

Regular Board Meeting Highlights

October 29, 2019

Trustees: Anne Marie Watson (Chairperson), Murray Hollman (Vice-Chair), Dorraine Lonsdale, Cynthia Leyson, Sharla Heistad, Kim Pasula and Rob Maloughney.

St. Patrick's Community School Transition Day

The Board of Trustees approved a transition day on November 29, 2019 for staff. Students will not attend school on this day to allow staff to move into the modernized school.

Modular Requests

Alberta Education requires the submission of new modular or relocation requests by November 1, 2019. The Board of Trustees approved administration's recommendation of eight new modulars:

- Four modulars for St. Matthew Catholic School in Rocky Mountain House
- Two modulars for École Our Lady of the Rosary School in Sylvan Lake
- Two modulars for St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School in Red Deer

Cultural Services Building Name

See attached news release.

2019 School Division Accountability Pillar Overall Summary

The Associate Superintendent of Inclusive Learning presented the 2018-2019 school year accountability pillar overall summary to the Board of Trustees. In 13 of the 16 measures, our division scored higher than the provincial average. [Click here](#) to see the accountability pillar results.

Our focus for this upcoming school year will be a continued emphasis on our high school diploma results, both in the area of acceptable and excellence. We will continue to work with our high schools to increase these scores and to ensure that our students, at a minimum, are meeting the provincial average.



2018-2019 Student Enrolment

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools' official enrolment for the 2019-2020 school year is now at 10,483 students as of October 2019. This is an increase of 162 students, which equates to 1.7% growth.

Catholic Education Sunday – November 3, 2019

Sunday, November 3 is Catholic Education Sunday and with that comes the opportunity to celebrate Catholic schools in the province of Alberta. Publicly funded Catholic education is a gift that we acknowledge with deep gratitude and embrace with unwavering resolve. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide faith-based education to more than 10,483 students in our school division in Red Deer, Sylvan Lake, Blackfalds, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail and Olds.

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

St. Patrick's Community School Modernization in Red Deer

Work in Phase 3 is progressing ahead of schedule and we expect to have Phase 3 to be complete by November 30.

Cultural Services Building Modernization in Red Deer

The roof is almost completed. The masonry work is finished. The construction has started on the interior walls. The air-handling units will be placed on the roof next week. The estimated time of completion is the end of February.

The next board meeting is November 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Marie Watson".

Anne Marie Watson, Board Chair



News Release

The former RDCRS Cultural Services Centre is now called the St. Benedict the Moor Centre

For immediate release – October 30, 2019

The Cultural Services Centre in Red Deer on 39th Street, between Maryview School and St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School is now called the St. Benedict the Moor Centre. This building will house some personnel from Montfort Centre, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools' (RDCRS) Central Office.

"We would like to thank our stakeholders for ideas on what we should name our building. We look forward to having this space utilized by our division again," said Superintendent, Dr. V. Paul Mason at Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

St. Benedict the Moor was the son of black slaves who were taken from Africa to San Fratello, Sicily, where they were converted to Christianity. They lived such exemplary lives and fulfilled their duties so thoroughly that their owner, in appreciation, granted freedom to their eighteen-year-old son, Benedict. He continued to work as a day labourer, generously sharing his small wages with the poor and spending his free time in caring for the sick. At the age of 21, Benedict was introduced to the influence of St. Francis of Assisi. He sold his few possessions, gave the money to the poor and joined the monastic group, later moving with them to Palermo. For many years Benedict happily worked in the kitchen as a lay brother at the Friary of St. Mary of Jesus, upon the death of his director, he was chosen as the guardian of the friary, even though he could not read or write. After serving as superior, he became a novice master but asked to be relieved of his post and returned to his former position as cook. His holiness, reputation for miracles, and his fame as a confessor brought hordes of visitors to see the obscure and humble cook. He died at the convent, was canonized in 1807, and is the patron saint of blacks in the United States. The surname "the Moor" is a misnomer originating from the Italian IL MORO (the black.) His feast day is April 4. ([Roman Catholic Saints](#), [Catholic Online](#))

News Release

For the past 18 years, RDCRS has rented out the facility to the City of Red Deer. During the 2019 Canada Winter Games, the City of Red Deer moved downtown to the former Central Elementary School building, which is now the Cultural Services Centre. Therefore, it left the building on 39th Street vacant.

RDCRS operates their administrative office at Montfort Centre, which was the original St. Louis de Montfort School. In 1999 when Montfort Centre opened, the division's student population was under 4,300 students. Student enrollment for October 2019 is 10,483. During the past two decades, Montfort Centre has remained the same size and now is in need of a modernization. This modernization will begin following the completion of renovation at St. Benedict the Moor Centre.

After studying other similar sized school divisions' administrative centres and following a thorough analysis and recommendations of RDCRS' current and future needs by Group2 Architects, these two projects are needed for RDCRS is to effectively and efficiently continue to serve its students and staff.

Both projects are anticipated to be complete by spring 2020.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,455 students in 21 schools in Red Deer, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds. It also supports the learning of over 600 students in a Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and within the means of the Division.

For more information, contact:

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