

## TRUSTEES

Ron Schreiber, Chair  
Okotoks

Harry Salm, Vice Chair  
Strathmore

Mark Chung  
Drumheller

John de Jong  
Brooks

Michelle Rude-Volk  
Oyen

Vijay Domingo  
Canmore

Joanne Van Donzel  
High River

Andrea Keenan  
MD of Foothills

## SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Scott Morrison  
Superintendent

Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico  
Associate Superintendent

Michael Kilcommons  
Associate Superintendent

Vincent Behm  
Associate Superintendent

Jerry Bagozzi  
Treasurer

Rhonda Schachterle  
Director of Student Services

Cheryl Kuemper  
Director of Curriculum and  
Instruction

Dave Lunn  
Director of Facilities

Dawn Quinlan  
Director of Human Re-  
sources



CHRIST THE REDEEMER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**INSPIRING CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

**MARCH 2018**

## Budget Projections Positive

Associate Superintendent Michael Kilcommons reported that budgeting for the school division for the 2018-2019 school year is ongoing. The provincial budget was recently released, and it showed that educational funding will remain essentially consistent. This is very good news, in these challenging economic times, but static funding does not imply a steady budget. In fact, each year staffing costs increase significantly, in addition to other inflationary costs.

Despite these annual increases, Mr. Kilcommons gave credit to the CTR Finance Department, senior administration, and school principals who have combined their efforts to alter the budgeting process. We've made the move to centralized budgeting to more equitably distribute resources based on need. The centralized budget will also ensure better monitoring and increased flexibility.

The Board will approve the budget in May. In preparation for that submission, Mr. Kilcommons indicated he expects CTR to increase the number of teachers, to maintain support staff levels, and to achieve a balanced budget.



## Pursuing New School and New Construction

The divisional Capital Plan is due to the province on Easter Weekend. Mr. Kilcommons confirmed that CTR Catholic's immediate plan for future growth includes a request for two new schools and a permanent addition to an existing facility. Planning between Senior Administration and the Facilities Department, as well as numerous discussions with Alberta Education's Capital Planning Branch, led to the division's top three priorities.

Anticipated growth in Okotoks warrants a request for a new facility. We are hopeful that an

announcement in the next round (in 2019) will include CTR Catholic, so we can begin planning and construction in advance of anticipated growth.

In Canmore, there are currently no school sites identified by the town, but enrolment is approaching full capacity. Securing a permanent addition is another goal.

In High River, growth over the last few years suggests that a new school in that community is also necessary.

Although the government asks for a three year capital plan, the request from CTR Catholic looks at the big picture much further out. The requests potentially cover our needs for the next ten years, and include some items for which we hope to access provincial funding, but which we will be prepared to address with our own reserves, in order to accommodate need and access to programming in each of our communities.

## Board Advocating for English Language Learners

At the upcoming spring general meeting of the Alberta School Boards Association, trustees of CTR Catholic intend to make a motion for ASBA to present to the government, advocating for English Language Learners (ELL) support. ELL's make up a significant portion of Alberta's

school aged population, yet the resources devoted to meeting the needs of ELL's are limited.

Grasslands School Division, in Brooks, has agreed to second CTR's motion.



## Superintendents' Updates

Superintendent, Dr. Scott Morrison shared the teams' initial thoughts on CTR' Catholic's Three Year Education Plan. The top priority of every plan is related to our faith.

Dr. Morrison shared that other priorities include meeting the needs of English Language Learners, literacy, and enhancing the safe and caring nature of our schools.

There are a host of additional priorities, such as meeting the

needs of FNMI students and education about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, that we are beginning to scale across the division more broadly.

Dr. Morrison reminded the Board that CTR's exemplary performance is a product of focus, and noted that we have committed to the same priorities over the past three years.

Associate Superintendent Vincent Behm was able to share

early successes around staffing for 2018-19. Many internal transfer requests were accommodated for next year, fulfilling a good number of our staffing needs, while honouring the requests of some of our current staff members. More positions will continue to be filled as we accommodate growth in various schools.

**"The plans for next years budget and the year after are already shortlisted, ensuring that the needs of every community make the internal priority list. on."**

## Current Major Capital Projects and IMR Update

Director of Facilities, Mr. David Lunn, shared an update on the accomplishments to date this year, and plans to close out the last few months, including extensive plans for the summer upcoming. Eighty percent of the \$2.3 million Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal bud-

get has been allocated or spent, addressing significant needs in every facility across the division. The remaining funds will be fully spent by the end of August. The majority of these tasks are not flashy or high profile. More typically, these significant funds are spent on

things like roof repair and plumbing and heating upgrades. The plans for next year's budget, and the year after, are already shortlisted, ensuring that the needs of every community make the priority list.

## Approval of Calendar

After extensive sharing and consultation at Ward meetings and with School Councils, the 2018/2019 school calendar was approved. The Board also approved "draft" calendars for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. Associate Superintendent, Vincent Behm, shared that the concern

expressed most often regarding the calendar is related to starting the school year before the Labour Day weekend. While this can happen in some years, it is more common to start up before the long weekend. There are several factors influencing this decision, including the provincially mandated exams and

the Christmas and Easter vacations, but the primary reason is that the Board adopted a policy years ago, calling for as many instructional days as possible. The Board believes that maximizing the number of days teachers have contact with students is a critical element in promoting high levels of learning.



