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Delegation from École Joseph-Moreau

Pierre Asselin, member of Joseph-Moreau's school council, questioned the trustees on the transfer status of the school from Edmonton Public Schools to CSCN. The Board has been occupying Ritchie School for 5.5 years, but the official transfer remains in abeyance. Pierre Asselin is grateful for the Board's overall efforts at acquiring the school adding that the parents are ready to lobby to move the project forward. He expressed his gratitude for the Board's success in opening new schools and sought assurances that École Joseph-Moreau would remain the Board's capital priority.

He also spoke to the parents' desire to be involved in the discussions regarding the high school study.

Name of new schools in Beaumont and Camrose

The Board approved the names suggested by the parent committee. École francophone de Beaumont will now be referred to as « École Saint-Vital » and the francophone school in Camrose will be called « École des Fondateurs ».

Official opening of école Saint-Vital (Beaumont)

The official opening ceremony of école Saint-Vital is scheduled for May 27.

Valéry Bazira, nominee for the 2015 Edwin Parr Teacher Award

The Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) annually invites its 61 member board to nominate a candidate for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. This distinction is awarded to a first-year teacher. A committee of Board trustees interviewed three teachers: Valérie Lang (école Citadelle), Richard Landry (école Père-Lacombe) and Valéry Bazira (école Gabrielle-Roy). Valéry's nomination will be submitted to ASBA. Congratulations, to Valéry Bazira.

Congratulations to Marie Hébert

Marie Hébert, teacher at Joseph-Moreau, is the recipient of the Excellence in Catholic Teaching Award, presented annually by the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta. Each of the 21 Catholic school boards recognizes its own candidate. Marie Hébert is known for her involvement in Catholic education, her positive influence toward students and her volunteering with youth at Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin parish.

Nicole Bugeaud announces her retirement

After 20 years of service, CSCN's assistant superintendent will retire effective July 31. Nicole Bugeaud started with the Board as the principal of École Notre-Dame in 1995, then as principal of École Maurice-Lavallée. She assumed the assistant superintendency in 2008. The Board is very grateful for her commitment as a proud Franco-Albertan, dedicated leader and experienced educator.

A selection committee for the position will made up of a public trustee, a Catholic trustee, the superintendent, a senior staff and the human resources coordinator.

Bénédict Atta, new accountant

Bénédict Atta has joined the central office team beginning on March 23. Mr. Atta has over 10 years of experience in accounting. He holds a B.A. in Business Administration, with a major in accounting, from Université de Sherbrooke. He is currently studying for his Certified General Accountant (CGA) designation.

Guy McGraw, new maintenance and operations employee

The Board is pleased to announce the hiring of Guy McGraw in the maintenance and operations sector. Originally from New-Brunswick, G McGraw is a red seal holder as a boilermaker and sheet metal. He obtained his diploma at Bathurst Community College and has over 15 years of experience in the field.

Letter from parents of École Gabrielle-Roy

Seven parents at École Gabrielle-Roy wrote to express their desire to move the high school students from their school to École Maurice-Lavallée. The parents acknowledge the Board has appointed a working group charged with analyzing the state of the secondary schools in the Edmonton area (Alexandre-Taché, Gabrielle-Roy, Joseph-Moreau and Maurice-Lavallée). The working group is gathering legal advice on various options and considerable information about the schools' operations. The data and legal advice will be shared with the Board in April or May, and a consultation exercise with stakeholders is scheduled for next fall. A final decision will be made by the Board in winter 2016.

One-year agreement with the University of Alberta and Le Carrefour

On January 26, the University of Alberta announced the closing of the French bookstore, Le Carrefour, early this summer. The Board mandated administration to explore the feasibility of signing a one-year agreement allowing the University to store books in a depot at École Maurice-Lavallée in 2015-2016.

École Citadelle

The Board will participate in analysis of options for public, Catholic and francophone education in Legal. A working group comprised of government officials, management from the three school boards, representatives from the local ACFA and the Town of Legal will meet on April 9 and 10. The trustees will receive a preliminary report at the end of April and a final option for the Town of Legal will be presented at an information meeting in May.

École Sans-frontières of Lloydminster

The Conseil des écoles fransaskoises (CÉF) invited representatives from the Board to attend a meeting with parents of École Sans-frontières on March 19 in Lloydminster. The meeting afforded CSCN to gauge the level of interest for keeping a francophone school in Lloydminster if the CÉF opts to close it at the end on June 2015.

New bus route in Mill Woods

A new bus route will be added in the Mill Woods area starting in late April, to shorten ride times and to decrease the volume of students per bus.

Policy I – 9042 – Sexual orientation and identity

The Board adopted in first reading policy I-9042 Sexual Orientation and Identity. The policy is available on-line along with the amendments to Bill 10 proposed by the provincial government.

Policy A – 1020 – Schools religious designation

The Board adopted in first reading amendments to Policy A-1020, Schools Religious Designation. The major change is that students attending Catholic schools outside of Edmonton will have the choice between Catholic instruction or the Ethics and religious culture course.

Next meeting

The next regular meeting will be held at La Cité francophone at 6:00 pm on April 28.