

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE GREATER ST. ALBERT ROMAN CATHOLIC
SEPARATE SCHOOL DIVISION
HELD on MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019, 2:00 P.M.
Division Office, 6 St. Vital Avenue,
St. Albert, AB**

MEMBERS PRESENT Trustees Becigneul, Crockett, Radford, Schell, Shaw, and Tremblay

Trustee Proulx (arrived at 2:06 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

D Keohane, superintendent; R Nixon, assistant superintendent; C Moroziuk, assistant superintendent, and I Paulik, secretary- treasurer

CALL TO ORDER Trustee **Becigneul** called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

IN CAMERA

47/20 Trustee **Shaw:** THAT the Board of Trustees move In Camera at 2:00 p.m.
CARRIED (6/6)

OUT OF CAMERA

48/20 Trustee **Radford:** THAT the Board of Trustees move Out of Camera at 3:23 p.m.
CARRIED (7/7)

OPENING PRAYER

Trustee **Schell** offered the Opening Prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Board of Trustees of The Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division acknowledges that it is meeting on the original lands of the Cree, those of Treaty 6, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. Kinanâskomitin Manito (Thank you Creator).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

49/20 Trustee **Schell:** THAT the Board of Trustees approve the agenda as presented.
CARRIED (7/7)

PRESENTATION DELEGATION

There were 5 presentations to the Board regarding the Faith in Our Future Proposal. Mr. Schiller on behalf of the École Marie Poburan (EMP) Parents, Jaden Babiuk, a student from École Ste. Marguerite d'Youville (ESSMY), Ms. Babiuk and ESSMY parent, Kennedy Prodahl, a student from ESSMY and Ms. Genvieve Gray on behalf of a group of ESSMY parents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & SUMMARIES

50/20 **Trustee Proulx:** **THAT** the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting (Expulsion) held on June 27, 2019 as circulated.

CARRIED (7/7)

51/20 **Trustee Radford:** **THAT** the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on September 30, 2019 as circulated.

CARRIED (7/7)

52/20 **Trustee Shaw:** **THAT** the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on October 7, 2019 as circulated.

CARRIED (7/7)

53/20 **Trustee Tremblay:** **THAT** the Board of Trustees approve the summary of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on October 7, 2019 as circulated.

CARRIED (7/7)

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE & EVENT REPORTS

54/20 **Trustee Tremblay:** **THAT** the Board of Trustees approve the committee reports from the Board Committee of the Whole meeting held October 7, 2019:

- Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association Report
- Alberta School Boards Association Chair's Report
- Alberta School Boards Association Zone 2/3 Report
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Leadership Committee Report
- Business Liaison: St. Albert Chamber

CARRIED (7/7)

GOOD NEWS

Trustee Bécigneul shared the Good News Report.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Twelve questions to the Board were submitted in advance of the meeting. Trustee Bécigneul provided a response to each question. (attached)

1. If EMP children are moved to ESSMY and capacity rates are >85%, will out of boundary children who are registered to attend EMP or already attend EMP be allowed to stay at EMP/ESSMY? (S.K.)
2. What school should Sturgeon County residents take their children to, if they want single track French Immersion for their children? Morinville currently does not offer a program. (S.K.)
3. Is GSACRD committed to the continued viability and success of single track French Immersion in St Albert? (C.H.)
4. The research you mentioned regarding the benefits of K-9

schools, were the schools studied merged after construction or purpose-built as K-9 buildings? Could you please provide a citation for the study so that I might read the study myself? (S.S.)

5. In three different places in the FAQs, you reference health, safety and construction standards that will be adhered to in the ESSMY construction, however you called these standards by three different names (health and safety and education standards, Design Standards (National Building Code, 2019) and occupational health and safety standards for schools. What is the actual name of the document outlining these safety standards and how will you make this document available to the community? (S.S.)
6. The Faith in our Future proposal, as written, speaks to \$2.7 million savings over 5 years, but does not have any indication of the cost of the proposal. Do the savings identified include costs of the project, or will the savings be less than proposed once those costs are calculated? (T.D.)
7. Is the proposal an "all or nothing" strategy, or could components of it move forward if other components are not approved. For example, the plan to dispose of the current Ecole Father Jan is dependent on a new school at the Riverside Area. If that new school is not approved / land isn't given to GSACS, does the entire proposal stop including the EMP / ESSMY consolidation? (T.D.)
8. Will the Board please provide a presentation, at a public Board meeting, regarding school utilization rates and relate the presentation to GSACRD, prior to progressing with the Faith in Our Future Business Proposal? (S.M.)
9. Will the Board please provide at a public Board meeting, a comprehensive presentation regarding all construction and renovation costs associated with the Faith in Our Future Business Proposal prior to progressing with the Faith in Our Future Business Proposal? (S.M.)
10. If it is the Board's wish to truly advance and ameliorate in French-immersion programming, would it please advise as to what efforts can be made to increase the level of French instruction at the Immersion single-track junior high and what supports the Board could provide the school administration in this regard? (C.S.)
11. Are any trustees or anyone from the Superintendent's office participating in the thought exchange? If so, please explain how this is not a conflict of interest? Secondly-should teachers/staff not be encouraged to share their thoughts? They are directly affected by this proposal and their input is so critical. (J.N.)
12. In the letter ahead of the proposal release it is stated that "this proposal is not finalized, and your valued input is required"; the board also stated "we are committed to

transparency in this endeavour.” Unfortunately, as a parent, I have not felt that way and I believe I speak for many parents. As was discussed in the FAQ’s released by the board last week many people did not receive the original email, also the way it was sent out did not encourage people who did receive it to read through the long document. As a result, parents tried to find several ways to communicate with other parents to ensure all were aware of these forthcoming changes but these attempts were interfered with or denied. I would like to hear from the board how you intend to regain the broken trust of parents? Given the timelines listed in the proposal it is very hard to believe in the integrity of the consultation process laid out. It is clearly not possible to proceed with the timelines we have been given and if the data from consultation is taken into consideration. What are you going to do to show parents that you are genuinely interested in feedback and taking our responses into consideration? (S.J.)

