

*Inspired by Christ. Aspiring to Excellence.*



Murray Hollman



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Anne Marie Watson



Sharla Heistad



Cynthia Leyson



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Kim Pasula

## Board of Trustees

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

### Board Endorses Budget Assumptions with Focus on Adaptability and Student Support

The Board of Trustees approved the 2025-2026 Budget Assumptions Report, presented by the Secretary-Treasurer. The report outlines a flexible and responsive financial strategy, balancing evolving provincial funding changes, current enrolment trends, and the Division's ongoing commitment to excellence in Catholic education. A projected decrease of approximately 240 students was noted as a key factor influencing financial planning. Trustees reaffirmed their commitment to responsible, transparent decision-making in support of student success and long-term sustainability.

To view the Budget Review and Key Assumptions report, please click [here](#).

### Four-Year CUPE Agreement Strengthens Partnership with Support Staff

The Board of Trustees formally approved the new 4-year collective agreement with CUPE Local 417, marking a positive step forward for labour relations within Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools (RDCRS). Trustees commended the collaborative and respectful negotiation process, which included successful mediation and resulted in an agreement that meets the needs of both staff and the Board of Trustees.

### Catholic Trustee Information Evenings to Inspire Future Catholic Trustees

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools is launching Catholic Trustee Information Evening events to inform and inspire prospective trustee candidates ahead of the October 2025 election. The Board of Trustees emphasized that these sessions will focus on the vocation of Catholic trusteeship and welcoming community members to learn more about the role. All sessions run from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the following parishes:

May 20 – St. Stephen's Parish, Olds

May 21 – St. Matthew's Parish, Rocky Mountain House

May 22 – St. Mary's Parish, Red Deer

May 23 – Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Sylvan Lake

The Board of Trustees emphasized that the sessions are educational in nature, not campaign events, and will focus on building awareness of trusteeship as a meaningful ministry in Catholic education.

To view the Parish Meet and Greet Report, please click [here](#).

### **RDCRS Students Gain Expanded Career Pathways Through Dual Credit and Fire Cadet Programs**

The Board of Trustees received an encouraging update on initiatives aimed at expanding career readiness for high school students. The Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Inclusion shared that Alberta Education has allocated \$4 million in dual credit grants across the province, with an additional \$550,000 from Seniors, Community and Social Services to support Health Care Aide training. These grants allow students in Grades 10–12 to explore trades, language pathways, and career options while earning both high school and post-secondary credits. RDCRS has successfully secured funding in previous years and has once again applied for 2025.

Additionally, trustees were briefed on the continued success of the Red Deer Fire Cadet Training Program, offered in partnership with Red Deer County Fire Services. This hands-on experience prepares high school students for life in fire services, culminating in the opportunity to earn NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level 1 certification. The Board commended these programs for combining real-world skills, post-secondary alignment, and student engagement.

To view the April Curriculum and Inclusion Report, please click [here](#).

### **Student Voice, Indigenous Recognition, and Curriculum Renewal at the Heart of Inclusive Education**

The Board of Trustees were pleased to learn that 33 students from Grades 5–11 participated in a recent Student Voice Panel, offering valuable feedback on instructional practices, classroom engagement, feedback strategies, and technology integration. The Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Inclusion shared that their insights will directly inform the development of RDCRS's next three-year education plan, reinforcing the Division's commitment to student-centred learning.

To view the April Curriculum and Inclusion Report, please click [here](#).

**The next Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**



**Murray Hollman**, Board Chair

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