



*Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools*

Board Meeting Summary

September 12, 2012

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The latest regular meeting of the Board was held in St. Albert on Monday, September 10, 2012 at the District office.

PRESENTATION DELEGATION

Waste Program Co-ordinator, Christian Benson, with the City of St. Albert and Phyllis Kelly, teacher with J.J. Nearing School shared the organic waste project at J.J. Nearing School's "Greenilicious Club". The program is enjoying tremendous success in reducing classroom waste by 50%. The City shared their comprehensive plans for recycling/waste reduction and affordable options for schools to participate in. Mr. Benson noted that applications for the Environmental Initiatives Grant Program (EIGP) are available until October 9th, 2012 and open to any interested schools in St. Albert. In addition, J.J. Nearing staff focused morning prayers in April 2012, to learn about how caring for the environment relates to our Catholic identity. This resulted in the school being awarded the St. Francis Care for Creation Award sponsored by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and The National Council of Catholic Women.

GOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Trustee Hansen for giving GSACRD increased national presence through two recent appointments. This includes her success in being elected as Vice-President, Canadian School Boards Association and the invitation to participate in the Globe and Mail's National Dialogue on Education panel where panelists will weigh in on issues of importance to the public.

GSACRD received national recognition from the Gallup Inc., a research based organization that measures engagement levels in corporations across North America. GSACRD stood out among all of these corporations for the results achieved with regards to the engagement levels of staff in the district.

Notre Dame School is pleased to report that a successful and smooth transition occurred with the consolidation of the G.P. Vanier School community. The modular classrooms are now home to grade 3 and 4 students and families were all welcomed to the school this past week. Congratulations to all of our partners, and staff involved in managing this this move and transition in such short timelines.

Legal School highlighted the completion of their new playground which officially opened at the beginning of September. The 3-story structure was made possible through collaborative community effort and the support of funds provided through the Small Town Saturday Night event hosted during the spring.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Trustee McEvoy shared opening remarks from the start-up of the school year highlighting the success of the Morinville Schools transition getting up and running for the first day of school. It was also noted that access to programs, transportation, and service are being met or exceeded

for our students. Letters of recognition highlighting the work of district were shared from the Minister of Education and Child & Family Services.

The preschool program in Morinville will be called the “Notre Dame Preschool” program given its affiliation with the school and Notre Dame will now be referred to as École Notre Dame Elementary School to reflect the dual track language programming now offered at the school.

UPCOMING INITIATIVES FOR THE BOARD

The board will begin recruitment of members for the Education Foundation Board this fall with a goal of developing a fund that can be accessed to enhance educational opportunities for students in the district. Parents and public who share a passion for education are encouraged to apply for a volunteer position on this new board and should contact Deb Schlag, secretary-treasurer at the district office.

**The next Regular Meeting of the
Board of Trustees is scheduled for
Monday, September 24, 2012
6:30 p.m. at 6 St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert, AB.**