

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2018

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

Honouring our Leaders: St. John the Apostle Honourary Life Membership Award

At the February Board meeting, the trustees elected to recognize two categories in the future: one award for an adminis-

trator and one for a teacher or member of the support staff. The move stemmed from an acknowledgement that adminis-

trators are often able to impact the entire division, while teachers' contributions are often more significant at the community level.

Corporate Services Report

Associate Superintendent, Michael Kilcommons, reported that Senior Administration, Human Resources, and Finance have been working proactively to ensure a balanced budget for 2018-19. Despite rising costs, it is anticipated that revenues will be consistent with prior years. Initial staffing plans call for the addition of up to 10 teachers, dependent on provincial funding.

The Provincial budget is expected in March, but a move to a centralized model of budgeting puts the division in a position to plan for a balanced budget in the upcoming year.

Mr. Kilcommons also addressed the topic of facility planning. Facility priorities are usually due to the Ministry at the end of March, and there are upcoming planning meetings to help divisions prepare.

Submissions are based on needs according to four priorities: health and safety, enrollment pressures, building condition, and programming capability. The condition of Christ The Redeemer's schools do not pose safety issues, and, in most cases, we can accommodate short term growth projections. CTR's plans currently make the case that Holy Cross Collegiate and Sa-

cred Heart Academy in Strathmore are in need of programmatic facility upgrades, and a new school is the best option. The reason for this is the lack of functionality of spaces for construction, media, foods, the elementary library, and the senior learning commons. However, CTR has not been given positive indications that the Strathmore request will be successful. As a result, Mr. Kilcommons asked the Board to reflect on whether CTR should move facility requests in Okotoks, High River, or Canmore higher on the list due to their enrollment pressures. Mr. Kilcommons will present a recommendation to the Board at their March meeting.

Board Lobbying for English Language Learners

The Board of CTR Catholic intends to make a motion for ASBA to present to the government, advocating for English Language Learners (ELL) support. ELL makes up a significant portion of the school age pop-

ulation in Alberta, yet provincial curriculums are out of date, and Alberta Education's resources are limited.

The draft motion is complete and individual trustees

are building support with other trustees around the province. The Board has a formal meeting planned with a neighbouring Board to see if they will consider seconding the motion.

Superintendents' Updates

“The teachers will not only receive instructional support, but they will receive wages for their dedication.”

Superintendent, Dr. Scott Morrison, revisited centralized budgeting for the division, offering an analysis that reflects an investment in teachers and optimum class sizes. He also spoke to Per Diem PD, a divisional collaboration between senior administration and our local ATA, which will see teachers voluntarily attending professional development outside of the regular calendar. The teachers will not only receive instructional support, but they will also receive wages for their participation after hours. Lastly, Dr. Morrison recently presented the divisional Three Year Education Plan to Alberta Education. The plan was received well, and ministry representatives acknowledged that CTR has been identified as a star performer in 4 of the 6 focus areas of the Ministry.

Associate Superintendent, Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico indicated

that the January PD was very successful with a vast array of offerings, including: K-2 literacy, Reader's and Writer's workshop, French, FNMI, and many school based initiatives. Dr. Annicchiarico also indicated that several teachers from St. John Paul II Collegiate are piloting a program called the Fourth R. The program promotes healthy relationships, and will constitute a portion of the #Relationships project headed up by Dr. Annicchiarico and Director Cheryl Kuemper. In the area of faith, Dr. Annicchiarico noted that at 6:30 pm on March 7 at St. James Church, a special guest will be speaking to parents. Jason Evert is a Catholic author and chastity speaker. He founded Totus Tuus Press and Chastity Project, an organization that promotes chastity primarily to high school and college students. He will speak on the topic the next day with high school students.

Additionally, Associate Superintendent, Vincent Behm, mentioned recent efforts on the part of Human Resources. Much of January and February has been dominated by recruiting fairs, resulting in the interview of over 160 candidates. The department is attempting to manage transfer requests between schools, and is also focusing on the third new teacher induction, which will center around English Language Learners, and faith formation. The Human Resource department is also dedicated to recognition at this time of year. Specifically, substitute teachers are being honoured in several ways, including an upcoming open house and an invitation to Faith Days. We are also entering the season for staff recognition, kicking off with Christian Witness Awards at Faith Days.

Faith Days (Three Year Education Plan)



In keeping with our three year faith plan: *Put Out Into the Deep* (Luke 5: 1-11) Jennifer Rorke, Coordinator of Religious Education, and Dr. Annicchiarico shared a preview of the divisional professional development days which are upcoming.

Ms. Rorke invited the trustees to 'discover your inherent beauty, and your call to love all people'. She promised a hope-filled presentation on God's plan for the family, seen through the lens of St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, and Pope Francis' *Joy of Love*.

Over 600 registrations have been confirmed for this, our 21st annual event. In addition to staff, there will be representatives from school councils and community clergy. Bishop McGrattan will preside over our opening mass, along with 10 priests.

