



GRÂCE À MES  
RACINES,  
MON AVENIR SE DESSINE!

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

### Board Highlights for the East Central Francophone Meeting March 17, 2015

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

- **BY-ELECTIONS**

Marc Labonté, Secretary-Treasurer, provided a follow-up from the last meeting with information regarding timelines to comply with the process for the vacant St. Paul Catholic Ward.

#### 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Marc Dumont, Superintendent, presented the school calendar. A few changes were proposed following consultation with staff and school councils as well as the C2 committee. École des Beaux-Lacs requested parent-teacher interviews to be moved at an earlier time than immediately preceding the spring break anticipating families leaving for holidays may not attend. The Board wishes that parent-teacher interview dates remain consistent between schools. The adopted calendars for 2015-2016 will be sent out to all.

#### MEETING WITH ÉCOLE BEAUSÉJOUR SCHOOL COUNCIL

- **École Sainte-Catherine**

Members of the school council could not be present at the meeting. Nathalie Hill-Ulliac was present to bring forward the only preoccupation of school council - namely, the future of the Francophone school in Lac La

Biche. The Superintendent mentioned that a survey is currently being circulated by request of the École Ste-Catherine school council to determine if Lac La Biche families wish to have grade 3 or 3/4 in the next school year. Therefore, once Sainte-Catherine's school council receives a sufficient number of responses, and it is the will of the majority of parents, school council will send a letter of request to the Board for the addition of Grade 3 or 3/4, for the Board's consideration at its April meeting.

Regarding École Beauséjour, the school principal took the time to speak of major school initiatives and overall direction, and shed light on some of the human resource challenges since the beginning of the year.

The Superintendent stated that the commitment and solidarity of the team at Beauséjour is an undeniable strength of the school's success. Members of the Beauséjour team are always innovating for the betterment of students. Professional Learning Communities (PLC) continues to work well for the school. A new PLC was created for high school staff.

Also noteworthy, the new wrestling initiative implemented a few years ago has naturally gained momentum. One of our teachers, Mr. Darcy Plamondon, accompanied students to the provincial games. Sports are also a major force in the school thanks to the involvement of a vast majority of staff in afterschool activities.

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#### CAPITAL PLAN

Marc Labonté provided the summary document as folio. The capital plan to be submitted will be the same as last year apart from changes to the request regarding École Beauséjour. The replacement of portable structures will be updated to reflect a full school modernization following discussions with officials from Capital Planning (Alberta Education) when they visited the site in January. Other priorities on the capital plan include a school for Lac La Biche and Athabasca. The Board unanimously approved the capital plan.

#### OFFICIAL NAME OF ÉCOLE FRANCOPHONE DE LAC LA BICHE

The Board announced in a press release on March 12th the official name of École francophone de Lac La Biche. The school is now called École Sainte-Catherine, also the name of the local parish.

#### C2: FAMILY VACATIONS AND STUDENT ABSENTEEISM

Marc Dumont outlined the achievements made with the C2 committee thus far. Moreover, following the last C2 meeting on March 13th, teacher members indicated that the school board has been outstanding in the achievement of goals outlined in the action plan created in 2013-2014. Teachers indicated that they felt the board was open, honest and transparent. The last element that remains in the action plan is for the superintendent to provide information to parents regarding the impact associated with family vacations outside predetermined

holiday periods. The Board supports the Superintendent stating that teachers are not required to take responsibility for the decisions made by parents to leave for several school days, and in some cases for weeks at a time, for family vacations. The Superintendent will send a memo to parents in French and English.

#### ASBA

Document was shared providing information regarding potential cuts to funding. The impact will be known once the provincial budget will be made public March 26th. Boards will seek the support of their communities to lobby for sufficient funding of public education.

#### FCSFA/ASBA

Michèle Dallaire, Chair, reiterated the importance of ongoing training. She stated the workshop hosted by the Federation des conseils scolaires de l'Alberta covered interesting and relevant topics. Roger Lepage and Iris Evans were the guest speakers. It will be important for all trustees to make a concerted effort to attend next year's annual Francophone trustee workshop.

- **Policy and admin procedure review**

This review of the Board's policies and administrative procedures will be necessary in light of the new Education Act, which will replace the current School Act, effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The Alberta School Board Association (ASBA) is supporting school boards

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with this task. The Superintendent recommended that the Board consider working with other Francophone authorities in light of an approach proposed by ASBA. The Board agreed and support the collaborative approach.

### NEXT MEETING

APRIL 14, 2015 AT 4:00P.M.

AT

ÉCOLE DES BEAUX-LACS

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*If you wish to subscribe to the agenda as a delegation or to be heard, please make your request either in writing or by calling the Superintendent's office one week before the meetings.*

*For more information, please contact East Central Francophone at 780-645-3888 or toll-free at 1-866-645-9556.*

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