## #Relationships in a Digital Age

Associate Superintendent, Vince Behm, shared plans to roll out the #Relationships in a Digital Age project at the opening professional learning day next year. This project is designed to raise student awareness about the impact that digital technology is having on their relationships and individ-

ual well-being.

Mr. Behm also noted that the curriculum team will deliver the day using best practices in English Language Learning (ELL) instruction as a means to subtly extend teachers' understanding of how to structure any learning experi-

ence to promote ELL students' success.



## Many Great Things Happen in Our Communities

The communities of Drumheller, Brooks, High River, and Okotoks 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.

### Drumheller Ward:

This Ward includes St. Anthony's School and St. Luke's Outreach Centre.

**Faith:** The Bishop's visit was an amazing success in both the school and parish.

**Learning:** St. Anthony's School had its best academic results in school history.

**Safe and Caring:** Community partners such as Rosebud Theatre, Chinook Financial, and health care professionals have been a great support to the school.

**Stewardship:** A student recently initiated a project for the homeless in Hawaii, where her aunt lives. They found out about this second hand as she wanted no recognition.

### Brooks Ward

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

**Faith:** Christ The King Academy's service project was well received.

**Learning:** St. Joseph's Collegiate's diploma results were

exemplary.

**Safe and Caring:** Holy Family Academy's nutrition program has been called one of the best in the province by Alberta Education.

**Stewardship:** St. Luke's Outreach is thankful for the \$1000 donation from Stuart Musgrove Inter Pipeline, an annual practice.

### Okotoks Ward II

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

**Faith:** St. Luke's had a wonderful Ash Wednesday mass at the little church.

**Learning:** The Centre for Learning@HOME's diploma results were amazing. Not one class average was under 72%!

**Safe and Caring:** There is a large group of students who engage in rodeo competitions and the presence of these students contributes positively to the safe and caring culture.

**Stewardship:** The Centre for Learning@HOME's promotional

materials and marketing efforts are amazing!

### High River Ward

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

### Faith:

Notre Dame Collegiate has weekly Adoration in their chapel and Father Malcolm always comes for the exposition and then Reconciliation. Every Holy Spirit Academy class goes to Mass on at least two Fridays a year. CTR Catholic held two highly successful events, one for parents and one for students. The parenting session was "Parenting for Purity" and the student session was "Designed for Dignity". Feedback about both sessions was amazing.

### Learning:

Holy Spirit Academy has teachers make calls to every parent in January and February to provide a report on the progress between November and March report cards.

### Safe and Caring:

Holy Spirit Academy led the staff in a session on Trauma, Informed Care, as a means to build empathy and understanding for what some kids are going through. Holy Spirit Academy runs a Friendship Club for students who are socially isolated.

### Stewardship:

Early registration numbers are high and positive at both Holy Spirit Academy and Notre Dame Collegiate.





Ron Schreiber, Board  
Chair and Trustee for  
Town of Okotoks

**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 Ron Schreiber

Our Division's Faith Days have just completed. This year's theme was "Theology of the Body" which is a system of thought clarified by St. John Paul II about our human sexuality. It is premised on the most basic truths of our Catholic faith hearkening back to the ideas of the creation of man and woman in the image and likeness of God and the onset of original sin that discoloured our relationship with God our Father. Standing behind, and encompassing all of this, just as the atmosphere that envelops us, is the truth of the infinitely deep love of God our Creator for each and every person and His never-ending quest to invite each one of us to freely come back to Him.

The end of Faith Days does not signal the cessation of this theme. Rather, we are invited to more deeply investigate it and try to understand it, because it underpins much of the more contentious teachings of our

Catholic faith, which are largely seen to be at odds with the perceptions of mainstream society today. In these days, truth is seen as somewhat impermanent and based on the latest scientific hypotheses or social opinions founded on sometimes, less than sufficient thought and evidence. Modern truth seems to be decided more or less by popularity polls and the power of social media. It can truly be said that our Catholic beliefs are largely counter-cultural. Whether they are true or not, seems to be of secondary importance. Many Catholics however, hold fast to these truths for they believe that once something is determined to be true, it remains true. The proper application of Catholic truths regarding those crucial matters that they are meant to describe, results in conclusions that truly reflect something that is bigger than all of us.

These reasoned principles and divinely revealed teachings are accepted by many Catholics but are keenly felt and realized especially by those in a deep relationship with our God. So, at the end of the day, the key to understanding the power and clarity of the "Theology of the Body" is a strong prayer life. Out of the Catholic teachings provided here arises the backdrop for why we do what we do in our Catholic schools – why we try to teach as Jesus would have us teach; why we try to treat each other as Jesus would have us treat each other; and why we try to pray as Jesus would have us pray. This is often at odds with much of what is now commonly espoused in our society. I encourage each one of you to stand up today and do what is right and true – dare to be different!

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

## Google Training

At the most recent Board meeting, our Trustees exemplified life-long learning, as they participated in Google Docs training. Long used as a teaching tool in CTR Catholic, the Trustees are now also engaging with this application that allows for collaborative planning.

## Next Board Meeting Date

The next Board meeting will take place **on Thursday, April 26, 2018**, at CTR Catholic Education Centre, 1 McRae Street, Okotoks, AB, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

**For any information on items in this publication, please contact Michael Kilcommons, Associate Superintendent, [mkilcommons@redeemer.ab.ca](mailto:mkilcommons@redeemer.ab.ca) or at 403-938-2659.**