

## **Catholic Board Ratifies Agreement with UNIFOR Local 72-A**

**For Immediate Release (May 15, 2018) St. Albert** - Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 734 (GSACRD) and UNIFOR, Local 72-A, have both ratified a 3 year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) ending in August 2020. The agreement was ratified by UNIFOR on April 23, 2018, with a vote of 96% members in favor, and GSACRD Trustees unanimously approved the MOA on May 14, 2018, at a special meeting of the Board.

Serena Shaw, Chair of the Board of Trustees acknowledged and praised the work of both parties for concluding the negotiations in such a timely manner. *"This agreement recognizes a spirit of co-operation among both parties which has furthered our relationship with this important group and acknowledges the significant role our support staff have in our schools and operations in St. Albert."*

The Memorandum of Agreement was reached through a series of interest based bargaining meetings held in April 2018. The agreement will provide staff with 3 guaranteed days for operational start up at the beginning of every school year, an increase in the Health Spending Account of UNIFOR members, the addition of vision care and lump sum payments in both August 2018 and November 2018 as per the MOA. Further to this, members will receive a 1% increase in September 2018 and a 2% increase in September 2019 should there be an increase in the Student Grant the district receives and there are no other associated reductions affecting instructional funding. The agreement also details a number of housekeeping items that were resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.

Janet Hooke, President of UNIFOR Local 72-A commented, *"The collaborative approach of both parties brought about a swift conclusion to negotiations, resulting in a MOA that addressed important areas based on the input from our members. The agreement will provide staff with 3 guaranteed days for operational start up at the beginning of every school year. This will give our support staff unified collaboration time with our school teams, to provide the best learning opportunities for all of our students."*

For more information, please contact:

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