



REGULAR BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Mon., Aug. 31, 2020

The meeting took place in the Boardroom at the Division Office but was not open to the public to attend in-person, due to COVID-19 public health guidelines; however, the meeting was livestreamed to the community via YouTube.

GOOD NEWS

School News

On Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 will return to school. Our staff have been busy getting ready for another year of learning together, and we are excited to welcome our students back to class.

Our newest school, St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy in Morinville, will officially open its doors to Pre-K to Grade 5 students on Aug. 31. We are excited to showcase this impressive new facility to our community, even if that means doing so virtually for the time-being.



The new school fills a significant need in the community, and we thank God for this blessing and opportunity. An official grand opening will be scheduled once it is safe to do so.

Nineteen students from each of three high schools in St. Albert have come together through art to tell the story of COVID-19 – and physical distancing in particular – during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

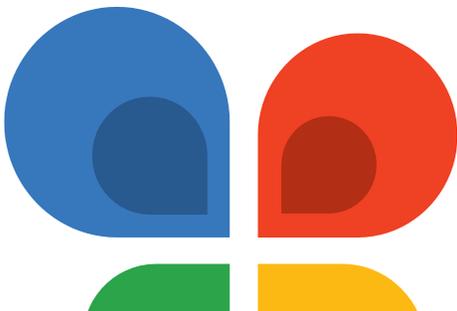
This is a story older than time – artists using what they can find to create art, in spite of the obstacles – so they can tell the story of the COVID-19 experience.

These pieces were created by student artists from St. Albert Catholic High School, as well as from Bellerose Composite High School and Paul Kane High School (St. Albert Public Schools), between March 19 (when in-person learning in schools was closed due to the pandemic) and June 19, 2020.

The art exhibits can be viewed online via our Division's website.



Division News





As we prepare for the new school year, the safety of everyone in our faith and learning community continues to be our first priority. In fact, it is at the forefront of all of our decisions, protocols, and actions.

Our comprehensive school re-entry plan, which was developed collaboratively with our community partners, as well as health and government authorities, complies with the directions and guidelines of the Alberta government and the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health. We have taken a proactive approach in all of our planning and for communicating this plan with families. This includes creating a section of our website that is exclusively dedicated to providing information about school re-entry (gsacrd.ab.ca/schoolreentry).



Multiple health measures have been put in place in all Division buildings, including all schools and the Division office, to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and to help keep our students, staff, and communities safe. These protocols are described in detail on our website, as well as in the *Parent Guidebook for School Re-Entry: 2020-2021* that has been sent directly to all families.

As part of our school re-entry planning, we reached out to parents/legal guardians to gauge the level of interest in online education. The valuable feedback received helps us plan how best to support students and families who prefer online learning.

Of the 3,735 parents/legal guardians who responded, 30 per cent requested to be contacted about online education.

As such, we have developed the *Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools' Online Learning Pathway* as an option for our students. The impressive 65 per cent response rate to this survey clearly shows how important this matter is to our community.



Developed specifically for parents and legal guardians, our new *Parent Guidebook for School Re-Entry: 2020-2021* provides essential information that parents and legal guardians need so they can prepare for school re-entry. This document provides comprehensive details concerning:

Board of Trustees

Chair: Noreen Radford | Vice-Chair: René Tremblay

Trustees: Joe Becigneul | Joan Crockett | Cathy Proulx | Greg Schell | Serena Shaw

- programming options (face-to-face and online education);
- health and safety protocols;
- student transportation;
- communication;
- Phys. Ed and Sports and Recreation Academies;
- logistical matters;
- and more



This *Guidebook* is updated regularly as the situation continues to evolve. Revised versions are shared with all families and published on our website, where the *Guidebook* can be viewed interactively or downloaded to a computer or mobile device.

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools' faith theme for 2020-2022 is *Arise: Get up, get going, and go with God!* This reflects the three-fold themes for the next three World Youth Day celebrations, as announced by Pope Francis in 2019.

As a Division, we have a unique opportunity to engage, encourage, and support our students in developing a relationship with Jesus Christ. Our faith theme for the next three years seeks to echo the Pope's summons for youth to listen and respond to the voice of God, Who calls them to 'Arise!'