MOTION TO EXTEND MEETING

55/20 **Trustee Shaw:** **THAT** the Board of Trustees extend the meeting for an additional 90 minutes.
CARRIED (7/7)

CONSENT ITEMS

56/20 **Trustee Shaw:** **THAT** the Board of Trustees receive the consent items attached and approve all recommendations contained therein as follows:

- 12.21 Review of Board Policy 3: Role of the Trustee and Board Policy 4: Trustee Code of Conduct.

Defeated (7/7)

57/20 **Trustee Radford:** **THAT** the Board of Trustees defer Policy 4: Trustee Code of Conduct to the Committee of the Whole meeting to be held on November 4, 2019.
CARRIED (7/7)

58/20 **Trustee Tremblay:** **THAT** the Board of Trustees approve Board Policy 3: Role of the Trustee as presented.

ACTION ITEMS

School Council Liaison Appointments

59/20 **Trustee Crockett:** **THAT** the Board of Trustees approve the appointments for school council liaisons for the 2019-2020 school year.
CARRIED (7/7)

NEW BUSINESS

Letter from the Catholic Bishops of Alberta
Trustee Tremblay spoke to the Letter from the Catholic Bishops of Alberta.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Report from the Chair

No report from the Chair.

Report from the Superintendent

Information updates from administration included the following items:

- October 2019 Accountability Pillar Report Update (Keohane)
- Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams Report (Nixon)
- Staffing Report (Moroziuk)
- Enrolment Report (Moroziuk)
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Leadership Committee Report (Nixon)

60/20

Trustee Tremblay: THAT the Board of Trustees receive the superintendent's report as information.

CARRIED (7/7)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

61/20

Trustee Shaw: THAT the Board of Trustees receive the Public Engagement Highlights as information.

CARRIED (7/7)

CLARIFICATION PERIOD FOR PUBLIC & MEDIA

The public requested further clarification on the Faith in Our Future proposal.

TRUSTEE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.

There were no requests at this time.

CLOSING PRAYER

Trustee Schell offered the closing prayer at 6:29 p.m.

The Board recessed until 6:37 p.m.

MOTION TO EXTEND MEETING

62/30

Trustee Shaw: THAT the Board of Trustees extend the meeting to 8:00 p.m.

Carried (5 in favor, 2 opposed (Proulx Radford))

IN CAMERA

63/20

Trustee Tremblay: THAT the Board of Trustees move In Camera at 6:39 p.m.

CARRIED (7/7)

Trustee Crockett declared pecuniary interest and excused herself from the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

OUT OF CAMERA

64/20

Trustee Radford: **THAT** the Board of Trustees move Out of Camera at 8:25 p.m.

CARRIED (6/6)

Trustee Crockett re-joined the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

2019-2020 Budget Announcement

65/20

Trustee Proulx: **THAT** the Board of Trustees direct the Superintendent of Schools to establish a cost recovery plan that will address the 2019-2020 provincial budget reductions for presentation at the upcoming board meeting to be held on November 25, 2019.

CARRIED (7/7)

ADJOURNMENT

66/20

Trustee Tremblay: **THAT** the Board of Trustees adjourn the regular meeting at 8:27 p.m.

CARRIED (7/7)

Secretary Treasurer

Chair

Elected Officers

Serena Shaw, President
Cheryl Low, Vice President

Directors

Lory Iovinelli
Calgary RCSSD
John Williams
Catholic Education
Association of Yukon (CEAY)
John de Jong
Christ the Redeemer CSD
Natalie Béland
Conseil scolaire Centre-Est No. 3
Steve Daigle
Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord No. 2
Madeleine Fortin-Bergeron
Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest No. 1
Genevieve Poulin
Conseil scolaire Francosud
Jim Sanson
East Central Alberta CSSD
Alene Mutala
Edmonton CSSD
Michelle Szott
Elk Island CSSD
Richard Yaceyko
Evergreen CSSD
Robert Yaro
Fort McMurray RCSSD
Michael Ouellette
Grande Prairie RCSSD
René Tremblay
Greater St. Albert RCSSD
John Kuran
Holy Family CSSD
Pat Bremner
Holy Spirit RCSSD
Vince MacDonald
Lakeland RCSSD
Gemma Christie
Living Waters CSSD
Dick Mastel
Medicine Hat CSSD
Kim Pasula
Red Deer CSSD
Dwight Wiebe
St. Paul School Division
Sandra Bannard
St. Thomas Aquinas RCSR
Erin Currie
Yellowknife Catholic Schools

Ex-Officio

Most Rev. William McGrattan, Liaison Bishop
Andrea Holowka, CCSSA President
Jamie McNamara, CCSSA Exec. Director
Dean Sarnecki, Executive Director



Board Meeting

EXECUTIVE summary

Celebrate, preserve, promote, and enhance Catholic education

September 13, 2019

ACTION ITEMS

ACSTA Strategic Plan

The Board accepted the revisions to the 2018-2021 ACSTA Strategic Plan.

Shared Facilities Review:

The Board requested input from CCSSA on the Shared Facilities Review.

Curriculum and Resource Development Coordinator Position:

The Board requested further information from CCSSA and deferred the decision to support this position until the November meeting.

Proposed 2020 ACSTA Operating Budget:

The Board accepted the proposed 2020 ACSTA operating budget which includes a structure to provide per diems to Directors for their work on ACSTA committees, commencing with the 2020 budget year. In addition, the Governance Committee was directed to review the current committee structure and approve Terms of Reference for per diems, and provide recommendations by the February, 2020 meeting.

ACSTA Bylaw Review:

The Board accepted the revised bylaws for presentation to the 2019 ACSTA AGM.

Pre-AGM Professional Development Opportunity:

Administration was directed to work in consort with CCSSA to develop a professional development opportunity on Friday morning (November 15) at this year's AGM and Convention.



The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association represents
Catholic trustees in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon.

ACSTA is committed to celebrating, preserving, promoting, and enhancing Catholic education.
By providing spiritual and political leadership, we strive to advocate for publicly funded
Catholic education with a unified voice.

BOARD REPORTS

Follow @ACSTA



ACSTA President:

Finance Committee: Presented a draft 2020 Operating Budget to the Board.

