

### **Board Meeting Highlights**

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

## Inspired by Christ. Aspiring to Excellence.















# Board of Trustees Murray Hollman - Chair Anne Marie Watson - Vice Chair Sharla Heistad Cynthia Leyson Dorraine Lonsdale Kim Pasula

#### Full-Day Kindergarten at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic School

The Board of Trustees approved an additional 0.5 FTE teacher to continue the full-day everyday kindergarten program at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic School in Innisfail for the 2025/2026 school year. The decision followed discussions on financial feasibility, community feedback, and the need for childcare options in the area.

For more information on the Kindergarten Programming at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic School, click here.

#### **Financial Reporting Profile**

The Board of Trustees reviewed the newly released Financial Reporting Profile for 2023-2024. This information is provided by Alberta Education to enable boards to track fiscal changes and compare them to like cohorts and the province.

The Secretary-Treasurer explained that operating reserves are below the minimum threshold required by the province. Trustees heard that prudent financial planning is in place to rebuild reserves over time. Despite various influencing factors, the Division remains committed to strengthening its financial position while ensuring schools prioritize current funds for current students.

The Secretary-Treasurer explained that while cash flow availability (liquidity) remains less than 1.0, it is in line with the provincial average. Capital reserves are also below both the provincial and the cohort averages. However, because the Division has newer school buildings and recently upgraded vehicles and equipment, there is less immediate need for major capital replacements. The Secretary-Treasurer stressed that the division is focused on maintaining a conservative budget approach to ensure long-term financial stability.

For more information on the Financial Reporting Profile, click <u>here</u>.

#### **Faith Theme Announcement**

The Board of Trustees commended the newly announced Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools Faith Theme for 2025-2028: "Anchored in Faith: Guided by Grace, Uplifted by Hope, Transformed by Love."

Trustees heard that this theme emphasizes understanding God's grace, trusting in His promises, and embracing transformation through love to create a positive impact in the world. The Superintendent informed the Board that supporting resources will be developed for teachers in the coming months.

For more information on the Faith Theme Announcement, click <u>here</u>.

#### **Student Teacher and Post-Secondary Partnerships**

The Board of Trustees reviewed updates on student teacher placements and educational assistant placements. Trustees emphasized the importance of strengthening relationships with post-secondary institutions, particularly exploring a connection with the University of Calgary to expand opportunities.

For more information on Student Teacher and Post-Secondary Partnerships, click here.

#### **A Culture of Coaching Continues**

The Board of Trustees received an update on the Division's ongoing commitment to school improvement through a coaching and accountability model. Over the past four years, associate superintendents have worked closely with school administrators, meeting eight times per year to refine School Improvement Plans (SIPs). These sessions focus on goal setting, progress tracking, and targeted adjustments to enhance student learning and teaching quality.

Trustees heard that a "go slow to go fast" approach has allowed administrators to implement strategic refinements rather than sweeping changes, leading to stronger assessment frameworks, high-yield outcomes, and improved differentiation strategies. Walk-throughs are providing valuable insights into authentic teaching practices, further strengthening instructional leadership across the Division.

For more information on A Culture of Coaching Continues, click <u>here</u>.

The next Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Murray Hollman, Board Chair

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