

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

CHRIST THE REDEEMER (CTR) CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Inspiring Catholic Education... Pass it On!

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SEPTEMBER 2017

Faith and Professional Learning Update

Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico, Associate Superintendent, shared continuing plans for Professional Learning in CTR Catholic, including the upcoming Administrative Retreat, with a focus on Catholic Leadership. The content of the two days will be

based on the Excellent Catholic Leader document from the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta. A robust conversation ensued, wherein the trustees and senior administrators acknowledged, and expressed their apprecia-

tion for the leaders in our communities who act with integrity and compassion daily. Our teachers and administrators model fidelity to the will of God, and we are grateful for their dedication.

CTR Catholic Projects a Balanced Budget

Associate Superintendent of Corporate Services, Mr. Michael Kilcommons, reminded the trustees that the Final Budget for 2017-18 will be presented in November and then submitted to the government for approval. Currently, the Finance Department is working on reconciling and reporting on the 2016-17 school year, after which independent auditors will analyze the results and ensure that all information is accurate and without fault. The current status of the divisional budget was presented as essentially balanced, with a relatively small operating deficit of \$300,000, which will be funded by our accumulated surplus.

Mr. Kilcommons also reported on the status of divisional operating reserves. All school divisions in the province are mandated to set a goal (or limit) for operating reserves and the function that those reserves will serve. Over the last four years, CTR Catholic has spent over ten million dollars on capital projects to improve the learning conditions in our communities. The projects typically represent spending our own

money to develop or expand learning spaces, such as modular classrooms, or the development of sports fields.

Looking to the future, the division might realize as much as \$8,000,000 in accumulated operating reserves, which will be earmarked for specific considerations such as future operating deficits and a host of other facility enhancements.

An update was shared regarding the Classroom Improvement Fund. Over a million dollars has been dedicated to CTR by the government to enhance the learning experience in classrooms. The money developed from central bargaining between the government and the Alberta Teachers Association. A committee of four teachers, three senior administrators and one trustee have met several times to determine that the money will be allocated thusly: approximately \$600,000 to staffing costs for emergent needs, over \$400,000 distributed at the rate of \$750 per teacher so that each can personally enhance the class-

room learning experience, \$200,000 on a professional development fund that will cover the costs of professional development outside of school hours, while compensating teachers for their dedication of time, and about \$20,000 that is set aside for "Special Initiatives". These special initiatives are a proposal from teachers who wish to pursue active research, or otherwise present new learning opportunities in our schools. To date there are 24 proposals, and the committee will be meeting on October 18 to deliberate the merit of each.



“Attention will always remain on literacy, and we will be endeavouring to learn more as a division about First Nations, Metis, and Inuit.”

Superintendents’ Updates

Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico highlighted aspects of the Three Year Education Plan, mentioning that Professional Development and support for English Language Learners continue to top the list. The focus in both these areas will be on universal best practices and meeting the needs of staff and students. Attention will always remain on literacy, and we endeavour to learn more as a division about First Nations, Metis, and Inuit. Superchats have resumed with a format that identifies two

issues: the future of Catholic education and wellness in CTR Catholic, especially for staff.

Mr. Vincent Behm outlined some of the plans to explore and promote wellness in the work place, and he also spoke to an initiative to have non-certificated classroom supervisors in our schools to support education.

Mr. Michael Kilcommons presented enrolment numbers that indicate encouraging growth in

several of our communities: Brooks 2.65%, Strathmore 4.4%, High River 6.2%, and Canmore at 6.3% were especially noteworthy. As a total, our traditional schools are up approximately 3%, although the division as a whole is down slightly – by 1.7% - due to slow enrolment in The Centre for Learning@HOME (CFL). Enrolment in the CFL often increases during the year.

Policy Development and Review Committee

The trustees accepted the recommendation of Mr. Michael Kilcommons regarding trustee remuneration. There have been no changes to the remuneration schedule in the previous three years, and Mr. Kilcommons recommended that the trustees approve changes, which would see compensation consistent

with the provincial average for boards of similar size. The board policy states that the Board is desirous of ensuring that its remuneration for trustees does not exceed the average. The Board applies this same logic when setting goals for the salary of teachers, site-based administrators, and sen-

ior administrators; the goal is to ensure they are compensated at the average level of boards of similar size.

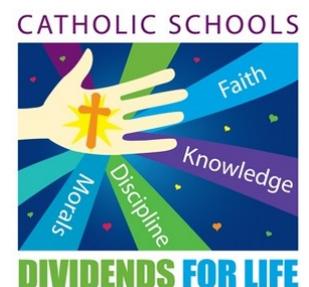
Faith Initiative: Parents Advocates for Catholic Education (PACE)

In recent months a group of dedicated supporters of Catholic Education have met on several occasions to discuss ways to defend and promote the educational system that we sometimes take for granted.

Demetrio Pagano, Chris Neeser, Shari Gustafson, Christie Caskey, John de Jong, and Bonnie Annicchiarico announced their pride to be a part of the faith, and their enthusiasm to share the news that Catholic education is a gift that we should cherish. They wish to promote the

idea that all parents can contribute and support our educational choice. They stated that their purpose is to engage parents in issues of Catholic education, to have them advocate on behalf of Catholic Schools, and thereby, to protect the gift of Catholic education for our children and future generations.

