



Greater St. Albert  
Catholic Schools

## *Board Meeting Summary*

*December 16, 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, December 16, 2013.

### **PRESENTATION DELEGATION**

Former Trustee Jacquie Hansen was honored at the meeting recognizing her dedication and contribution to Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools and education provincially for more than a decade. Her knowledge, passion and leadership on the board will be missed and we wish her well in all future endeavors.

### **GOOD NEWS**

#### **Awards and Recognition**

- Phyllis Kelly at **J.J. Nearing** was honored with *St. Albert Rotary Teacher of the Month* award. Her work and passion in engaging students in the Environment Club is evident throughout the school. She has been instrumental in initiating the organic waste recycling program and modeling for others how to be “a good steward of the environment.” Congratulations!
- The National Public Education Support Fund (NPESF), a prominent educational lobby group in the United States has planned a study tour to provide US policy makers and state education officials with the opportunity to learn directly from the Deputy Minister of Education, his executive team, and selected school districts about their strategy for preparing students for the evolving world. Three high performing school districts in the province have been selected to present their best practices and are pleased to announce that GSACRD has been selected to participate.

#### **School Updates**

- **J.J. Nearing** students commissioned the Saturday night Advent mass on December 7<sup>th</sup> at St. Albert Parish. A full church was impressed by how capably the children read and sang!
- Morinville schools participated in the Santa Claus Parade at the Light up the Park and won first prize for best Children's float. Parents from the Notre Dame, G H Primeau and MCHS community decorated the float. Mrs. Hutton's "We Day" group handed out over 800 Santa mugs with messages about not drinking and driving.
- The **Neil M. Ross** We Day team raised over \$2,200 to support the Philippines typhoon relief effort by selling ice cream and treats all kindly donated by area businesses. Their campaign titled “Scoop up the Love” was a tremendous success.
- **Vital Grandin** Choir was invited to sing at the Catholic Women’s League dinner at Holy Family Parish and shared their talents with those in attendance.

- The District received a certificate of appreciation for the funds donated to Christ the Redeemer School District in High River to assist with the flood relief. Thank you to all those who contributed.
- Students at **R.S. Fowler** have a number of service projects underway this month ranging from food and toy collections to support those in need to collecting Canadian Tire monies to donate to the Neurosurgery Kids Fund.
- Students from **Ecole Father Jan** took participated in the “Bethlehem Walk” production put on by West Edmonton Christian Assembly. It was a tremendous event that gave the kids a sense of the time, smells, tastes and sights when Jesus was born.
- Students, families and faculty members at **MCHS** participated in two food drives in November. Over 1000 food items were collected for the Morinville Fill-A-Bus Campaign and approximately 600 toys and gift cards were collected for the Midstream Society.
- Representatives from 7 GSACRD schools attended a Healthy School Initiative session on December 6 to network, share ideas and be inspired. This initiative is supported by the Alberta Education Framework for K - 12 Wellness Education and Inspiring Education - Building Student Competencies. Healthy young people learn better and achieve more.

#### **Athletic Updates**

- As the volleyball season wrapped up **V.J. Maloney** Senior girls’ team celebrated their City Championship and **SACHS** senior girls competed in the provincial final winning silver. They lost a squeaker in overtime but played very well and should be proud.
- Boys and girls volleyball teams at **Legal School** had a successful season ending with the boys taking home gold and the banner at zone competition and the girls awarded a silver medal. The boys were undefeated. Congratulations to both teams!
- **SACHS** hosted a junior basketball tournament with the junior boys’ team placing third and the junior girls’ team placing first. This is the second tournament in a row that the girls have won. Congratulations!
- **SACHS** senior girls’ basketball team took first place at the recent Mike Dea tournament at St. FX in Edmonton.

#### ***ACTION ITEMS***

- The Board approved instruction fees for the 2014-2015 school year, with NO increase to existing fees for all areas with the exception of Out-of-Province Tuition which will see a small increase.
- The Board also approved transportation fees at the same level as they are currently at for the 2014-2015 school year
- The Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement with the ATA Local No 23 to ratify the agreement with teachers for the next four years. A news release can be found on the district website with the specifics agreed upon.

- The Board approved participation in community trade shows on a bi-annual basis which would allow participation in the Morinville Trade Fair this spring and the St. Albert Trade Fair in 2015. This would enable the Board to participate more fully in the event.

### ***INFORMATION ITEMS***

- Superintendent David Keohane presented a report on the success of the District in providing a safe and caring environment in GSACRD Schools. Schools are measured through input from their community, and measures on the hope and well-being of students as measured by the Gallup group. The more engaged students are in their learning and at school, the greater likelihood that they will experience success in their studies.
- An update was provided on the accomplishments of our First Nations Metis Inuit (FNMI) students. When compared to the rest of the province students who self-identify as FNMI are more likely to experience success in our district vis-à-vis other opportunities.
- If you haven't followed us yet please be sure to check out GSACRD's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

### ***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 January 16<sup>th</sup> conversation on *How Can we Make our Catholic High Schools More Relevant for Students?* Additional sessions and dates will be forthcoming.
- This year's St. Albert Preschool and K-EXPO will be held January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at St. Albert Catholic High School & in Morinville at Morinville Community High School on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Check our website for further information.

**The next Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Trustees is scheduled for  
Monday, January 13, 2014  
7:30 p.m. at District Office  
6 St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert, AB**