

Board of Trustees

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Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools



Regular Board Meeting Summary
March 14, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Division News

On Thursday, March 3rd (the third day of the third month), all **GSACRD schools and facilities** stood in solidarity with the people of Ukraine by observing a minute of silence. Everyone was also encouraged to wear blue and yellow as a symbol of support. March 3rd was chosen because three is a significant number for Ukrainians, both liturgically and nationally. Three fingers are used to make the sign of the cross in Ukrainian churches and the sign is often made three times in succession when praying. Additionally, the Ukrainian trident, or tryzub, which has three points and is a symbol of freedom, adorns the Ukrainian coat of arms.



Video production began earlier in February with 13 families sharing their story and their “why” for choosing our **division**. It was a heartwarming day with lots of laughter, a few tears, and an overwhelming amount of positivity!

All of our schools participated in **Shrove Tuesday** with pancakes shared amongst our many school communities. It was the first time in a very long time that students and staff could join together and celebrate!



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Following Shrove Tuesday, schools across the division participated in **Ash Wednesday**. A special thanks to Father Ignacy from St. Albert Parish for leading our Ash Wednesday liturgy at the **GSACRD Division Services Centre**.



Lent is in full swing across our division and so is our Lenten service project supporting Catholic Social Services' "BeSafe Backpack" campaign. Funds collected will go toward the purchase of items for the backpacks.

School News

St. Gabriel Education Centre will be launching a new program beginning in the next school year. The school will now offer alternative education for grades 7-9 and French immersion programming for grade 10! The school's principal, Renee Trottier also commented on the exceptional relationship the school has with both **École Secondaire St. Albert Catholic High School** and **Morinville Community High School**.

École Secondaire St. Albert Catholic High School is also launching a brand-new program for students, also commencing in the next school year. The program is called the **Wellness Hub** which will offer students flexible/hybrid programming where students can pursue their passions with full support from teachers and staff. Further details will be shared in the coming weeks as the marketing campaign is delivered. The school also had a really good open house, with many people in attendance. Principal

Michael mentioned that it was one of the best open houses they've had in a while and being able to have it in person was wonderful.

Neil M. Ross Catholic Elementary School was visited by CTV News who joined the school's Moment of Silence and Prayer for Ukraine. The journalist interviewed several students and both the Principal, Shelby Moser and Vice-Principal, Sherry Gagne, who explained how their school and teachers are talking about what is happening in Ukraine with their students.



Vincent J. Maloney Catholic Junior High School also had a fantastic open house with many people in attendance. In other VJM news, the school is currently running a fundraiser for March 14th, Pi Day. Students are raising money for Catholic Social Services and for each dollar raised, students can vote for who will be "pied" on Monday. The top five teachers will be pied by students and media is expected to attend. Finally, Tristan Brass from VJM has won the Peary Award in the Innovative Explorer category. Congratulations, Tristan!

The Morinville Community High School girls curling team team their first two games of curling on March 5th and no one could believe they had never played a game before! They did so well and won 6 ends! They have learned a great deal and are excellent representatives of MCHS, so please congratulate them for working so hard. The girls' team also was able to watch the Brier and were able to catch a photo with Team Gushue!



Students from **Richard S. Fowler Catholic Junior High School** welcomed Jesse Lipscombe to their school to celebrate Black History Month and hear how his contributions have positively impacted our community. It was a profound day and inspiring to see how he connected with the students. Students from Fowler also enjoyed a ski trip to Marmot Basin in Jasper!

The **École Marie Poburan** community has been raising money for the Sturgeon Community Hospital's NICU and a plaque has been commemorated in their name within the hospital's NICU department.

J.J. Nearing Catholic Elementary School celebrated a 2-day, Build-a-Kindness-Tree event and kicked off the Lenten season with pancakes, music and a parade filling their hallways with smiles, laughter and a heartwarming feeling of being together again!



CONSENT & ACTION ITEMS

The following Action items were approved:

- 13.1. 2021-2022 Edwin Parr Award Nominee
- 13.2. 2023-2026 Three Year-Capital Plan
- 13.3. 2022-2023 Transportation Fees

- 13.4. Community Project Advocacy
- 13.5. St. Jean Baptiste Rebuild FUNdraiser Extravaganza

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **15.2.1.** Field Trip Report

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled to take place on April 25, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.