

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2017

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 Resources

Trustees Establish Leadership Positions

The first meeting after the October 16 election was the organizational meeting for the Board of Trustees of Christ The Redeemer (CTR) Catholic Schools. Mr. Ronald Schreiber (Okotoks) returned to the position of Board Chair, and Mr.

Harry Salm (Strathmore) was selected once again as Vice Chair. Most of the Trustees who represent CTR Catholic were representatives prior to the election: Vijay Domingo (Canmore), Joanne Van Donzel (High River), Andrea Keenan

(MD of Foothills), Mark Chung (Drumheller), and John de Jong (Brooks) have all faithfully returned to serve. The sole new Trustee is Michelle Rude-Volk, who now represents the interests of our Oyen community.

Board of Trustees Commit to Support PACE

A recent visit and presentation from the Parent Advocates of Catholic Education (PACE) prompted a conversation at the Board meeting. The group spoke about the need for parental involvement in advocating for the beautiful gift that is Catholic education. In the world today, espousing Catholic values can sometimes be perceived as coun-

ter-cultural. The Board embraced the group's message of hope, while carefully reflecting on the importance of protecting our schools and the freedom of educational choice in general.

There is currently Trustee representation within the group from Mr. John de Jong, and Andrea Keenan who also volun-

teered to be involved. The Board expressed a willingness to adopt PACE as an ad hoc committee of the Board, and further discussions with PACE will determine whether that's the best structure moving forward. PACE indicated they may approach the Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA) for their support.

Reaching Out in the Spirit of Cooperation

CTR Catholic is co-terminus with seven other school divisions. The Board discussed the importance of continuing to arrange occasion-

al ad hoc meetings with our sister Boards. As a result, the will of the Board was to continue to initiate meetings with our neighbouring

Boards in the interest of building relationships and discussing issues of mutual concern.



“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. Scott Morrison provided an update on how CTR is using the Ministry’s *Classroom Improvement Fund* (CIF). CIF represents a significant allotment of money that was offered to improve both teaching and learning in the classroom. Dr. Morrison shared one element of the plan with the Board called Per Diem Professional Development (PD). The Per Diem PD funds will be used to support PD on days that our schools are not operating. The intention is to support and accelerate key teacher learning initiatives in the division without compromising the time teachers spend with their students because Per Diem PD sessions will run during summer. Potential topics include meeting the needs of English Language Learners, addressing

First Nations, Metis, and Inuit education, theology of the body, literacy, numeracy, math, and science. Dr. Morrison gave specific credit to Chair Ron Schreiber and the teachers on the CIF committee for the cooperative spirit with which they all conducted their work.

Associate Superintendent Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico addressed two recent developments. She shared that Superchats have started up again for the 2017-18 school year. The superintendents travel to each of our schools for an informal conversation about pressing issues in the school and in Catholic education. The approach is a novel way to allow senior administrators to meet with staff and to stimulate candid conversations.

The recent administrators retreat was also presented as a very successful endeavor. Trustees joined our principals and vice principals for an evening and a day of prayer and conversation.

Mr. Vincent Behm, also an Associate Superintendent, mentioned that the Liaison Committee will be meeting again at the end of October. This committee of teachers and administrators meets during the year to discuss issues that arise, with an intent to proactively look for solutions that are in the best interest of all stakeholders.



Upcoming Cause for Celebration

Our Superintendent, Dr. Scott Morrison, gave an update and a very brief preview of the Three Year Education Plan and the Annual Education Results Report. Both will be released in November, and both are noteworthy for the evidence of excellence at CTR Catholic.

The Three Year Education Plan speaks to our priorities for continued success in a vast number of areas, including faith-based education, efforts to support English Language Learners, and the high quality of education

offered remotely through our Centre For Learning@HOME. The plan will also speak to all other CTR priorities, ranging from budgets, to facilities, to health and safety.

Statistically, Dr. Morrison was able to identify phenomenal results in areas ranging from the achievement of our large population of English Language Learners, to exemplary performance by all of our students on Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams. CTR’s

First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students are also performing very well. According to data collected by Alberta Education, Christ The Redeemer Catholic Schools ranks in the top 5% of the entire province in 11 out of 16 measures of achievement and satisfaction.

When the reports are presented in November, be sure to read them – online or as a handout from the local school.



Kudos to Our Facilities Department!

