in Red Deer

On April 9, Red Deer Catholic Schools endorsed a proposal declaring the Kentwood site as surplus to its future needs. The Board will ask the City of Red Deer to reserve the site for a future francophone school.

Reimbursement for moving portable classrooms

The Board received an unexpected refund from Alberta Infrastructure for expenses incurred in moving portables in 2009: \$20,499 and \$21,859 for École Père-Lacombe, and \$40,281 for École Desrochers.

A formal request was submitted for a refund of \$177,483 for moving a Modus modular classroom from École La Prairie to École Notre Dame in 2012.

Date of next meeting

The next regular Board meeting will be held at La Cité francophone on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 6 p.m.