

Karen Doucet  
Chair

Kevin Bell  
V-C

Nicole Lorrain  
V-C Catholic

Laurent Bolduc  
Trustee

Paul Dumont  
Trustee

Nathalie Lachance  
Trustee

Ginette Martel  
Trustee

Henri Lemire  
Superintendent

Josée Devaney  
Secretary Treasurer

## Erin Ridge site for École Alexandre-Taché

On August 26, St. Albert city council heard from 20 students, parents, supporters and Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord's Chair on the future site for École Alexandre-Taché scheduled to open in September 2016. The previous week, a dozen residents from the Erin Ridge neighborhood had expressed their concerns with respect to parking and traffic.

On June 14, the St. Albert Joint Use Agreement Site Allocation Committee had unanimously approved Centre-Nord's request for the Erin Ridge site near the hospital and Highway 2. After more than three hours of presentations and deliberation, city council accepted the Committee's prior decision.

Chair Karen Doucet praised the presenters for their passion, logic and persuasive arguments that reflected their strong commitment to the school.

## C2 Committee

Last spring, the Alberta Teachers' Association and the Government of Alberta agreed to establish joint committees in each of the province's 61 school jurisdictions. Their goal is to design, manage and conduct an internal review of teacher tasks and school board policies that can be eliminated or modified in order to reduce teacher workload and to improve efficacy.

The Committee is comprised of ATA representatives (Christien Perrault, Kim St. André-Brady, Pierre Hébert, Steve Mazerolle and Caroline Wainman (alternate) and school board representatives (Karen Doucet, Henri Lemire and Nicole Bugeaud). The first meeting is scheduled for September 6. The Committee will submit an initial report by October 31, 2013.

## Francophone school boards merge in southern Alberta: Conseil FrancoSud

Trustees applauded Minister Johnson's decision to authorize the merger of the francophone catholic and public authorities in southern Alberta. The new authority, Conseil FrancoSud, is generally modeled on the three francophone authorities in central and northern Alberta.

## Freeze on lease support for three schools

Alberta Education has capped its contribution to facilities leased in Jasper, Legal and St. Albert, representing a \$16,675 shortfall for the Board's education budget. Trustees proposed to challenge this decision as it violates the principle of "equivalency" for all Alberta students. The Government of Alberta must assume its share of responsibility for leases in communities where Board-owned facilities are not yet in place: Legal (13 years); Jasper (11 years); St. Albert (4 years).

## Elimination of Capital for Emergent Projects

The Board will write to the Minister of Infrastructure Wayne Drysdale whose department recently announced the elimination of Infrastructure Capital for Emergent Projects. The Board will express its displeasure and ask the Minister to reconsider the decision. Mostly, trustees are concerned that lack of emergent funding could have real implications for Centre-Nord's budget if a school were to develop serious mechanical or structural problems. For example, the Board operates old schools such as Citadelle (91 years) and Gabrielle-Roy (62 years) where, if the furnace failed, replacement costs could easily exceed \$2 million, a sum greater than the Board's operating reserves.

## School transportation service – Frequently Asked Questions

District administration has produced a new Q&A fact sheet for parents on school bus transportation. It was sent to all families and is available in French and English on Board and school websites.

## Next meeting of the Board

The next regular Board meeting will be held at La Cité francophone on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 6 p.m.