



January 30, 2012

To: The Board of Trustees

From: Joan Carr  
Superintendent

Originators: Boris Radyo  
Assistant Superintendent,  
Educational Planning  
  
Jeff Bellinger, Consultant,  
Nichols Applied Management

Re: **Findings of the 2011-2012 French Immersion Community Consultation Process**

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The District recently concluded a community consultation process to gauge community support for two proposals:

1. The first proposal is to phase-out partial French Immersion high school programs at Archbishop O'Leary High School and St. Francis Xavier High School and the concurrent establishment of a more comprehensive French Immersion program at Archbishop MacDonald High School.
2. The second proposal involves the construction of a new school in southeast Edmonton to replace J.H. Picard School. The replacement school would provide single-track French Immersion programming for grades 7-12 as well as an outreach centre.

The process included a series of six consultation meetings and a survey of parents with children enrolled in our District's French Immersion programs. People were encouraged throughout the consultation process to provide written submissions to the District on the proposals. Prior to the commencement of the consultation process, meetings were held with French Immersion principals inviting their input.

Nichols Applied Management was engaged by the District to oversee the consultation process.

The consultation meetings were held at District schools between November 16 and December 5, 2011: two at Archbishop MacDonald High School and one each at J.H. Picard School, St. Stanislaus School, Frere Antoine School, and Monsignor William Irwin School. Invitations to participate in the meetings were mailed to 3,117 households with children enrolled in District French Immersion programs. Reminders about the meetings were included in school newsletters as well as the District's and individual school websites. Approximately 300 people participated in the consultation meetings.

Nichols Applied Management mailed surveys to 2,220 French Immersion households in early December. A total of 561 surveys were returned and analyzed, a response rate in excess of 25%.

The results of the consultation meetings and survey are contained in the attached report. This report provides a summary of the input gathered through the community consultation meetings, surveys and written submissions to the District on each of the proposals.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **French Immersion high school programs at Archbishop O’Leary, St. Francis Xavier, and Archbishop MacDonald high schools**

Regarding the proposal to phase out the partial French Immersion high school programs at Archbishop O’Leary and St. Francis Xavier high schools and the concurrent establishment of a more comprehensive French Immersion program at Archbishop MacDonald, it is recommended:

#### **Recommendation:**

1. That the Board of Trustees endorses the phasing out of French Immersion at St. Francis Xavier High School over a three-year period beginning September 2012 and establishing a new comprehensive senior high school French Immersion program at Archbishop MacDonald High School beginning September 2012. Entry criteria at the Archbishop MacDonald High School French Immersion program to be an average of 65% with no mark under 60%.
2. That the Board of Trustees endorses the continuation of the partial senior high school French Immersion program at Archbishop O’Leary High School and a review of this program for viability during the 2012-2013 school year.

### **Proposal to Construct a New School in Southeast Edmonton to Replace J.H. Picard**

Regarding the proposal to construct a new school in southeast Edmonton to replace J.H. Picard. The replacement school would provide single-track French Immersion programming for Grades 7-12 as well as an outreach centre. It is recommended:

#### **Recommendation:**

1. That the Board of Trustees endorses the inclusion of J.H. Picard School as a major modernization project during the 2013-2016 Capital Plan process for submission to Alberta Education prior to April 2, 2012.
2. That the Board of Trustees re-affirms J.H. Picard School as a unique K-12 single-track French Immersion program at its current location and to support the elementary program by allowing and encouraging elementary students from outside the elementary attendance area to take advantage of yellow bussing to the school in the company of their older siblings.
3. That the Board of Trustees endorses continued consultation with the French Immersion community through the 2012-2013 school year to develop a long-term plan for French Immersion programming in Edmonton Catholic Schools.
4. That the Board of Trustees supports the administration in pursuing an alternate possibility with the City of Edmonton in the Meadows.