Governance Committee: Presented the draft ACSTA Bylaws to the Board.

Trustee Faith Formation Committee: An on-line ACSTA cohort for the Certificate in Catholic Trusteeship program will be explored. Feedback data from 2016 regarding Trustee faith formation will be reviewed and used to inform future planning. Additional Trustee feedback will be gathered at the AGM through the participant evaluation form.

AGM and Convention Committee: In response to the membership's evaluation comments regarding the length of the Awards Banquet, the committee will be introducing new practices to shorten the program. Reminder that a collection will be taken at the closing Mass towards Toonies for Tuition and Development and Peace. Thank you to Calgary RCSSD for providing a student video presentation for this year's Awards Banquet. Registration is now open

Succession Planning Committee: The committee be reviewing and revising the ED position profile, developing hiring assumptions for the Executive Director and continuing to review policy considerations to support succession planning. A draft position profile will be available for the November Board meeting.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

2018-2021 Strategic Plan Action Taken

Executive Director Report: Executive Director Dean Sarnecki spoke to his previously circulated report including the updated action items documented in the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. He shared how positive ACSTA's relationship with the Government is at both the Ministerial and Bureaucratic level. Current events arising including the MacKinnon report and the Assurance Review/Funding.

Director of Advocacy Report: Highlighted month by month description of advocacy activity as per circulated document. Strong presence on social media including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Networking and messaging shared amongst diverse stakeholders (parents, students, teachers, trustees, superintendents, Bishops). Work continues on communication plan, website updates, and planning of media training workshop. Directors agreed that they would like to receive the weekly media stories on Monday.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL /ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

The Board reviewed: EL-1, General Executive Limitation; EL-2, Emergency Executive Succession; EL-3, Communication and Counsel to the Board; EL-4, Treatment of Staff and Volunteers; EL-5, Employment, Compensation and Benefits; EL-6, Budgeting; EL-7, Fiscal Responsibility; EL-8, Asset Protection.



Education Partners

Alberta/Northwest Territories/Yukon Bishops

Bishop McGrattan provided information on the newly formed Mission Collaborative Initiative. The bishops are preparing a consistent Treaty Recognition protocol that would be used by school districts and other Catholic organizations. Also being drafted are pastoral letters for Catholic .

CCSSA

CCSSA President, Andrea Holowka high-lighted the previously circulated report.

GrACE

GrACE Board met on September 9th and meeting update will be mailed to Directors. Upcoming events include the GrACE Summit on October 21st in Leduc and the Partners' meeting on Dec. 9th.

CCSTA

The annual MP engagement is scheduled for February 2020. The next CCSTA Board Meeting takes place in October ASBA

ASBA Zone 7

Zone 7 Representative, Michael Ouellette reported that the cap has been lifted on Charter schools.

October 3-4, 2019

CCSSA Catholic Leadership in Alberta Schools Conference

October 4, 2019

First Annual Archbishop's Dinner

October 21, 2019

GrACE Summit

November 3, 2019

Catholic Education Sunday

November 15-17, 2019

ACSTA Convention and AGM

November 20, 2019

Newman Theological College "Conscience" Lecture Series

February 6-7, 2020

Board of Directors' Meeting

May 18 - 22, 2020

Catholic Education Week

May 21, 2020

World Catholic Education Day

May 21 - 22, 2020

Board of Directors' Meeting

FACT ACSTA has 24 member boards serving 483 Catholic schools in Alberta, NWT and Yukon that provide a Catholic education to over 181,000 students.



educating mind ♥ heart ♥ spirit



FACT Catholic schools are distinct because they provide a faith based education fully permeated with the teachings of Jesus Christ in all aspects of curriculum and culture.



The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association represents Catholic trustees in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon.

ACSTA is committed to celebrating, preserving, promoting, and enhancing Catholic education. By providing spiritual and political leadership, we strive to advocate for publicly funded Catholic education with a unified voice.

FACT

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FACT

Catholic schools are distinct because they provide a faith based education fully permeated with the teachings of Jesus Christ in all aspects of curriculum and culture.

Benefits of Membership in ACSTA:

- ✓ A unified voice for Catholic education in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon. We are stronger together.
- ✓ A collaborative and supportive relationship with the Catholic Bishops of Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon.
- ✓ The defense of, and monitoring of, legal rights and other issues that could impact Catholic education in Alberta and across Canada.
- ✓ Co-ordination of collective efforts of Member Boards in addressing issues in Catholic education.
- ✓ Political outreach and interaction with the Ministers of Education, government ministries and providing government relations activities at the provincial and territorial level.
- ✓ Liaison with other Catholic organizations and movements across Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon. For example GrACE, Knights of Columbus, CWL, Covenant Health, Social Services and other organizations that protect and defend denominational rights.
- ✓ Co-ordination of resources for legal issues and court challenges to Catholic education constitutional rights locally, provincially, and nationally.
- ✓ Provision of quality faith formation and professional development opportunities for trustees, senior administration, and educators at the AGM/Convention, sharing purpose in Catholic Education (SPICE) Retreat, Blueprints Retreat.
- ✓ A communication hub for Catholic education through ACSTA social media channels Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and through Board Meeting Highlights, President's Updates, and the *Catholic Dimension*.
- ✓ Provide messaging and material regarding trustee elections and MLA engagement.
- ✓ Provide support and material to celebrate Catholic education through Catholic Education Sunday (November) and Catholic Education Week (May).
- ✓ Celebrate and support excellence in our Catholic school divisions by creating a strong social media presence and network.
- ✓ Collect, collate, and share relevant quantitative and qualitative data that contributes to a better understanding of Catholic education, its mission, and its outcomes.

Follow @ACSTA



Gospel Witnesses Mark #4

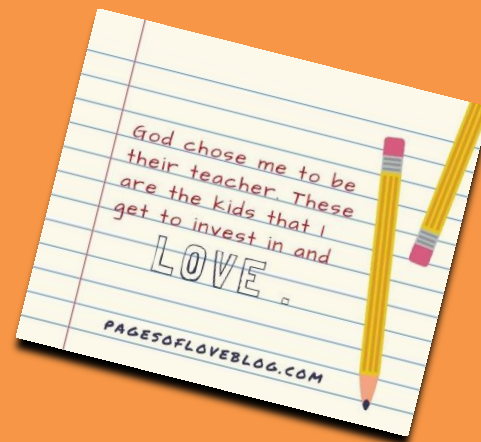
Welcome back to another school year!