Our focus for the 2020-2021 school year is *Arise: Get up!* – based on Christ's words in Luke 7:14: "...I say to you, *arise!*" Such a focus has direct implications for how our faith is lived out in our school communities through works of social justice, charity, and mercy. We have the privilege of helping students see themselves as Christ for others and as bearers and deliverers of His love and life-giving touch. The Division will be specifically promoting and raising awareness of this focus in the weeks to come.

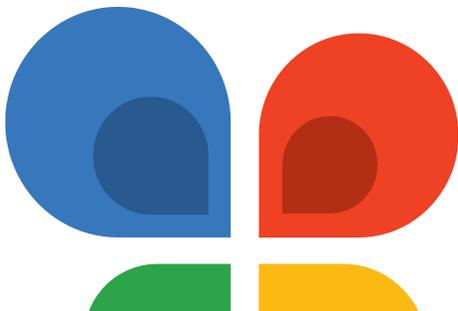
Following an extensive nationwide search, the Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Clint Moroziuk as Superintendent of Schools for Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools.

Dr. Moroziuk brings over 23 years of leadership experience in K-12 education. He started in this role on August 1, 2020.

Congratulations, Dr. Moroziuk!



Congratulations to Mary Richard, a school counselor at Ecole Notre Dame, on receiving the 2020 Laura Bird Memorial Beacon of Hope Award.





The annual award is bestowed by our Board of Trustees on staff who are active, articulate witnesses to Jesus Christ and who demonstrate dedicated, selfless service to further the hope and future of others.

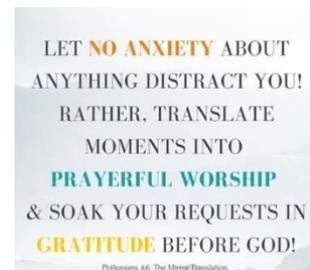


The Board established this award in 2017 in memory and honour of Laura Bird, a teacher in St. Albert in the 1960s and '70s, who served students through a spirit of inclusion and advocacy for their needs. The Board chair announced this year's recipient, and presented Mary with the award, on Aug. 28, following the Opening Mass for the 2020-2021 school year.

On Aug. 28, we celebrated International Youth Day. The theme for 2020 was "Youth Engagement for Global Action." Young people across the globe, including many students within our Division, are taking action as leaders of change. When our youth's voices are heard, their skills recognized, and their talents celebrated, we build stronger communities and a stronger world.

Virtual staff prayer meetings will continue in the fall. In April, staff started meeting this way each Friday morning, uniting in spirit and truth for a time of collective and corporate prayer.

What started as a group of 10 to 15 staff coming together to thank God for his faithfulness and blessings, and to bring our community's concerns before our God who cares for us, has grown up to 60-plus staff meeting to pray together each week. This shows that our staff understand the power and blessing of prayer, as well as the importance of interceding together as a community.



Our staff have been busy getting ready for the new school year. Part of this preparation includes our annual Opening Mass and Blueprints Day, which, this year, took place on Aug. 28. This is always an encouraging time of faith formation and inspiration, as well as a celebration of our Catholic Faith, which is at the core of who we are, what we do, and why we exist. It is an opportunity for us as a staff faith community to commit the coming year to God and to pray, learn, and grow. What a wonderful way to launch another school year!

As we begin this most unusual and incredibly unpredictable school year, let's celebrate that we are keeping our agenda of faith and learning as we move forward.

May we embrace the fact that all that we have learned in these past months, through these strange and

challenging times, has been extremely helpful to us through our formation of students as we look with anticipation to the 2020-2021 school year.

PRESENTATION DELEGATIONS

There were no presentations.

ACTION & CONSENT ITEMS

- There were no Consent items.
- The following Action Items were reviewed and approved by the Board:
 - Policy Review Schedule
 - Board Monitoring Calendar
 - 2020 – 2023 Division Three-Year Education Assurance Framework
 - Confirmation of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association Award Nominations
 - Laura Bird Memorial Beacon of Hope Award Recipient
 - Revision of 2020 – 2021 Board Meeting Schedule
 - Rebranding of St. Gabriel High School
 - Audit Committee – Public Members

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Updates and/or reports were provided on the following:

- Parish and School Strategies During COVID-19
- School Re-Entry Plan
- St. Albert Catholic High School Name Consultation Update

UPCOMING BOARD INITIATIVES/EVENTS

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for **Monday, September 28, 2020, at 3:30 p.m.** The meeting will be held virtually and will be [livestreamed](#) to the public. All Regular Board Meetings are open to the public.