



**Greater St. Albert  
Catholic Schools**

# *Board Meeting Summary*

*November 25, 2013*

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## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The last regular meeting of the Board was held in St. Albert at the District Office, on Monday, November 25, 2013.

### **GOOD NEWS**

#### **Awards and Recognition**

- **Paige Shelemy**, a grade 12 **SACHS** student, was selected as one of 30 semi-finalists (from over 3,700 applicants) for the prestigious Loran Scholarship. If selected as the recipient, she would receive a scholarship worth more than \$40,000 over 4 years.
- Congratulations go out to **Marieta Paul**, a dedicated student faith advocate who was nominated by the GSACRD Board of Trustees. She was awarded with the ACSTA 2013 Appreciation Award at the recent Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA) Fall Conference.

#### **School Updates**

- Volleyball Champions: Congratulations to **V.J. Maloney** Senior Girls and **SACHS** Junior Girls volleyball teams for capturing the City Championship.
- The Gym, Cheer and Gymnastics **Sports Academy** has experienced an excellent start to this initial year of operation. At capacity the girls are enthusiastic, learning a lot and having tons of fun. We are all cheering!
- **District Office** hosted a post-secondary information evening last week geared to grade 9 families to assist with transitioning and planning for high school and beyond. There was overwhelming response to the session with over 90 parents and students in attendance. Thank you to Lydia Yeomans, District Principal, for the coordination and hosting of this session.
- Grade 3-6 students at **École Father Jan** have taken up the sport of handball. They have enjoyed some early success capturing 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a recent tournament.
- **ÉSSMY** school communities were blessed with a presentation by Robb Nash on the topic of “well-being”. Students, parents and staff thoroughly enjoyed his singing and words as he told his story and encouraged everyone to look on the positive side of things.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- The Board approved the Audited Financial Statements for 2012-13 and commended senior staff for their extensive work in preparing these as due to reporting requirement changes, including three years of retro-active application required for comparability. In this 1<sup>st</sup> year of reporting according to Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS), an operating surplus of \$1,053,169 was realized, with \$71,939,917 in total revenues and \$70,886,748 in total expenditures. In addition, the Board received a Fall Budget update for the 2013-2014

school year, projecting \$67,695,325 in total revenues and \$67,784,818 in total expenditures. The full financial package will be available on the website shortly.

- Superintendent D. Keohane presented the Annual Education Results Report & Three-year Education Plan which is documentation required by Alberta Education. Significant results were highlighted which included the performance of students in the district on achievement tests and diploma exams which far surpass provincial averages. The full report will be posted on the district website in the coming weeks.
- The Board approved the provision for the district to exercise the opt out option which allows separate school boards to directly requisition property tax revenues from the local authorities (municipalities) in which the board operates. Most importantly for families attending our schools there is no impact to students attending GSACRD schools or operationally to the district as funding follows the student to the respective school they attend.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- Representatives of the Board will attend meetings held with the Wildrose Party in St. Albert December 2<sup>nd</sup> as they meet with all school districts in the area.
- Class size report presented for the district indicates that class sizes are close to provincial requirements for averages and are consistent with class size averages in the district last year and neighbouring districts (i.e. Edmonton Catholic). Class sizes are reported as averages, recognizing some classrooms have much larger numbers and others much smaller.
- Capital priority for the district is the replacement of modular classrooms at R.S. Fowler and a request for this new infrastructure will be submitted.
- Schools and the District Office will be closed starting December 23<sup>rd</sup> and reopen January 6, 2014.
- This year's Preschool and K-EXPO will be held January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in St. Albert & January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Morinville. Check our website for further information.

### **UPCOMING INITIATIVES FOR THE BOARD**

The district will be hosting community conversations again this year. This year Morinville will be the host location for a conversation on *How can We Design our High School Experiences to Enhance Schooling of Choice for Students?* on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Additional sessions and dates will be forthcoming.

- New trustees will be continuing in orientation sessions hosted by ACSTA on December 12<sup>th</sup>, to provide them with more information on their roles. Trustees will participate in recognizing the hard work of the staff in GSACRD by sharing Christmas Gift Baskets with schools during the holiday season as a gesture of appreciation.

**The next Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Trustees is scheduled for  
Monday, December 16, 2013  
7:30 p.m. at District Office  
6 St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert, AB**