Catholic schools nurture teachers that are living witnesses to the Gospel and intentional disciples of Jesus Christ and his Church. (Mark #4)

Educators are called to holiness and wholeness of life precisely through their vocational work (Groome, 1998.)

Evergreen Catholic and STAR Catholic Districts hosted GrACE sessions for teachers at their opening professional and faith events.

GrACE invites all Catholic teachers into the conversation around Catholic education. Educators are the heart of a Catholic school. We are grateful for all they do!



A message from the staff at St Luke's to every student who walks through the door @ EICS Catholic

STAR Catholic hosted a GrACE breakout session at the district's Reflection Day August 29. It was a great opportunity to bring awareness to staff from across the division about advocacy for Catholic education. Participants were very engaged with each other in the table topic discussion and noted they felt more informed and aware of Catholic education in Alberta and Canada. Participants also shared that they feel honored to advocate for Catholic education; they want to be more vocal and continue to learn from their peers.

Evergreen Staff Feedback

What is your biggest TAKE-AWAY from this GrACE session?

- We need to be advocates for Catholic education in Alberta. It is truly a gift.
- The marks really resonate with my goals as an educator
- Be the best Catholic educator I can
- How much Catholic education is growing
- We need to do more, faster!
- I'm more informed and inspired!
- Our Catholic schools are truly important for those children at risk
- Highlighting/promoting the "unique & distinct" portion of Catholic schools

GrACE Summit Agenda

9:00 AM Coffee and gathering

9:30-2:30 PM

1. Pray: Opening Liturgy
2. Unite: Strengthening the Why in Alberta's Catholic Schools: Panel representing the Bishops of Alberta, ACSTA and CCSSA
3. Communicate: Celebrating GrACE's past and future
4. Educate: GrACE group planning, Practical Tips for Effective Advocacy, The 5 Marks of a Catholic School
5. Engage: Featured GrACE group sharing and conversation

STAR Catholic's Father Leduc School is eager to host the upcoming GrACE Summit October 21.



Register NOW!



\$25 Registration
included lunch

GRACE SUMMIT STRENGTHENING OUR WHY

Monday, October 21, 2019
9:30-2:30 pm

Register until Monday October 14 at
starcatholic.ab.ca/faith/grace

Father Leduc School Leduc,



Best Western
Premier Denham
Inn & Suites
Special Rate
\$109.00

IMPORTANT

Change in contact # for booking block hotel rooms for GrACE Conference at Best Western Premier Denham Inn & Suites in Leduc available until Oct 4.

1-800-661-3327

Mark Your Calendars

Novena for Catholic Education- October 25-November 3

Catholic Education Sunday- November 3, 2019

Catholic Education Week- May 18-22, 2020

World Catholic Education Day- May 21, 2020

Welcome GrACE #17

St Clare Catholic School- CCSD



Our GrACE Team at St. Clare is definitely on board and excited to participate in some big events which will help permeate our Catholicity within the school and surrounding community! We are proud to say that we even gained a member since its inception!

We look forward to our involvement in and promotion of this very worthy cause. We collectively can't wait to hear of all the updates from the GrACE groups throughout the province.

GrACE received a link to an amazing testimonial video from Lloydminster Catholic School District. **We Believe in Catholic Education** speaks to the power of Catholic schools for non-Catholic families as well.

[We Believe in Catholic Education-LCSD](#)

Thank you for creating this video, for your advocacy and for sharing!

GrACE Facebook address is

www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed

GrACE Twitter address is [@GrACE4cathed](https://twitter.com/GrACE4cathed)

The mission of GrACE is to

INSPIRE

INVIGORATE and

EMBOLDEN the spirit of Catholic education

in order to unite, engage, advocate and communicate with one voice on its behalf.



GrACE Top Toolkit Tips

1. Share [We Believe in Catholic Education- Lloydminster Catholic](#)
2. Tell your Catholic district's story: What's the history of Catholic education in your district?
3. Set up an intentional plan for prayer: masses, Adoration; novenas; intentions for parish, school and all groups



Grace Summit

Strengthening our WHY

Monday, October 21, 2019
9:00 Registration
9:30-2:30 pm
Father Leduc School, Leduc

- Learn about advocacy for Catholic Education in Alberta
- Receive practical advocacy ideas and tips
- Share with other stakeholders
- Be inspired! Be invigorated! Be emboldened!

**\$25 Registration
includes lunch**

Register until Monday October 14 at
starcatholic.ab.ca/faith/grace

Best Western Premier Denham Inn & Suites
Special Rate \$109.00 **1-800-661-3327**
Available until October 4, 2019

Father Leduc Catholic School
400 Sheppard Boulevard
Leduc, AB



Committee Report Summary

Board Committee of the Whole Meeting Date: October 7, 2019

Submitted By: Trustee Joe Becigneul

Committee/Event Name: ASBA Chair's Meeting

Committee/Event Date: September 12, 2019

Summary of Agenda Items:

Notes from ASBA were shared with Trustees. Below are some of my notes:

Minister LaGrange:

- Wants to empower Boards to run their jurisdictions.
- Opening lines of communication with all stakeholders (ASBA, ACSTA, CASS, ATA).
- The Minister addressed the removal of "Public" as a standardization of the names, with no hidden agenda, but rather all about levelling the playing field.

Gene Williams – Shared a handout of a power point – copies to distribute to Trustees.

Trina Boymook – ASBA Vice Chair, Reported on Advocacy Committee.

- Cost of doing business in AB vs BC/Ont. Plumbers, heat, lights, services included across the board.
- Alberta birthrate vs other provinces.
- Alberta's transient work force (oil patch) use services but pay no taxes.
- Creep – EpiPen example – is it Education or health care.
- POM – Particularly rural. Need a proper funding formula.