The Board of Trustees were impressed with the fervor of the group, and resolved to support their efforts in the future.



Many Great Things Happen in Our Communities

The communities of Brooks, High River, and Okotoks Ward II have hosted Ward meetings since the last Board meeting. The minutes with more detail are always attached to the Board Meeting agendas on our website, but a few highlights are noted here.

Brooks Ward:

This Ward includes Holy Family Academy, Christ The King Academy, St. Joseph's Collegiate, and St. Luke's Outreach Centre.

Faith: The administration was ecstatic about the collaborative meeting with Father Raul.

Learning: Academic results are excellent. The English Language Learners and Canadian born students both outperformed the province.

Safe and Caring: The Youth Cultural Ambassador program at Christ The King is doing an amazing job at combatting racism. The First Nations narrative was also appreciated.

Stewardship: Enrolment is up 2.6% in Brooks.



High River Ward:

This Ward includes Holy Spirit Academy, Notre Dame Collegiate, and St. Luke's Outreach Centre.

Faith: High River schools have asked Father James to offer ministry training to all staff. This will enable them to serve at school and parish masses.

Learning: Holy Spirit Academy's PAT results were amazing! Such an accomplishment with so many ELL's.

Safe and Caring: Stewardship Liaison, Terri Dauter, secured a grant that will get Notre Dame Collegiate, Holy Spirit Academy and St. Luke's Outreach Centre more mental health assistance.

Stewardship: Enrolment is up over 5% in High River. Growth is amazing. Notre Dame is up 70% in the past four years.



Okotoks Ward II:

This Ward includes The Centre for Learning@HOME and St. Luke's Outreach Centre

Faith: The Ward was impressed that every St. Luke's child takes Religion even though many are not from a faith background.

Learning: The Centre for Learning@HOME continues to ensure shared responsibility programming is both child and parent friendly, using appealing resources.

Safe and Caring:

Both The Centre for Learning@HOME and St. Luke's are doing extensive work at enhancing social and emotional wellness by increasing FSLW support and training.

Stewardship: The Centre for Learning@HOME is appreciative of administrators' support during this time of enrolment variability.

“The Centre for Learning@HOME continues to ensure shared responsibility programming is both child and parent friendly, using appealing resources.”

Alternative Schools

At a special meeting of the Board held on October 4, 2017, the Board reluctantly made the decision to discontinue its operation of Clear Water Academy at the end of the 2017/2018 school year. The reason for this decision was that the new school fee regulations make it impossible for CTR Catholic to operate the school in a financially responsible manner. The Board expressed regret at having to make this decision and the Clear Water Academy Foundation expressed similar regret. The decision to dissolve the partnership was made by mutual consent. Clear Water Academy will return to its private school status in the 2018/2019 school year. Both CTR Catholic and the Clear Water Academy Foundation have expressed the desire to maintain an informal, and mutually beneficial, relationship.





Mark Chung Trustee
for the Town of
Drumheller and area

The truth of Christ and knowledge of God's creation will be experienced by and manifest in the students, staff, parents, and supporters of our Catholic School Community.



Trustees' Corner by Mark Chung

The Importance of Choice

As I reflect on my first term as a trustee I am amazed at how fast it has all gone by. I remember my first CTR Catholic Board meeting, how I was overwhelmed by discussion topics, meeting procedures, and acronyms. Since that meeting four years ago, I have grown in faith and knowledge. Having the opportunity to be surrounded by people that demonstrate such strong focus on their faith development has helped me to understand the important impact of my own faith in all of my decisions. I have also had the privilege to represent Christ The Redeemer at the Alberta School Board Association Zone 5 board and also at St. Mary's University. I hope that my collaboration in meetings and committees, my communication with staff and advocacy for parents and students has meant as much to those I

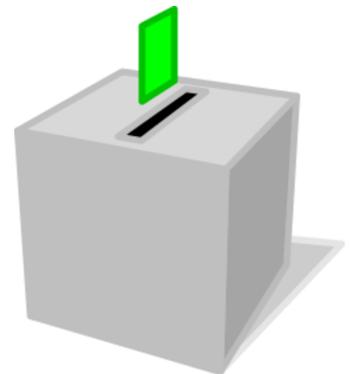
have served as it has to me.

Looking forward to the upcoming municipal elections, we have important choices to make. Candidates step up with their own priorities and beliefs. We all have different backgrounds and different ideas about the directions we want our communities to develop over the next four years. Some candidates' platforms will agree with your beliefs and others' may not. I believe that we have a responsibility to have open discussions with all of the candidates and with our friends and neighbours so that we make the best educated choice at the polls.

As a trustee I have learned the importance of choice. Parents have the choice of how their children are educated. We need to ensure that future generations have the same choice. Other

provinces have taken away this choice for parents and now parents have to send their children to private schools to receive an education anchored in faith. As Catholics we need to take an active role in protecting this choice. We need to voice our opinion to be heard on this issue.

Remember that Trustee biographies are available on CTR's website at:
<http://www.redeemer.ab.ca/Trustees.php>.



Next Board Meeting Date

The next Board meeting will take place on **Thursday, October 19**, at Christ The Redeemer Catholic Education Centre, Okotoks, AB.

For any information on items in this publication, please contact Michael Kilcommons, Associate Superintendent, at mkilcommons@redeemer.ab.ca or at 403-938-2659.