

REGULAR BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Monday, November 30, 2020

Held virtually, via ZOOM, and livestreamed to the community via YouTube.

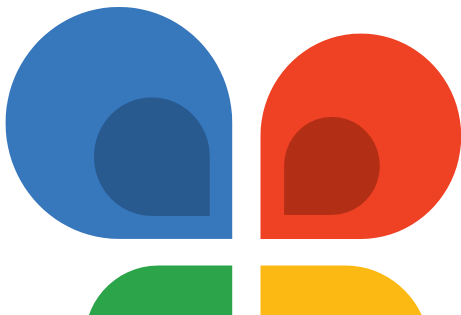
GOOD NEWS

School News

- We hosted the official [Re-opening Celebration and Blessing](#) of [St Gabriel Education Centre](#) on November 20. While restrictions around COVID-19 prevented us from hosting a public gathering on-site, the program was livestreamed to the community. The school relocated to the lower level of the Division Office in August, after renovations to the now fully accessible space were completed over the summer months. On August 30, the Board [approved a formal name change](#) of the school to reflect the growing scope with which it serves students and the broader community.
- The [GSACRD Online Learning Pathway K-9 micro-website](#), which will surely be a valuable resource for our online students, as well as their families, has launched and is now online.

Division News

- On Nov. 8, we joined thousands across our province in celebrating [Catholic Education Sunday 2020](#). Beautiful banners of each of our 18 schools were represented in local parishes, our partners in Catholic Education, and students, parents, staff, and alumni shared what Catholic Education means to them in an [inspiring video](#) that was shared with our community.
- Our Division took part in **Bullying Awareness Week** from Nov. 16 to 20. Schools promoted awareness and understanding of bullying and its impacts. This year's theme, *Where To Turn*, encouraged everyone to learn to recognize the signs of bullying and to know where to turn when dealing with such behaviours. There is no place for bullying, harassment, abuse, or other disrespectful behaviours in any of our schools, and we thank our faith and learning community for helping to build and maintain welcoming, safe, and caring environments that respect diversity and support a sense of belonging.
- We thanked **Mr. Steve Bayus**, outgoing Assistant Superintendent of Resource Services, for his many contributions and leadership in this important role. Mr. Bayus had returned to our Division to work in this position in an interim capacity for three-and-a-half months. His last day was November 13. We certainly wish him all the best! We also congratulate **Mr. Joseph Dumont**, who took over this function on November 9. Welcome to the GSACRD family, Mr. Dumont!





- Students and staff honoured the many brave men and women who have courageously and selflessly shaped the country we call home. While **Remembrance Day** services and activities looked different this year, what was not different was the appreciation we all have for those who work to protect our country and our freedoms. We also remembered and commemorated the many contributions of Indigenous veterans on **National Aboriginal Veterans Day** on November 8. Our Division honoured the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people of Canada, who have a long, proud tradition of military service to our country.
- The [Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools Education Foundation](#) launched its first [50/50 Cash Raffle Fundraiser](#) earlier this month. Dollars raised will allow the Foundation to purchase much-needed equipment that will meet urgent classroom needs. Thank you to all those who have purchased tickets in support of the Foundation and our students. At the time this report was prepared, the jackpot was \$7,170 and counting. The deadline to purchase tickets is Dec. 3.
- We launched the new [GSACRD Voice website](#) earlier this month. GSACRD Voice works to promote positive mental health within our five schools in Morinville and Legal. This new website will surely be an invaluable resource for our students and families in these communities.
- On November 13, as part of **World Kindness Day 2020**, many of our students and staff looked for opportunities to show the love of Christ to others through random acts of kindness, even if it was to those outside their relational or ideological comfort zones. These actions helped to alleviate some of the tensions we're all feeling during this pandemic. Held annually, World Kindness Day is a global day to promote being kind to oneself, to others, and to our world.
- Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools has a **new theme song** for its [three-year faith theme \(2020-2022\)](#) that was written and produced by our own Superintendent of Schools. The song, entitled 'Arise!,' was created by Dr. Clint Moroziuk, who, in addition to his role as Superintendent, is an accomplished musician. Dr. Moroziuk, who worked on this project in his spare time and at no cost to the Division, considers the project a 'labour of love' and hopes it will inspire all who listen to the song to answer the call of Christ. In December or January, we will produce and share a video, set to this theme song, that will feature photos, videos, and art that demonstrate how students and staff are animating and living out our faith theme: "*Get Up, Get Going, and Go with God!*" (Luke 7:14). The song, its lyrics, and the backstory to how the song was created can be [downloaded from the Division's website](#).
- Division staff continue to meet (safely, through physical distancing or virtual means) for prayer each morning. During these times, we thank God for His many blessings, seek God's guidance, and bring our community's concerns to God.

PRESENTATIONS & DELEGATIONS

- There were no presentations or delegations.

CONSENT & ACTION ITEMS

- There were no Consent items.
- The Board reviewed and approved, or accepted, the following Action items:
 - 2020 – 2021 Board Strategic Plan
 - 2020 – 2021 Board Advocacy Plan
 - Alberta School Foundation Fund Opt-Out
 - 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements
 - Combined 2019-2020 Annual Education Results Report and 2020-2023 Three-Year Education Plan
 - Technology Proposal: Livestreaming of Board Meetings Report (accepted as information)
 - 2020-2021 Trustee School Results Review Meetings
 - Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards Executive
 - Staff Appreciation Funding
 - Promotional Items for Board Advocacy
 - Faith in Our Future Initiative

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Updates and/or reports were provided on the following:

- Educational/Interagency Partnerships Update
- Modular Classrooms Update

UPCOMING BOARD INITIATIVES/EVENTS

- *Advent Season*: trustees may choose to attend virtual Advent festivities or celebrations.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

- The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for **Monday, December 14, 2020, at 3:30 p.m.** The meeting will be [livestreamed](#) to the community. All Regular Board Meetings are open to the public (note: presently, meetings are only held virtually).