Committee Report Summary

Board Committee of the Whole Meeting Date: October 7, 2019

Submitted By: Trustee Joe Becigneul

Committee/Event Name: ASBA Zone 2/3

Committee/Event Date: September 27, 2019

Summary of Agenda Items:

Zone AGM at October Meeting: October 25, 2019 – St. Anthony Centre

Elections: Zone Chair, Vice-Chair, Zone Director (1) plus 1 alternate.

- Edwin Parr Committee (3)
- King's University Liaison (1) plus 1 alternate
- Zone Advocacy Committee
- Zone Language Committee (2)
- Comprehensive School Health Committee
- Comprehensive School Health Advocate

There will be a proposed By-law change – Wording TBD re committee members elected above to commit to attend Zone meetings for reporting purposes.

Highlights Relevant to GSACRD:

Fall Meetings: October 25 and December 6. No November Meeting.

- Edwin Parr – Due to excess funds, Zone will pay for the Nominee and 1 guest to attend the Edwin Parr Awards Banquet. This is a change from last year.
- Due to an excess of funds that exceeds the \$15,000 cushion retained for budget purposes, there will be a refund to Boards of \$0.015 per student. Rather than issue cheques, the amount will be deducted from this year's invoice.

- Comprehensive School Health Committee – This committee and the need for same has been tabled to the October meeting.
- As mentioned above, the King's University Teacher Education Advisory Committee Rep and an alternate will be elected at the October Zone AGM. We currently have representation at the U of A and representation at Grant Mac and Concordia are being explored.

- "Public" being removed from the Public School Boards. – There is potentially a resolution coming to the ASBA FGM asking that the word "Public" be added to all 41 Public School Boards.

Board of Directors Report: Cheryl Dumont and Arlene Hrynyk. I e-mailed the report to all Trustees under separate cover. Items of note:

- Due to savings realized by ASBA, they are forecasting a 50% reduction in Registration fees for both the FGM and SGM.
- There will be a discount for CSBA (Banff 2020)
- President Lorrie Jess and CEO Abboud have been able to get standing meetings with Minister LaGrange every 6 weeks and Dr. Abboud with the Deputy Minister every 5 weeks.
- The Mental Health Initiative (youth summit at last year's SGM) to be addressed at the FGM with respect to moving the initiative forward for next year.

ASBA Zone 2/3 Advocacy Report – Presented by Trina Boymook, ASBA Vice-Chair. Activities in the planning that had been on hold because of the election.

ASBA Collaboration: President Lorrie Jess and Dr. Abboud were busy all summer. Meetings with Minister LaGrange, Deputy Minister, Gene Williams and organized and hosted a Board Chairs Meeting on two days notice (Minutes circulated to Trustees under separate e-mail).

The Choice in Education Act has been postponed until spring.

ASBA Staff (Steve Langer) presented next several items to put on our radar.

- Education Act (Many Regulations to yet be written)
- Trustee Code of Conduct (Including removal of Trustee).
- Ward Boundaries – December 31 deadline
- Community engagement – part of the Education Act.
- Outlined the difference between Board Policies vs AP's
- Want to know what ASBA can do to assist local Boards.

Albert Education Report: Maurice Tremblay.

- The "In the Loop" link is no longer in use.
- Learn.ca is a resource tool for teachers and parents.
- Math competency funding continues (\$1000 per course)
- RCSD Provincial Meeting is being held October 23rd.



Committee Report Summary

Board Committee of the Whole Meeting Date: Monday October 7, 2019

Submitted By: Trustee Shaw

Committee/Event Name: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Leadership Committee Meeting

Committee/Event Date: Friday September 24, 2019

Summary of Agenda Items:

Land-based Pedagogy – David

David was able to expand his understanding of the Indigenous way of being stewards of creation through seeing a movie at the Imax theater titled GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST. This was a wonderful opportunity for learning that could be shared with students and staff alike.

<https://telusworldofscienceedmonton.ca/explore/experiences/great-bear-rainforest/>

Engaging with Community Members – Rhonda

Rhonda brought forward an idea from the Working committee to continue on with the work of having things like the box that was shared with Chaplains last year to use artifacts for learning about Indigenous culture. This year, there is an idea to possibly create a book that would share stories of local Indigenous people. Is there an appetite for this, and what could it look like? We were able to ask questions to better understand the purpose of the project as well as share ideas of what it could possible look like.

Indigenous Spirituality and Catholic Faith Connections - Colin

Comparing Creation Stories

Colin lead us through an exercise which included reading and comparing Judo-Christian creation stories with Indigenous creation stories. We spent time understanding how to more deeply read this type of story as well as compare and contrast the stories of the two traditions.

Highlights Relevant to GSACRD:

This work is relevant to the work being done to better understand truth and reconciliation as well as understand how to best serve our Indigenous students in order to close any gaps between their cohort and that of other students. We are blessed to find out that this is not an issue in our Division.



Committee Report Summary

Board Committee of the Whole Meeting Date: October 7, 2019

Submitted By: Trustee Crockett

Committee/Event Name: St Albert Chamber of Commerce

Committee/Event Date: September 11, 2019

Speaker – Mayor Cathy Heron – State of the City Address

- Mayor Heron began by sharing that council has had many accomplishments due to a culture of optimism, collaboration and mutual respect including a positive relationship with neighboring municipalities.
- Council is proud that the municipal tax rate of 0.9% is one of the lowest in the province with only Airdrie and Spruce Grove having a lower per capita ratio.
- Partnership with the government of Alberta has resulted in an agreement with the former NDP government to front end the costs of building Ray Gibbon Drive although the UCP government is reviewing its infrastructure commitments at this time.
- Council has moved forward on expropriating land in Kingswood, an ongoing issue for the last 20 years. The space was originally designated for a school and a park. The developer did not agree with a school built on the property.
- Mayor Heron was proud of Council for being the first city in Alberta to make moves on banning conversion therapy.
- Due to uncertainties of grants from the government to fund capital plans, utilities and infrastructure, City Council is taking a hard look at a municipal utility corporation.
- Currently, the City has a pilot project on creating a new service including waste to revenue.
- The Mayor's focus for the next two years includes preserving the high quality of life in St Albert.
- Mayor Heron can be reached at mayorheron@stalbert.ca

