

Board Highlights May 2015



Trustees

Vijay Domingo, Chair
Canmore

Ron Schreiber, Vice Chair
Okotoks

Mark Chung
Drumheller

Christie Caskey
Oyen

Mary Stengler
Brooks

Harry Salm
Strathmore

Brian Lyttle
MD of Foothills

Joanne Van Donzel
High River

Senior Administration

Dr. Scott Morrison
Superintendent

Gary Chiste
Chief Deputy
Superintendent

Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico
Associate Superintendent

Michael Kilcommons
Associate Superintendent

Vincent Van Hyfte
Executive Director of Capital
Projects and Technology

Dorothy Burns
Director of Religious
Education

Rhonda Schachterle
Director of Student Services

Cheryl Kuemper
Director of Curriculum and
Instruction

Dave Lunn
Director of Facilities

Jerry Bagozzi
Treasurer

A Good News Budget Will be Presented in June

Mr. Michael Kilcommons, Associate Superintendent of Corporate Services, told the Board that educational funding has been restored to 2014/2015 levels. This will help to reverse a lot of the spending cuts the Board had planned to make. In fact, 13 of 17 schools in CTR Catholic are in a position to add staff members if they deem it necessary. The Principals are currently discerning the potential needs for increased teaching staff and support staff. While some principals will begin hiring immediately, many will choose to delay making decisions until they see where the pressure points are in September. Mr. Kilcommons assured the Board he would have a budget ready for their approval at the June meeting.

Davisburg Community Engagement was Important and Informative

The Board's second consultation of parents regarding the Davisburg attendance area was attended by about 40 people on Thursday, May 27th. Feedback and conversations would suggest that parents were very pleased with the process and the input they were allowed to contribute. Participants offered positive feedback on the new facility and indicated support for the thoughtful design, especially the large number of classrooms, the large gym, and the specialized spaces to offer New Media, Foods, Science, etc. Parents also offered considerable feedback and some concerns regarding the proposed boundaries and transportation implications. Several suggestions were made to facilitate the transition for students and families. Complete summaries of the event will be sent out to all attendees, but any person may request them by contacting our Coordinator of Communications Cindy Ballance at cballance@redeemer.ab.ca.

Board Learns CTR Catholic's Performance Remains Strong

The Board learned that CTR Catholic's performance on the May 2015 Alberta Accountability Pillar remained strong. Superintendent, Dr. Scott Morrison, was pleased to share the survey results from students, parents, and staff, noting that 7 of the 12 ratings were the highest ratings in CTR Catholic's history. Specifically, satisfaction with the safe and caring was 94%, satisfaction with the programs offered was 86%, satisfaction with education quality was 95%, satisfaction with how students are prepared for work after school was 88%, satisfaction with how students are prepared as citizens was 91%, and satisfaction with how our schools are improving was 89%. In addition, CTR Catholic had its highest ever high school completion rate of 85%, some 9% higher than the province.

Congratulations to ACSTA Award Recipient



Congratulations to Trustee Mary Stengler, our Brooks and area trustee, who received the 18 Year Trustee Service Award from Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association at their 2014 Annual General Meeting!

Faith Happens Everyday in CTR Catholic Schools

The May meeting began with a presentation from Mrs. Carmen Ostafichuk, Principal of Holy Trinity Academy. Mrs. Ostafichuk explained how faith is permeated daily at Holy Trinity. For example, the morning begins with prayer, scripture, and the sharing of the sign of peace. The day ends with a closing blessing. Mrs. Ostafichuk also toured the Board through the school to show off the school's Trinitarian symbolism.



Board Supports Provincial Faith Initiatives

Trustee Ron Schreiber from Okotoks was pleased to announce that once again we had significant presence at the two premier Catholic conferences in our province: S.P.I.C.E. and Blueprints. Approximately one dozen educators and trustees were able to attend the conferences thereby enhancing their personal faith lives and their ability to enhance the faith of those they serve.

Board Passes 3 Locally Developed Courses

The Trustees voted unanimously in favour of supporting diverse learning opportunities when they approved courses to be offered in Creative Writing and Publishing, Journalism, and Advanced Acting and Touring Theatre.



The School Board Commits to Enhanced Safety on International Field Trips



The Board of Trustees approves all international travel, and trustees are very interested in student safety. In response, CTR Catholic is introducing an annual workshop for all head chaperones. This workshop will ensure standard safety and security practices are put in place, and chaperones will also have the opportunity to share best practices with respect to leading a national or international school trip. In addition, chaperones will receive clear guidance about how to make an effective trip

Trustee Corner

Over the course of the next year, each trustee will highlight something of interest, or offer a reflection on our faith or Catholic education. This first submission is by Chair of the Board, Mr. Vijay Domingo.



Last Sunday we celebrated Trinity Sunday – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our recent Board Meeting in Holy Trinity Academy reminds us of this amazing and beautiful connection in its physical structure, design, art and symbolism. In addition, this inter-relationship of three is also found in our Catholic Community – Home, School and Parish. Each of these must exist in union with each other to truly have a rich Catholic community. As such, we are called in to grow in faith both as an individual and as a community. Attending Mass and daily prayer are wonderful ways to grow individually, but we need to reflect on how our individual effort and focus can impact our faith community. Mass is of course the gathering of our community but what is our level of engagement and involvement in mass and its preparation. In addition, daily prayer is often the foundation which calls us to action as we are called serve others.

One area I am excited about is linking our youth to the active life in a parish. Each sacrament is a wonderful step in our faith development as an individual but it can also be a further step into the life of our community. Most parishes engage Altar Servers after they have had their first communion. We can also engage our youth in reading, greeting, and ministries after Confirmation. These are celebrated sacramental moments of success and growth which can be linked to deepening our Catholic Community. Children are often the most open minded, courageous, and engaged individuals who clearly understand that it takes involvement to change the world around us. The opportunity to strengthen their Home, School, and Parish is right in front of them

FUN FACTS ABOUT CTR CATHOLIC:

- ♦ CTR Catholic is the 3rd largest Catholic school division in the province and the 13th largest school division.
- ♦ CTR Catholic has 19 schools with four traditional school in Okotoks, two in High River, three in Brooks, two in Strathmore, one in Drumheller, one in Oyen, and one in Calgary. There is also one distance education school and four outreach schools.
- ♦ CTR Catholic has 8 trustees who represent 7 of our communities/areas: Vijay Domingo (Canmore and area), Ron Schreiber (Okotoks), Brian Little (MD of Foothills), Joanne Van Donzel (High River and area), Mary Stengler (Brooks and area), Harry Salm (Strathmore and area), Mark Chung (Drumheller and area), and Christie Caskey (Oyen and area). There is NOT representation by population on CTR Catholic's Board. Instead, trustees represent communities of different populations, and this is due to the history of the Division initially being formed by the amalgamation of three school divisions in three different towns (Okotoks, Drumheller, and Oyen). As more communities were added, more trustees were added.

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.

Next Board Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Board will be held at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Education Centre, Okotoks, AB. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 25th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.**

For information on any of these items please contact Michael Kilcommons, Associate Superintendent, at 403-938-2659 or via e-mail at mkilcommons@redeemer.ab.ca.