



*Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools*

Board Meeting Summary

September 25, 2012

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The latest regular meeting of the Board was held in St. Albert on Monday, September 24, 2012 at the District office.

PRESENTATION DELEGATION

Grant Thornton L.L.P Audit Team shared highlights from their approach to the upcoming audit. It was mentioned that the external scan will include a review of the impacts of the change in status from Public to Separate will have on financial reporting. It was also noted that Alberta Education will be moving forward to use Public Sector Accounting Standards in place of the current Non-Profit Standards in 2013. The Board was asked to disclose any knowledge of fraudulent activity in the district and the Board indicated there was none. Trustees inquired about the threshold for materiality used and the financial fee for the audit was discussed.

GOOD NEWS

- École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville received confirmation from the Faculte St. Jean Campus at the U of A that 13 new students are attending post-secondary studies beginning this semester. This represents 1/3 of the grade 12 graduates which is a strong testament to the strength of the French Immersion program.
- A grade 6 student, Carter Shields at École Marie Poburan took on an independent service project this summer to raise awareness and funds for the Heart and Stroke foundation. His mother died of an aneurism and a series of strokes about 4 years ago....so he wanted to make a difference in the hopes that another child could be possibly spared of the loss of a loved one. He biked 100km from Canmore to Banff this summer and raised \$6000. He is a humble young man.....the EMP community is so pride of him.
- Madame Simone Chalifoux with École Marie Poburan shared the news from her school in successfully collecting tabs from pop cans throughout the year to support the Easter Seals and Tabs for wheels initiative. The school through their contributions annually has been able to collect enough to present an individual with a power scooter to allow them independence in their community. In her own words, "If this isn't proof that one small thing can make a change, I don't know what is!" Thank you to all families who have supported the collection of tabs.

ACTION ITEMS

The 2012 – 2013 Advocacy Plan for the Board was approved, which prioritizes their work within school communities. This year's focus is on establishing an educational foundation, providing opportunities for parents to have a voice on topics of interest and to support plans for new infrastructure that is needed in the district. In addition, the board approved the Communication Plan of which highlights are posted to the website annually.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Trustee McEvoy shared correspondence received and highlighted the Community Engagement document produced by the Alberta School Boards Association as a useful reference.

Trustees discussed the R.C.M.P.'s continued use of the drug dog in schools as part of an input process to determine how the R.C.M.P. will move forward and support drug prevention in schools.

Superintendent David Keohane shared the good news regarding the districts accomplishments as a "change agent" for the province on inclusion. Parent perspectives on the approach used in the district was highlighted in a video that interviews families at R.S. Fowler School. Assistant Superintendent, David Quick shared preliminary Provincial Achievement Test results and Diploma Exam Results. The continuation of strong results in GSACRD was highlighted.

UPCOMING INITIATIVES FOR THE BOARD

The board will begin their committee work again with representation from GSACRD on over fifteen committees in the region including local Chamber of Commerce's, ACSTA, ASBA and the ATA to name a few.

**The next Regular Meeting of the
Board of Trustees is scheduled for
Monday, October 1, 2012
6:00 p.m. at 6 St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert, AB. (Note: new start time)**