Next Chamber Luncheon – October 16, 2019
Federal candidates Forum

Responses to Questions from the Public (For the October 28, 2019 Board Meeting)

- 1. If EMP children are moved to ESSMY and capacity rates are greater than 85%, will out-of-boundary students who are registered to attend EMP or already attend EMP be allowed to stay at EMP/ESSMY?**

We provide every student with a “designated school” to meet their needs within our Division. Designated schools are primarily for the purpose of busing and enrolment distribution. Every student has a “designated school” that is within an attendance area based on the student’s parent’s (s’) or legal guardian’s address (*Education Act*, Section 4[1]). Resident students are “resident to our Division” and students who reside in the attendance boundary of EMP have EMP as their designated school and will therefore continue as registrants in the EMP community if they transfer to the ESMY site. For students whose parents are not living in the attendance boundary of EMP, those students would be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the school principal based on whether sufficient room and resources exist at the time of the request for that student to attend EMP if moved to ESMY. It is not a set rule that if the school is near a certain % of utilization that students who are out-of-boundary will be turned away; legislatively, the principal assesses whether and how a student’s learning needs can be accommodated based on “room and resources” in the school at the time of the request. When a principal is in the fortunate position of honouring requests of parents who live outside the school’s attendance boundary, then the parent is able to attend what is called their “school of choice.”

It is true that schools of choice become less of an opportunity for families as their attendance rates increase to full capacity through the attendance of their in-boundary students. The reason is that they are now large enough to only enroll students in an attendance area, which is what the system is set up to achieve.

- 2. What school should Sturgeon County residents take their children to, if they want single track French Immersion for their children? Morinville currently does not offer a program.**

We will continue to offer single track French Immersion at ESSMY. We recognize the value of single-track French Immersion programming and support it as long as there is sufficient community interest and resourcing. Presently, we seek to provide French Immersion programming within a dual-track context from K-12 in Morinville. We hope to continue to offer such programming based on sufficient community interest. Should the community demand increase to proportions that enable a vibrant single-track French Immersion program at one site, we would accommodate such a demand.

- 3. Is GSACRD committed to the continued viability and success of single track French Immersion in St Albert?**

We recognize the value of single-track French Immersion programming and support it as long as there is sufficient community interest and resourcing. We hope to continue to offer such programming based on sufficient community interest. In St. Albert, there is sufficient interest to continue with French Immersion single-track K-9, so that is the focus on sustaining vibrant K-9 single track French Immersion programming.

Responses to Questions from the Public (For the October 28, 2019 Board Meeting)

4. **The research you mentioned regarding the benefits of K-9 schools, were the schools studied merged after construction or purpose-built as K-9 buildings? Could you please provide a citation for the study so that I might read the study myself?**

All schools are built with the possibility of accommodating different grade configurations to adapt to changing needs of the community. Such has been the case historically in our Division at multiple sites, including École Father Jan, École George H Primeau, and Legal School to name a few examples.

Our review of research was based on our interest in examining the benefits and challenges of diverse grade configurations, including K-9. We also learned the value of various alternative grade configurations that keep students together and reduce transitions. We relied on multiple studies and used our own experiences and results of having K-9 schools within our jurisdiction. Some of the studies that informed our thinking are as follows:

Dhuey, E. (2013). Middle school or junior high? How grade-level configurations affect academic achievement. *Canadian Journal of Economics*, v. 46 (2), 469-496.

Schwerdt, G. and West, M. (2013). The impact of alternative grade configurations on student outcomes through middle and high school. *Journal of Public Economics*, v. 97, 308-328.

Holmlund, H., Böhlmark, A. (2019). Does grade configuration matter? Effects of school reorganisation on pupils' educational experience. *Journal of Urban Economics*, v. 109, 14-26. doi: 10.1016/j.jue.2018.11.004.

5. **In three different places in the FAQs, you reference health, safety, and construction standards that will be adhered to in the ESSMY construction; however, you called these standards by three different names (health and safety and education standards; Design Standards (National Building Code, 2019) and occupational health and safety standards for schools. What is the actual name of the document outlining these safety standards and how will you make this document available to the community?**

Several documents and legislative references are commonly used in capital projects. This is a list of key resources guiding planning and complementary legislation and regulations that are often referenced in proposals and capital plans. We work with experts to confirm, through their professional practice, the necessary standards that apply in capital projects. Such experts are part of Alberta Infrastructure as well as outside consultants.

- [School Capital Planning Manual and Addendums](#)
- [Capital Planning: School Capital Reporting and New Schools and Modernization Guide User Guide \(June 20, 2018\)](#)
- [National Building Codes \(2019\) Alberta Edition and National Fire Code \(2019\) Alberta](#)
- [Alberta Building Code \(2014\)](#)
- [National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings 2011](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#)

6. **The Faith in our Future proposal, as written, speaks to \$2.7 million savings over 5 years, but does not have any indication of the cost of the proposal. Do the savings**

Responses to Questions from the Public (For the October 28, 2019 Board Meeting)

identified include costs of the project, or will the savings be less than proposed once those costs are calculated?

Regarding the statement of savings over five years in the proposal; this was one way for the Board to illustrate the benefits to the Division through a very short timeframe (five years). The savings are the result of addressing each of the drivers outlined in the proposal. To summarize, the drivers include the costs of high school French Immersion within existing duplicate programming, health and safety considerations for Division Office, barrier free access for diverse learning needs in St. Gabriel, excessive annual lease costs to St. Gabriel, replacing Father Jan as a school that is surpassing its life cycle, and assuring viability for Catholic education within the District by finding ways to secure a new school in a high growth area in St. Albert.

Regarding the cost of renovating ESSMY and EMP, such costs would be less than the following proceeds in the short- and long-term:

- +130,000.00/year for not having lease costs for St. Gabriel High School;
- +100,000 one time cost of putting a lift into leased space to accommodate diverse learning needs;
- + \$69,972.76* outreach funds yearly for St. Gabriel High School in a non-school location as an outreach program (i.e., such funds will not be received if St. Gabriel High School is moved into a school site);
- receiving proceeds from the sale of Division Office site and land;
- receiving proceeds from the sale of École Father Jan site and land.

