

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 23, 2016



## Recognizing Treaties

In the spirit of promoting the importance of Treaties agreed with indigenous peoples, a committee composed of school principals and administrators will focus on ways to recognize Treaty territories in school activities.

Meanwhile, principals have received an informational package to use during assemblies and a map showing Treaty lands and Métis Nation regions.

## Early childhood and nutrition programs

Several recently-announced government initiatives have caught the attention of trustees. For example, a \$25 early childhood program and a pilot project in nutrition are both of interest to the CSCN. Trustees asked the superintendent to support applications by daycares in our schools that could meet the selection criteria for a \$25 program. Regarding the pilot project in nutrition, trustees objected to the absence of francophone schools for 2016-17. A request to participate in subsequent years has been sent to the departments concerned.

## Accounts completed

According to standard procedure, the firm of King and Co. presented the results of their review and a financial statement for the 2015-16 fiscal year. The 2015-16 financial statement shows a year-end deficit of \$571,326 based on revenues of \$53,512,785 and expenditures of \$54,084,111. This deficit is attributable to a shortfall of \$689,521 in the area of operations and maintenance. This amount includes \$100,000 not funded for the rent of Saint-Vital school. The accumulated surplus as of 31 August 2016 is estimated at \$2,117,421. Trustees adopted the financial statements for the year from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 to 31 August 2016.

## CSCN report to the Ministry of Education

The superintendent reviewed the results in the triannual report that will be sent to the Ministry of Education at the end of November. The report shows encouraging results in several areas including performance evaluations in

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Grade 6 and Grade 9, while underlining that some improvement is needed in areas such as mathematics at the secondary level.

## **Elevate**

The Elevate project is an initiative by Edmonton city council that aims to engage various partners in sustainable neighbourhood improvement. This project involves citizens, community associations, various levels of government and school boards. At the meeting of November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, trustees passed a motion enabling the superintendent to sign a collaborative agreement with public and catholic school boards, the City of Edmonton and government agencies. The agreement will be completed in the coming months.

## **Congratulations to the Sainte-Jeanne-d’Arc school choir**

Students from the Sainte-Jeanne-d’Arc school choir received congratulations from trustees following their performance at the annual congress of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association.

## **Invitation by Minister Eggen in recognition of the CSCN’s work following the Fort McMurray fires**

The Minister of Education invited trustees and school administrators from the Fort McMurray region to a lunch and discussion on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Discussion was followed by a presentation of the three school boards to the Legislative Assembly, in recognition of the numerous efforts by staff from the school boards following the events of May 2016, when a full-scale evacuation of the city was needed. Trustees from the CSCN conveyed their deep gratitude and admiration to the students, parents and staff of école Boréal for their determination and passion to rebuild Fort McMurray. Bravo and Merci!

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## Committee representatives

Due to timetabling conflicts, Kevin Bell will replace Ismail Osman-Hachi on the Ad hoc committee on infrastructure, while Mr. Osman-Hachi will represent the Board at the ASBA.

## Results of the consultation process on the new governance model

This fall, the CSCN carried out a consultation process with the school community in order to assess their support for a new, egalitarian model of elected representation on the school Board. The current model requires trustees to be elected by catholic voters and public voters with representation according to voter proportions based on census data. The new model will introduce egalitarian representation whereby equal numbers of trustees will be elected by catholic voters and public voters.

A survey that was conducted between 17 and 23 October 2016 asked over 914 participants to declare themselves in favour of the new model or in favour of the current model based on voter proportions. The overall results of the survey showed support for the egalitarian model. In fact, 63 per cent of participants voted in favour of the new formula, while 37 per cent preferred the current model. Of the 914 participants, 394 were catholic voters. The catholic voters voted 47.5 per cent in favour of the new model, with 52.5 per cent voting for the current model based on voter proportions. From the 354 public voters who took part in the survey, 83 per cent of respondents expressed support for the new egalitarian governance model. Six per cent of the participants were non-voting parents and 118 members of the community also took part.

The governance model survey was accompanied by an internet forum in which participants could post comments and questions about the new model. Respondents were then asked to vote on the comments and questions that corresponded to their own opinions. Of the 469 people who took part in the various stages of the virtual discussions, 282 declared themselves to be voters. The internet consultation allowed parents who did not qualify as voters and other community members to take part,

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representing 36 per cent of all participants. The majority of comments and opinions that received votes were those that favoured changing the model to one with equal numbers of trustees elected by public voters and by catholic voters.

The results of the consultation support the proposal for egalitarian representation. In light of these results, trustees voted unanimously to send a request to modify the governance model to the Ministry of Education.

## **Construction plans for Joseph-Moreau school**

Trustees received a report from the planning committee for the construction of Joseph-Moreau school. It should be noted that the Minister of Education has approved this stage of the project. The committee, composed of three students, three members of staff, the principal and vice-principal, two parents nominated by the school council and one member of the community, held its first meeting on November 7.

## **Continuous Improvement Plans**

The superintendent announced the final stages of the process leading to Continuous Improvement Plans for schools. These will include documentation that explains the kind of problems to deal with. The management team will make a tour of schools and meet with principals on the subject of Continuous Improvement Plans beginning in December 2016

## **Alexandre-Taché school**

Students entered their new building on 14 November. Several finishing touches are still needed, but overall the move is progressing very well. Trustees send their congratulations to everyone involved for their excellent work.

## **Nominations for vice-principal positions**

Trustees received information about two nominations for vice-principal positions. At école Michaëlle-Jean, Mathilde Effray-Bühl will replace

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Heather Coffin, who is taking maternity leave. Michelle Gosselin is going to be vice-principal at école Boréal.

## **Budget update for the 2016-17 fiscal year**

Trustees passed a motion to adopt the CSCN budget update. The preliminary budget was adopted in May 2016. According to ministerial regulations, an updated version must be presented in the fall of each year, after enrolments are confirmed and financial statements are adopted. The update will be sent to the Ministry of Education by 30 November. The CSCN anticipates reducing its deficit to \$300,000 from \$550,000.

## **Date of next meeting**

The next ordinary Board meeting will take place at La Cité francophone on 18 January at 6:00 p.m.

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