

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

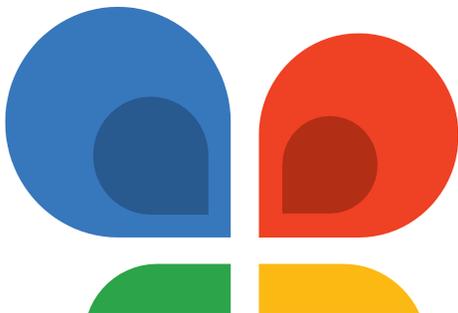
Monday, December 14, 2020

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

### GOOD NEWS

#### School News

- ⇒ Many of our schools have been hosting virtual Advent celebrations, such as [weekly liturgies](#). These activities help us to centre our hearts and minds on the wonder and mystery of the incarnation – God becoming man in the Person of Jesus Christ – and a reminder to always be ready, in expectant hope, for the return of our Lord.
- ⇒ Albert Lacombe Catholic Elementary School was approached by an anonymous donor to be the recipient of a winter clothing donation. The school received a dozen jackets (with accompanying snow pants, gloves, socks, and toques) for both male and female students between the ages of four and 10. The items will be given to needy students across our Division. Any leftover items will be donated, via École Father Jan School, to St. Bernadette Catholic School in Edmonton to meet urgent needs there.
- ⇒ In partnership with Catholic Social Services (CSS), schools throughout our Division have been participating in the [2020 Stuff-a-Stocking](#) Advent Campaign. All funds raised will help CSS purchase Christmas stockings and turkey dinners for 300 vulnerable youth supported by CSS. Thank you to all of our students, families, staff, and community members for [supporting](#) this worthy cause.
- ⇒ Many of our students and staff are being Christ to their communities in this Advent season:
  - the grade 3 class at Neil M. Ross organized the “Happy Hands, Toasty Toes” drive to support Hope Mission this winter. The class collected four large boxes and four large bags overflowing with mittens and warm socks;
  - Bertha Kennedy organized the “Toonie for Teens” initiative in support of Catholic Social Services’ Stuff-a-Stocking campaign. Students and staff placed an ornament on a Christmas tree for every \$2 collected; and
  - students and staff at St. Gabriel Education Centre have collected toys for needy families this Christmas.





- ⇒ Morinville Community High School hosted its [Virtual Student Awards](#) on Nov. 25. While this event may have looked different this year, what hasn't changed is how proud we all are of these students. Congratulations to all of [this year's award recipients!](#)
- ⇒ It is wonderful to see the unique and creative ways our students are animating our Three-Year Faith Theme. We look forward to seeing more practical and innovative expressions of this theme in the months to come!

## Division News

- ⇒ Students in grades 7 to 12 transitioned to at-home learning this week, as part of new [mandatory, province-wide public health measures](#) announced by Premier Jason Kenney when he [declared](#) a state of public health emergency on Nov. 24. While this shift back to online learning may be challenging and inconvenient for some, we appreciate the way our students, families, and staff are adjusting to this temporary change.
- ⇒ The Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools Education Foundation wrapped up its first-ever 50/50 Cash Raffle Fundraiser on Dec. 3. The final jackpot was \$14,250, with 6,065 tickets purchased by 526 people. The 50/50 draw took place on Dec. 8 and was livestreamed to Facebook, with one lucky winner receiving \$7,125! Congratulations! Most importantly, however, the balance raised (\$7,125) will allow the Foundation to purchase much-needed equipment that will help to meet classroom needs. Our sincere gratitude goes out to all those who supported the Foundation and our students.
- ⇒ Barbara Meyer, a librarian at Richard S. Fowler Catholic Junior High School, is hosting three [virtual Christmas concerts](#) of favourite carols in December (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>). The goal is to offer joy and hope to those who watch, particularly seniors, shut-ins, and others who may feel isolated and alone during this season. There is also an option to donate, with 50% of all proceeds going to Hope Mission.
- ⇒ A small [donation](#) in support of Catholic Social Services' [Stuff-a-Stocking Advent Campaign](#) gives Division staff the privilege of wearing ugly Christmas sweaters or Festive Wear every Friday in December. This is a fun, but meaningful and practical, way to show the love of Christ to vulnerable youth in our communities. We thank our Division staff for their generosity!

## 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:

- General Election – October 2021
- Superintendent Evaluation and Board Self-Evaluation
- Staff Appreciation

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Updates and/or reports were provided on the following:

- 2020-2021 Fall Budget Update
- Instructional Calendar Process Update

## UPCOMING BOARD INITIATIVES/EVENTS

- *Advent Season*: trustees may choose to attend virtual Advent festivities or celebrations.
- First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Leadership Committee Meeting – December 16, 2020
- 2021 Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Virtual EXPO – January 14, 2021

## NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for **Monday, January 25, 2021**, 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).