David Lunn, CTR’s Director of Facilities reported on both past and future facility considerations. Each year our Facilities Department invests millions of dollars into our buildings. Their priorities begin with potential safety

issues, but they also concern themselves with ensuring that schools are set up for the greatest possible success in terms of programming and cleanliness. Mr. Lunn shared an extensive list of projects com-

pleted last year, and a lengthy list of plans to further administer to the needs of every school and every community.

Many Great Things Happen in Our Communities

The community of Okotoks Ward I hosted a Ward meeting 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.

Okotoks Ward: I

This Ward includes Holy Trinity Academy, St. John Paul II Collegiate, École Good Shepherd School, St. Mary's School, and St. Francis of Assisi Academy.

Faith: The cooperation between St. James Parish and the schools is exemplary. Father Luciano is eager to be in the schools, plan cooperatively, and say Mass for the students. The schools help promote the Sacraments of Initiation at the Parish and the Parish is keen to offer RCIC and RCIT programs when schools direct families to the parish who want to receive the Sacraments. Father was a

keen participant in the meeting with the Bishop, priests, administrators, and trustees. The new Youth Ministry at the Parish is also an excellent initiative.

Learning: St. Mary's School, St. Francis of Assisi Academy, and St. John Paul II Collegiate promoted a love of learning by hosting authors to create passion about literacy. In conjunction with their author visit, St. John Paul II Collegiate held a fundraiser at Chapters, where the school received 20% of St. John Paul II Collegiate book purchases for one evening.

Safe and Caring: Several schools are hosting a parent information evening on the hot topics of social media awareness and anxiety. On that note, almost all Okotoks schools held their Meet the Teacher events the day before school. Getting in to the school

to see their classrooms and meet their teachers alleviated student anxiety, and both parents and teachers were pleased with the events.

Stewardship: St. Francis of Assisi Academy has raised \$300,000 for their playground despite the fact they were a school with fewer than 200 families last year. Thanks also to T. Dauter, CTR's Stewardship Liaison, who helped secure a \$150,000 matching grant.

“Several schools are hosting a parent information evening on the hot topics of social media awareness and anxiety.”

Special ASBA Awards Presentation

Jeannine Tucker, Chair of ASBA Zone 5, and trustee with Foothills School Division, attended a short segment of the meeting to personally honour several CTR trustees for their long term service and dedication to education in Alberta! Harry Salm was presented with a three term pin, and both Vijay Domingo and Joanne Van Donzel were presented with five term pins. Ms. Tucker reserved her highest praise and the most special award for Board Chair, Ron Schreiber, who has served seven terms (23 years) as a school board trustee for the province of Alberta! Mr. Schreiber received a lovely watch! All four trustees were touched that Mrs. Tucker took the time out of her day to be at the meeting in person.





Harry Salm, Trustee
 for the Town of
 Strathmore 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 Harry Salm

Going Deeper

How deep is deep? To what depth are we willing to go? How comfortable are we with our faith and our ability to converse and respond to others in conversation?

In football, deep would be the hail Mary pass (this could only be a Catholic reference) to the end zone (heaven?).

In baseball, deep would be the grand slam over the wall. This would be the trinity and adding heaven at home plate.

These are easy analogies but more challenging is to be aware of the opportunities for the Holy Spirit to work through us and see the image of God in all those around us.

I am looking at a Church calendar and the top half of the page is dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi. When I was about 15 or 16 years old, we had a priest named Father

Albert Lazenais at our Parish in Sherwood Park. He took me aside, told me he wanted some songs to be played before each Mass and asked me to listen to a number of record albums with a variety of hymns on each and to select several of the hymns. The Prayer of St. Francis was one of those that stood out for me that day and still brings a sense of hope, peace and faith to me now. As a teenager, I was very uncomfortable sitting at the front of the Church putting the different albums on the record player and playing the hymns while parishioners were coming in for Sunday Mass. I very much appreciated it when some came up afterwards and thanked me for helping them prepare themselves for Mass with the music.

We look to all of Christ The Redeemer to avail ourselves of the opportunities

to expand our faith, to prepare ourselves for the faith journey we take each day, and to remind ourselves regularly throughout the day of the Holy Spirit within us, waiting to engage those around us in our ever expanding faith community.

God bless all of you.

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 **Saturday, November 25**, at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy, in Canmore, 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.