PACE Committee

In recent months the work of this newly formed parent group has been highlighted, as they work to support Catholic education, and motivate others to do the same. A recent parent engagement at École Good Shepherd School was highly successful, generating significant interest from the large group assembled. The next community engagement will be in Brooks on February 28, and others are scheduled: March

11 in High River; March 20 in Drumheller; April 12 in Canmore; and September in Oyen, with dates to be confirmed.

The PACE group now has a Facebook page that can be accessed through Christ The Redeemer's website, with an intent to update it weekly. These parent faith leaders will be presenting to teachers at Faith Days, and look forward to offering our various

communities even more updates, reviews, brochures, and parish visits.

The trustee members on the committee, John de Jong and Andrea Keenan, are supportive of this new movement aimed at the grass roots. There have been initial conversations among Bishops, Superintendents, and trustees, advocating for a provincial effort to have stakeholders from across the province step forward to voice, and then act upon, their support of Catholic Education.

Many Great Things Happen in Our Communities

The communities of Canmore, Strathmore, and Clear Water Academy 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.

Canmore Ward:

This Ward includes Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy.

Faith: The Parish had its first of many Masses in the school, which will be a temporary Church during construction.

Learning: The Robotics Club earned a provincial silver medal, and almost qualified for an international competition.

Safe and Caring: There are a host of clubs that are designed to create safe places for kids including the Diversity Club and the Gaming Club.

Stewardship: The Francophone's are taking the lead on the construction of a new playground, and we applaud their leadership.

Strathmore Ward

This Ward includes Sacred Heart Academy and Holy Cross Collegiate.

Faith: The Bishop's recent visit was a resounding success.

Learning: Both schools are working on diversifying program offerings.

Safe and Caring: CTR Catholic is considering offering professional development to bus drivers on techniques to monitor and deescalate student behaviour.

Stewardship: The Ward understood senior administration's rationale for recommending to the Board that CTR Catholic should designate its own funds for facility enhancements to Holy Cross Collegiate rather than leave new construction in Strathmore as its top priority. This is unfortunate because Holy Cross Collegiate is programmatically inadequate as a high school based on its poor CTS and Fine Arts spaces. The Strathmore public schools have vastly superior facilities in almost every regard. However, the Ministry's two main considerations for granting new construction are health and safety, and overcrowding. The schools are not experiencing either at present.

Clear Water Ward

This Ward includes Clear Water Academy.

Faith: The Grade 4, 5, and 6 NET retreat was a great success.

Learning: The principal predicts that Clear Water Academy will be in the top 3 of the Fraser Ratings.

Safe and Caring: The Clear Water Academy Foundation's plan to educate interested parents to educate interested parents about Bill 24, and engage them in a discussion about the impact certain elements may have on parents and parental rights.

Stewardship: School council is using technology to streamline processes and improve communication (i.e. Google Drive and Sign Up Genius).





John de Jong, Trustee
for Brooks 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 John de Jong

Recently I had the pleasure of reading the book "To All Our Children" by Albert Vander Mey. The stories in the book are about the post-World War Two immigration of Dutch people to Canada and their first years of living in Canada. My parents, and my wife's parents, were a part of the mass migration of many war weary European families to Canada and many other places throughout the world during this time period. The hardships they endured and faced were really quite astounding. My parents, along with so many other immigrants, had very little money, knew no English, and had no idea where they were going to be, other than Canada. Not unlike today, some families were also estranged from each other for months and years until proper documents were completed or money was available. However their perseverance and tenacity to succeed in the hope of creating a new and better way of life for their families was simply remarkable! Through hard work, positive relationships with family, friends and Canadian employers, almost all of these individuals

attained their dreams, and by their diligence contributed to the wonderful economic, and faith mosaic which we witness in Canada today.

The experiences of these immigrants reminds me of many saints, who by their faith, trusted that God would provide for them, even during very difficult times. The one common occurrence throughout this book is the celebration of faith within the different religious denominations, and the importance of faith and the self-sacrifice individuals gave to their families and communities. Faith was a cornerstone in all of their families, and was celebrated in their families, churches, and communities, regardless of their economic situation.

With the Lenten season upon us, we are invited to reflect on our relationship with God and with others, and how to faithfully improve upon these relationships. Through sacrifice, prayer, and service we grow closer to Christ and journey

with Him as we meet the challenges of each day. When we serve others with grace and humility, when we make special sacrifices, and when we pray for the intercession of the Blessed Mother to our Heavenly Father, we too receive special graces, including the gifts of faith and hope, just as so many immigrants have experienced.

May your 2018 Lenten Journey be filled with joyful reflection and actions and may this Easter season be filled with hope and love as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!

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



Next Board Meeting Date

The next Board meeting will take place on **Saturday, March 24, 2018**, at Holy Spirit Academy, High River, 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.