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Possible school opening in Beaumont

On January 21, the Board adopted a resolution to inform Alberta Education that it is considering exploring the possibility of opening a Francophone school in Beaumont in September 2014. Since then, a parent group for Francophone education in Beaumont (Société de parents pour l'éducation francophone) is working to mobilize the population in an effort to open a school. Although it is very encouraged by the involvement of the families, the Board proposes to provide them with additional information concerning areas of attendance, bus route options and information on the school's religious affiliation before finalizing its decision.

Governance model

The Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord adopted a resolution that aims to undertake a consultation process with parents and with the Francophone community, with the objective of establishing parity for public/Catholic representation in a renewed governance model. Subsequently, the Board will initiate negotiations with the Minister of Education in an effort to formalize an egalitarian model of representation that would be implemented before the next school board elections.

Delegation from the École Citadelle School Council

Mélanie Thibault, president of the École Citadelle school council, made an urgent plea for the construction of a new school to replace the 92-year-old building that has become antiquated and, in several respects, inadequate for the growing student population. In order to accelerate the process and to meet government's criteria to develop partnerships, she suggests that the Board explore a partnership with the town of Legal for the construction of a school affiliated with a recreational centre and a municipal library, or that it continue to work with Legal School for its modernization and the establishment of an equivalent section for École Citadelle.

Request to make Religion 25 and 35 courses mandatory at École Maurice-Lavallée

Michèle Vincent and two parents of children attending Francophone Catholic schools requested that trustees of Conseil scolaire catholique Centre-Nord make Religion 25 and 35 courses mandatory at Maurice-Lavallée beginning in September 2014.

Request for a gym at École Saint-Christophe

The president of the school council from École Saint-Christophe asked for follow-up on last year's request for a gym in Wainwright. Since the present location is much too small to expand the school or build a gym, the Board believes that constructing a new school is the only possible alternative. This capital investment project is currently ranked sixth in the Board's Capital Plan.

Consultation and involvement for the strategic planning of Centre-Nord

In the context of its 20th anniversary, the Board formed an ad hoc committee responsible for initiating a long-term strategic planning process, including broad public consultation and discussions with stakeholders, in order to bring together leaders at La Cité francophone on May 2 and 3, 2014.

Acquisition of Ritchie School

Edmonton Public Schools confirmed that it has signed an agreement with the Province for the transfer of Ritchie School to Centre-Nord. At this time, the transfer is pending a letter of confirmation from the Ministry of Education. On March 26, representatives of the school, the Board and the Ministries of Education and Infrastructure will participate in a Value Assessment of the building and grounds to determine if it is preferable to modernize or replace the existing school at the same location.

Erin Ridge Site for École Alexandre-Taché

The Board is relieved and pleased with the decision of the St. Albert City Council, which last February 24 approved an amendment of the *Erin Ridge Area Structure Plan* to allow construction of École Alexandre-Taché on the west parcel of Eldorado Park, the location desired by Centre-Nord. The new school will open in 2016. The president thanked friends of the school who came out to support the school and especially those who spoke out in favour of the school before the City Council and local residents who were opposed.

Renovations at École Citadelle

On January 31, Maureen Kubinec, MP for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock, paid a visit to Legal to announce that the School Board would receive funds to "modernize" the school. In fact, such funds can best be considered a reimbursement for the renovations undertaken by the Board at the school and ACFA Centralta Centre. It remains to be seen how much has been earmarked to fit-up two classrooms and administration facilities for the Centralta Centre, install a fence along the ravine and install new alarm and videocamera communication systems. In summer 2014, the staff lounge and a music room will be renovated.

Congratulations to Annie Dansereau

Congratulations to the two robotics teams from École Joseph-Moreau who participated in a provincial competition of the *First Lego League* at NAIT on January 18. The ninth-graders placed second, standing out in every category. They received an award of \$500. The eighth-graders placed second in the "Research Project" category. Since then, one of the teams has been invited to represent Alberta at the North American Open Championship of Robotics, to be held in Carlsbad, California, in May.

Congratulations to teachers Nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award

Michel Gariépy, Paulin Larochelle and Nancy Roy have been nominated for Excellence in Teaching awards. The Ministry of Education will unveil the list of the 20 provincial winners at a later date.

Congratulations to École publique Gabrielle-Roy for remarkable improvement

École publique Gabrielle-Roy (Edmonton) has been recognized as having achieved the greatest improvement in elementary performance tests in the entire city of Edmonton over the last five years according to the Fraser Institute. This substantial improvement is likely attributable to the teamwork achieved within the school and with the community.

Expansion of Gym at École La Prairie

The Board approved an agreement on the expansion of the gym of the new École La Prairie (Red Deer), at a cost of \$600,000, and is committed to reimbursing the Government of Alberta an initial installment of \$400,000, and the remaining \$200,000 at a later date. The Board also recognizes its duty to continue to call for a resolution to the issue of inequity in the area of equivalency.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the School Board will take place at La Cité francophone on March 18, at 6:00 p.m.