

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



(780) 645-3888



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Board Highlights for the East Central Francophone Meeting

November 26, 2013

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Matters Arising from the October 21, 2013 Meeting

Sale of Land

Guy Généreux will communicate with St. Paul Education Regional Division advising them the board will require an offer that would better reflect the actual market rate of the land.

École du Sommet Delegation

Administration will be communicating with École du Sommet principal following up with where Mr. Filion is with the organization of the Calgary trip presented during the October meeting.

Finances

The Board adopted the audited financial statements presented by Claude Dion from Joly, McCarthy & Dion. East Central Francophone Education (Conseil scolaire Centre-Est, or Conseil) ended the 2012-13 fiscal year with a \$533,866 surplus. The teaching staff adjustments at École du Sommet, that had two kindergarten classes in 2011-12 but had only one grade one class in 2012-13 allowed for the reduction of a teaching position. Secondly, sick leave, teacher attrition at École Voyageur and not filling the Career Counsellor position despite all efforts also reduced anticipated costs. Warnings of drastic budget cuts as early as December 2012 and uncertainty with negotiations between the ATA and the provincial government contributed to a judicious spending environment, underwriting the surplus for 2012-13. The accumulated surplus, following the elimination of the accumulated deficit of \$99,424 as well as other supplementary factors such as the difference between the amortisation of supported and non-supported assets, is \$475,199.

Budget 2013-2014

Marc Labonté, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the 2013-14 adjusted budget. Due to the \$475,199 accumulated surplus (or 4% of the total budget - in

accordance with Alberta Education's recommended accumulated surplus) and updated registrations from budgeted, administration has implemented a few adjustments since the month of October to address pressing needs, including adding student-aids, the elimination of school budget cuts during the 2012-13 year as well as the proposed cuts for the 2013-14 year. The budget for speech and language pathology was also increased.

Furthermore, the superintendent recommended that the board allocate funds to engage a third party to help develop its governance and strategic plan as well as adequate funds to hire a principal for the Lac La Biche program once a suitable school site can be confirmed. These funds would also help purchase the required start-up material resources.

Marc Dumont, Superintendent, also recommended, due to findings with the C2 committee (explained below), the addition of a computer technician.

The Board of Trustees adopted the updated 2013-14 budget, with a deficit \$35,000 deficit.

Central Office Renovations

The trustees have approved the start of central office renovations, adopting the financing proposal presented by Marc Labonté.

Furthermore, administration will proceed to negotiate with Alberta Education (Capital Planning) regarding the demolition of the old cultural centre. The board also accepts Alberta Education's proposal to have the Conseil scolaire Centre-Est manage the demolition with funds provided by the government rather than waiting for Alberta Infrastructure to undertake the demolition.

Collective Agreement: Board Ratification

The negotiations committee (presided by Michèle Dallaire and comprised of Daniel Aubertin, Marc Dumont, Marc Labonté and Christine Cousineau) met

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with the negotiations sub-committee local No. 24 (East-Central Region) last Thursday, November 21st. The meeting brought to fruition a proposed agreement to be ratified by both parties.

Marc Labonté, provided a resume of the proposed changes. A supplementary week for maternity leave (15 to 16 weeks), doubling the employer portion for vision benefits (from 25% to 50%), an increase in the Health Spending Account from \$500/year to \$550 in year 2014-15 and \$600 in year 2015-16. The addition of a first personal day paid by ECFE, the addition of days for parental leave and clarifications regarding the number of leave days for family medical leave. Several other changes were also proposed.

Board administration will ensure communication of the Conseil's decision to ratify the 2012-2016 collective agreement.

HPV Vaccine

Marc Dumont presented an update on the complaint with the *Alberta Human Rights Commission*, filed against nine school boards in the province in the month of September, among which seven are Catholic and two, including East Central Francophone Education, are blended boards. The complaint alleges the nine named boards of having refused access to health services (HPV vaccine) for its students, due to religious beliefs. The Board of Trustees has directed its superintendent to ensure that the board's legal counsel communicate its position to Kevin Feehan, Q.C., ACSTA's legal counsel that is currently coordinating a collective response to the allegation, as well as with Bishop Terrio.

The board has asked the superintendent to further research the current practices and policies of other school boards in Alberta regarding the administration of Vaccines in general, but including the HPV vaccine. Details of the research will be presented at the next board meeting.

Furthermore, the board asked administration to invite Bishop Terrio to the next regular board meeting on January 14th, 2014 for a first official meeting with the newly elected board.

Administrative Procedures 566 and 567 (Student Transportation)

The superintendent pointed out that current practices regarding student transportation do not conform to the official administrative procedures currently in place and available on its website.

The Board of Trustees directed its administration to ensure that the administrative procedures reflect the current practice, as stipulated in a superintendent's memo to principals in 2009. More specifically, the use of staff members' personal vehicles for student transportation to and from school or extracurricular activities is prohibited.

Road Access to École Voyageur

The Secretary-Treasurer explained why the access road to the École Voyageur is found to be on land that is not owned by the board or the City of Cold Lake.

During the new school's construction in 2004, the City of Cold Lake did not grant 1.7 acres south of the school as designated school property as seen on the architect's plans and Google Maps. However, research conducted with *Alberta Land Titles* confirms this land belongs to the Conseil and that the Conseil will therefore need to negotiate with the City of Cold Lake for the construction of a new road to the school as the land the road is on will be developed by the developer.

Marc Labonté also pointed out that if the City of Cold Lake had designated the 1.7 acres parcel of land for the school at time of construction in 2004, the school would not have been constructed as far from the main road as it is. Marc Labonté will follow-up with the appropriate City of Cold Lake administrators.

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C2 Committee

Marc Dumont presented the C2 Committee Report, a document that was submitted to Alberta Education last October 31st, in accordance with Section C-2 of the four-year Framework Agreement between the Government of Alberta and the Provincial ATA. The superintendent encouraged the trustees to study the C2 Committee Report carefully, as it reflects the work already accomplished by the committee, as well as what remains to be done as indicated in the action plan.

It is important to understand the committee's role given that the committee's mandate spans another two and a half years. It is also worth mentioning that trustees are welcomed to participate in the C2 Committee discussions.

ACSTA

Michèle Dallaire presented details of the Catholic Education Symposium to be held February 2014. Catholic trustees are encouraged to attend, to the degree that that is possible for them.

If you wish to make an agenda or would like to be part of a delegation of people wishing to be heard on a specific matter, please make your request by communicating with the superintendent at least one week prior to the meeting.

For more information, please Marc Dumont at 780-812 8934 or toll-free at 1-866-645-9556.