The Board has elected not to scope out actual cost-benefits of the proposal at this time because it is currently seeking out what support exists for the proposal that addresses these drivers, and whether the community stakeholders present alternative solutions.

Once consultation illuminates what is possible (present proposal and community recommendations), then the Board will decide whether to invest in professional capital planning team expertise to determine actual cost-benefits of each phase of the proposal to provide the most financially viable solution that exists to accommodate a path forward. In exploring solutions for the future, the long-term financial benefits of recouping an investment within a short- and long-term period will need to be considered.

* 2018-2019 Alberta Education Funding Manual for School Authorities, (p.96)

- 7. Is the proposal an “all or nothing” strategy, or could components of it move forward if other components are not approved. For example, the plan to dispose of the current Ecole Father Jan is dependent on a new school at the Riverside Area. If that new school is not approved / land isn’t given to GSACS, does the entire proposal stop including the EMP / ESSMY consolidation?**

Regarding the concern about the proposal being an “all or nothing” strategy, it is not. As a proposal, the Business Plan is the Board’s hypothesis of one possible way to address specific needs or “drivers” that will not be decreasing in scope over time. The Board is fully committed to listening to community stakeholders’ suggestions to best address solutions for the drivers identified. The Board’s commitment is emphasized within the conclusion of the proposal:

Responses to Questions from the Public (For the October 28, 2019 Board Meeting)

The Board trusts that its public can be a valued resource in understanding and making recommendations to this proposal.

Hence, the Board looks to the community for ideas and recommendations that may or may not be in agreement with parts of or all strategies in the Business Plan. The proposal is therefore an invitation for this conversation. It was written as a way to illustrate a conceptual path to address the clearly identified fiscal, safety, inclusion, and viability needs of the Division. The proposal and follow up consultation is intended to be an open dialogue to invite the public to provide either validations of the phrasing as a conceptual pathway or to offer alternatives.

At this time, the Thoughtexchange survey and responses provided as a “Frequently-Asked Questions” document and the Open House on October 30th, are serving as a means to solicit ongoing community feedback. Following such consultation, the Board will, in early November, articulate what was heard from the feedback and, on that basis, consider revisions to the proposal based upon solutions offered by the stakeholders and/or solutions to questions raised by community stakeholders.

Regarding the example as to whether one part of the proposal (i.e., sale of École Father Jan as determining whether EMP moves to ESSMY) is dependent on the other, the answer is: “No, the strategies are interrelated, not interdependent.” Therefore, one strategy can exist as presented while another strategy is not implemented in the form that is written in the proposal.

For example, it is uncertain when the École Father Jan replacement school would be approved by the government. But it is known that a positioning of the case to have a replacement school on the basis of the Division’s utilization rates is the best predictor of getting a school in the only area of St. Albert that has sites available. Therefore, the Board is dedicated to positioning the Division to be a contender for a new school in Riverside. The best way to do that is to make the case for 900 student seats to address French Immersion and Regular Programming by emphasizing that the present location is unsafe and that we have high utilization in French Immersion sites that exist at the time that a new school site is being offered. Without sufficiently high utilization (75% or better), it is highly unlikely that our Catholic system would be a contender for such a site based on the requirements established by the City’s Site Based Allocation Committee. The Business Plan Proposal presents a possible conceptual pathway to achieve this outcome (i.e., moving EMP into ESSMY); however, if there are other ways to increase utilization of school space in St. Albert to ensure the viability of French Immersion programming other than what is outlined in the proposal, the Board is very receptive to these recommendations at this time.

8. Will the Board please provide a presentation, at a public Board meeting, regarding school utilization rates and relate the presentation to GSACRD prior to progressing with the Faith in Our Future Business Proposal?

Yes, the Board will, in November, review all feedback and share publicly what it has learned from consultation, including impact on utilization rates with respect to ensuring the viability of French Immersion programming. The location for such information/presentations and conversations will happen through the open house and table top conversations following the open house. However, it may be useful to share here that we currently know that *not* all schools with utilization rates less than 70% can

Responses to Questions from the Public (For the October 28, 2019 Board Meeting)

have a reduced footprint (which would increase utilization) due to the fact that there are no portables on the buildings to be removed. Such is the case with Bertha Kennedy and Albert Lacombe. Additionally, it is important to consider that the Board is addressing the driver of increasing utilization rates in French Immersion schools to sustain strong French Immersion programming. This explains why the focus will need to be on specific schools to reduce utilization, not all schools that may appear to be struggling with lower or unpredictable enrollment and utilization rates. Currently, we know that the utilization rate of St. Albert Public is at 87% and that the St. Albert City schools in St. Albert are at 64%. Therefore, utilization rates in our Division are somewhat pressing and require a systemic solution that will resolve the driver/issue for sustaining not only French Immersion programming but also Catholic education. We also know that any effort to increase utilization decreases maintenance, utility, and custodial costs, all important factors to ensuring a healthy and viable school system.

9. Will the Board please provide at a public Board meeting, a comprehensive presentation regarding all construction and renovation costs associated with the Faith in Our Future Business Proposal prior to progressing with the Faith in our Future Business Proposal?

Yes, the Board is committed to reviewing feedback in November and then proceeding with a more itemized, concrete plan to move forward. This would be shared at a public board meeting. As previously stated, should the plan, if or when amended, would get to that point, relevant costs will be made public, including any areas where “opportunity costs” are evident. This term specifically looks at a correlation made between a short-term loss and long-term gains for Division which most materially includes increasing enrollment and utilization for the Division over the long term.

10. If it is the Board’s wish to truly advance and ameliorate in French-immersion programming, would it please advise as to what efforts can be made to increase the level of French instruction at the Immersion single-track junior high and what supports the Board could provide the school administration in this regard?

On October 23, 2019, the Board received a context for this question and the concern expressed is regarding the assessment by the individual who submitted the question that there is too little French spoken by teachers in classrooms at our single track French Immersion secondary school. The French language instruction of the school was reviewed by the school principal and Division office staff earlier in the Fall 2019, and it was determined that instruction met and continues to meet the guidelines of French language instruction in the Alberta Education’s Guide to Education, as acknowledged by the individual who submitted the question. The additional context provided by the individual who submitted the question; this individual stated that “a decision to increase French language instruction would be a win-win for all parties,” and we would agree that French Immersion education is dependent on developing a strong oral basis for the development of receptive and expressive language competencies of students. Every effort is being made by the school principal to achieve optimal oral French instruction.

