



Board Releases Findings of French Immersion Consultation Process

The Edmonton Catholic School District recently completed a French Immersion Community Consultation regarding 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 consultation process included a series of six consultation meetings and a survey of parents with children enrolled in our District’s French Immersion programs. A total of 2,220 surveys were sent to parents and 561 surveys were returned for analysis.

A total of 56% of all respondents were in favour of the first proposal, while only 39% of respondents were in favour of the second proposal which would see construction of a new school in southeast Edmonton to replace J. H. Picard School.

Based on the findings, regarding the first proposal, the Board of Trustees approved the following recommendations:

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.

Regarding the second proposal to construct a new school in southeast Edmonton for J. H. Picard, the Board decided the following:

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.

For more information call:

LORI NAGY

• Manager of Media
& Community Relations
Services

• 780 441-6189 (office)

• 780 991-6363 (cell)

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.

“The consultation process allowed us to listen to parents and based on the valuable input we received, we will move forward with the recommendations on both proposals,” said Debbie Engel, Board Chair.