



Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools

Board Meeting Summary

November 23, 2015

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The last regular meeting of the Board was held at the District Office, on Monday, November 23, 2015.

GOOD NEWS

- **École Notre Dame** hosted a faith retreat “Feel the Pulse” that included more than 80% of the students. The feedback received was tremendous and students are looking forward to future retreats!
- It’s an exciting time of year for aspiring bankers in our schools. ATB branches opened up at **Neil M. Ross** for the fifth year and, for the first time, at **Bertha Kennedy School**. Students are interviewed and are hired for positions that provide them with real life experiences which aid and develop their financial literacy skills.
- High school students at **ESSMY** participated in a lesson each day, during their flex, in support of National Anti-Bullying Awareness week. Being informed is a positive step in creating safer schools. Grade nine students welcome Constable Avoine in for a discussion on bullying awareness.
- **MCHS** is the recipient of a number of community donations in support of programming for students. This includes support from Champion Pet Foods for funds toward the school studio to assist with the purchase of wireless headphones and support for development of an outdoor classroom to enhance the Urban Agriculture program. Additionally, the school received an environment grant from Conoco Philips to further support this initiative. Thank you to our community partners!
- Congratulations to the **MCHS Wolves** on their outstanding volleyball season including their senior teams success in qualifying for provincials.
- Thank you to the staff at **École Marie Poburan** for hosting an outstanding faith day celebration. The children enjoyed spending their whole day with God!
- **SACHS Skyhawks** have been busy! The junior girls’ volleyball team had a great season playing in Division 1 for the first time and making it to the semi-finals. Congratulations! At the same time, senior girls who dominated the regular season took home the silver medal at the City finals and qualified for provincials at the end of the month. We wish them all the best! Skyhawk football will be in semi-final action on November 21st. Drama 20 and 30 students did a fabulous job hosting a showcase of their work called Collaborations and the Interact Club have their End Polio Now fundraiser on until November 26th.
- More than 120 grade nine students and family members attended an evening session on Post-Secondary planning. In addition, **SACHS** held two events; one on the RAP Program and the other on post-secondary planning which also drew a large audience.

POLICY UPDATES

The Board approved the review of Board Policies 4 – Trustee Code of Ethics and Board Policy 12 – Role of the Superintendent (Keohane)

ACTION ITEMS

- The Audited Financial Statement for the 2014-2105 school year was presented and approved highlighting a small operating surplus. The full package, including notes will be posted to the GSACRD website (About Us/Financial Documents) by November 30, 2015.
- Secretary-treasurer Schlag presented the Fall Budget Update reflecting higher than projected enrolment numbers in comparison to the budget presented in June 2015. The 2015-16 Fall Budget Update projects a small deficit. The full document can also be found on the GSACRD website (About Us/Financial Documents) by November 30, 2015.
- Superintendent Keohane presented the Combined 2014-15 Annual Education Results Report & 2015-18 Three Year Education Plan highlighting the district success as measured by the Accountability Pillar Report including the success students are exhibiting. This is inclusive of FNMI students. Opportunities for furthering this success were shared. The complete report is available on the District website (About Us/Plans and Reports).
- The Board approved and will be moving forward with a School Name Selection Committee that will include representatives from parent council, staff, students, the Board, Parish, as well as a historian. This committee will be making recommendations to the Board to name the two new schools recently announced.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- An update for the Board was provided on diverse needs coding/funding based on the information in the funding manual for 2015-2016 and the actual funding provided for 2014-2015. It was highlighted that the funding provided does not fully support the inclusive model used by the District; there is a need to supplement inclusive education from basic instruction funding.
- The Jurisdiction Class Size Report was also presented highlighting that K-3 are the grade levels challenged in meeting the Alberta Education guideline for class size. Grades 4-12 are aligned with or under the Alberta Education guidelines.

UPCOMING INITIATIVES FOR THE BOARD

- The Board will continue their work in moving the new school infrastructure projects forward; all 4 major capital projects are managed by Alberta Infrastructure.
- The Board will be conducting an evaluation of their Board operations in early December to understand how they can improve their effectiveness as governors.
- The Board will be exploring the formation of an Audit Committee and the Terms of Reference that should be in place for this committee at future Advocacy Meetings, with an establishment target of fall 2016 (or sooner).

**The next Regular Meeting
of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for
Monday, December 14, 2015
3:00 p.m. at District Office
6 St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert, AB**

PUBLIC WELCOME