11. Are any trustees or anyone from the Superintendent's office participating in the thought exchange? If so, please explain how this is not a conflict of interest? Secondly- should teachers/staff not be encouraged to share their thoughts? They are directly affected by this proposal and their input is so critical.

Responses to Questions from the Public (For the October 28, 2019 Board Meeting)

Thoughtexchange is open to anyone (Parent/Guardian, Staff, Student, Community Member, or Other) to participate. No one is excluded from taking part in Thoughtexchange, and the opportunity to participate has been shared through multiple communication methods, including a publicly available link on our website. We believe every view has value in the process, so all community members and stakeholders have been encouraged to provide their feedback. We will continue to use multiple methods to communicate engagement opportunities, and encourage anyone who feels they are not receiving updates to confirm with our division office their correct contact information so records can be updated.

- 12. In the letter ahead of the proposal release, it is stated that “this proposal is not finalized, and your valued input is required”; the board also stated “we are committed to transparency in this endeavour.” Unfortunately, as a parent, I have not felt that way and I believe I speak for many parents. As was discussed in the FAQ’s released by the board last week many people did not receive the original email, also the way it was sent out did not encourage people who did receive it to read through the long document. As a result, parents tried to find several ways to communicate with other parents to ensure all were aware of these forthcoming changes but these attempts were interfered with or denied. I would like to hear from the board how you intend to regain the broken trust of parents? Given the timelines listed in the proposal it is very hard to believe in the integrity of the consultation process laid out. It is clearly not possible to proceed with the timelines we have been given and if the data from consultation is taken into consideration. What are you going to do to show parents that you are genuinely interested in feedback and taking our responses into consideration?**

Regarding communication frustrations of stakeholders, the Board is fully committed to communicating openly through multiple communication channels about the *Faith In Our Future* proposal in an effort to reach everyone who is impacted by the proposal.

After the first email message was sent to all community stakeholders, the Board checked with administration to see whether families received and opened the message. It turned out that 354 out of 5473 recipients (6%) had privacy settings that had prevented the message from being read. The Board responded within the same week to send a weekly update from the Board Chair and to post the same messages on our Division webpage. In that message, the question about how to address those stakeholders who may not have received that first message was addressed:

All updates are provided using student enrolment information of families in our division to determine a recipient list for email communications related to Faith in Our Future. On October 1, 2019, 5473 recipients received the email message sent about Faith In Our Future and 354 were blocked due to privacy settings or invalid email addresses. Therefore, in the rare event that an intended recipient was missed due to technical difficulties, parents are encouraged to check their individual email privacy settings and ensure any communication coming from Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools is marked as a safe sender. This will ensure messages come through your regular inbox and not a Spam folder. If you have not received the intended communication, please email communications@gsacrd.ab.ca.

Responses to Questions from the Public (For the October 28, 2019 Board Meeting)

The second update was recently sent and posted, and we have included reminders about face-to-face opportunities to engage with the Board:

Good afternoon,

Over the last three weeks, our Board of Trustees has greatly appreciated your feedback on the Faith in Our Future proposal.

Our goal is to listen to your input, to learn about your interests, and to investigate your suggested alternatives to and questions about the proposal. On a weekly basis, we have discussed themes illuminated in your Thoughtexchange survey responses. Based on survey responses from October 11-18, one theme was your request for face-to-face conversations about particular questions arising as you reflected on the proposal.

*We look forward to engaging in conversations with you at the upcoming Open House on October 30th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at St. Albert Catholic High School (33 Malmo Avenue, St. Albert). Please RSVP communications@gsacrd.ab.ca. **Dates and locations for continued conversations will be shared following the Open House.***

We encourage you to continue to participate in [Thoughtexchange](#) until October 30 to offer ideas and impressions about and/or solutions/alternatives to our Faith in Our Future proposal.

Your time, effort, and input are appreciated. Thank you for being an active participant in the consultation process.

*God bless,
Joe Becigneul, Board Chair
Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools*

This week, a message from the Board Chair will be emailed and posted on the Division webpage. In it, the Board will continue to update all stakeholders on key themes from Thoughtexchange feedback. Because of that feedback last week, the Board decided to provide five additional face-to-face opportunities (in addition to this week's Open House at SACHS) for community stakeholders to provide feedback. At the Open House, a comment card (paper and digital form) will be made available. For those individuals who cannot attend the open house, we will provide information at the open house on the Division website, first page as part of Faith In Our Future updates.

Regarding regaining trust of those parents who struggled or who struggle now to receive communication, we are committed to a pattern of communication through multiple channels-- weekly updates through email and posting on the Division webpage. Additionally, the Board is hosting an Open House on October 30th at St. Albert High School and five additional face-to-face opportunities for consultation and feedback.

Regarding the timeline in the Faith In Our Future proposal; it is not fixed. The proposal is a conceptual pathway that will be adjusted to reflect community feedback. The timeline is part of this conceptual pathway and if the Board determines that adjustments are required, then the timeline will be adjusted. There is no part of the Faith In Our Future proposal that has been predetermined or "set in stone". It is a plan presented as a proposal for community stakeholder feedback, and the Board is reviewing and responding to

Responses to Questions from the Public (For the October 28, 2019 Board Meeting)

feedback as it emerges and considering how best to address the drivers such as: costs of high school French Immersion within existing duplicate programming, health and safety considerations for Division Office, barrier free access for diverse learning needs in St. Gabriel, excessive annual lease costs to St. Gabriel, replacing Father Jan as a school that is surpassing its life cycle, and assuring viability for Catholic education within the District by finding ways to secure a new school in a high growth area in St. Albert. Such drivers are complex and depend on community ideas for how best to address them. The Board is fully committed to being responsive to community interests, so communication has been organized through multiple channels in a predictable manner so as to encourage full participation of every stakeholder who is impacted and who has ideas to offer to address these drivers.