

Minutes of a Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, held April 27, 2021.

Present: S. Heistad
M. Hollman
C. Leyson
D. Lonsdale
R. Maloughney
K. Pasula and
A. Watson, Trustees
K. Finnigan, Superintendent of Schools
R. Ledene, Assoc. Sup't - Personnel
R. Steeves, Secretary-Treasurer
J. Heidt, Executive Assistant

Meeting held via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Division Principals, Ryan Sawula and Jodi Smith, led Trustees in prayer.

Trustee Leyson read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

The Board of Trustees congratulated the Division's ASBA Edwin Parr Award nominees. Meghan Huizing from St. Gregory the Great Catholic School is the Division finalist. The three other nominees were Caleigh Sheppard from École Camille J. Lerouge School, Katherine Monaghan from Maryview School and Kelsie Caine from St. Francis of Assisi Middle School.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

21/04/27-01-Watson

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING OF MARCH 30, 2021
BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.**

CARRIED.

3. ACTION ITEMS

3.1 COVID-19 SITUATION

The Superintendent reported that due to substitute teacher shortages, RDCRS students in Grades 7 - 9 (not including St. Matthew Catholic School and Holy Trinity Catholic School) will temporarily shift to online learning starting Tuesday, April 27, 2021 until May 7, 2021. This shift will allow the Division to keep elementary students in school by freeing up substitute teachers.

The Associate Superintendent of Personnel was acknowledged for organizing vaccines for staff at some local pharmacies. This allowed as many staff as were eligible to easily get the vaccine if desired. The Superintendent also thanked ATA President Stephen Meredew for getting the message out to teachers regarding vaccines.

The Board asked that a letter be sent to Minister Shandro and Minister LaGrange advising them that our school gymnasiums would be available for an additional vaccine roll out if required.

3.2 DRAFT KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 6 CURRICULUM REVIEW

The Superintendent presented the draft curriculum feedback information gathered from teachers throughout the Division. She explained that the Division held seven days of feedback sessions with teachers to give them an opportunity to provide input about the draft curriculum. She noted that this was a huge collaborative effort with all teachers from Kindergarten to Grade 6 and very impressive work was done in a short matter of time.

This feedback, along with a comprehensive review of the draft curriculum from the Division level, will be sent to Alberta Education to help guide recommendations and revisions moving forward with regard to the curriculum.

After much discussion the Superintendent recommended that RDCRS step away from the pilot at this time.

The Superintendent noted that the work on this is not over and hopes that subject experts can come in and do a deep dive into the curriculum for feedback by next February. Discussion ensued

21/04/27-02-Lonsdale

THAT RDCRS FORGO THE INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW CURRICULUM PILOTS.

CARRIED.

21/04/27-03-Leyson

THAT SUPERINTENDENT UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE NEW DRAFT CURRICULUM AND PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE BOARD NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 2021.

CARRIED.

21/04/27-04-Heistad

THAT THE BOARD DIRECT THE BOARD CHAIR TO SHARE THE PRELIMINARY REPORT AND THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE BOARD WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TO ADVOCATE FOR A DELAY TO THE CURRICULUM'S IMPLEMENTATION

Trustee Watson
(friendly amendment)

ADD THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

21/04/27-05-Watson

THAT THE BOARD DIRECT THE BOARD CHAIR TO SHARE THE PRELIMINARY REPORT AND THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE BOARD WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TO ADVOCATE FOR A DELAY TO THE CURRICULUM'S IMPLEMENTATION AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM.

CARRIED.

3.3 ERIP APPLICATION

21/04/27-06-Leyson

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE EMPLOYEE #08/2021 FOR THE EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN AT THE REDUCED RATE EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2021

CARRIED.

3.4 SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION AND CULTURE SURVEY

21/04/27-07-Lonsdale

THAT TO SAVE ON COSTS, THE CONFIDENTIAL ANNUAL SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION WILL BE ORGANIZED INTERNALLY BY THE BOARD AND THAT THIS YEAR'S EVALUATION WILL INVOLVE A FOUR-STEP PROCESS:

- 1. UTILIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT LEADERSHIP QUALITY STANDARDS (SLQS)**
- 2. REFERENCING THE DIVISION'S STRATEGIC AND EDUCATION PLAN, AND THE PRIORITIES AND GOALS DEFINED IN THE PLANS, THE BOARD WILL ASSESS THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PERFORMANCE IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS AND ADVANCING THE DIVISION'S MISSION WITHIN THE APPROVED PLANS AND BUDGET**
- 3. RETAINING A HUMAN RESOURCES CONSULTANT TO HELP DEVELOP A 'CULTURE' SURVEY TO GATHER FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOL STAFF AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS, THE BOARD WILL ASSESS ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOUR RELATIVE TO OUR DIVISION'S VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF PRACTICE**
- 4. WITH THE RESULTS FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL EVALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS ABOVE, THE BOARD WILL MEET TO SHARE SUMMATIVE COMMENTS AND TOGETHER DEVELOP A LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL HELP**

GUIDE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S ACTIONS GOING FORWARD.

CARRIED.

3.5 HEALTH AND WELLNESS CHECKS AND DUTY TO INQUIRE

21/04/27-08-Watson

THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT BE DIRECTED TO DEVELOP NEW OR AMENDED POLICY AND HUMAN RESOURCES PROCEDURES THAT WILL ADDRESS HEALTH AND WELLNESS CHECKS AND THE DUTY TO INQUIRE IN AN EFFORT TO ADVANCE THE DIVISION'S MANAGEMENT OF THESE MATTERS.

CARRIED.

3.6 ST. LORENZO RUIZ - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FACILITY FEATURES

21/04/27-09-Watson

THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE ST. LORENZO RUIZ DESIGN TEAM BE DIRECTED TO INVESTIGATE THE FOLLOWING WITH RESPECT TO SCHOOL DESIGN AND DEVELOP A REPORT REGARDING THESE MATTERS FOR BOARD REVIEW AT THE MAY MEETING: ADDRESSING SAFETY CONCERNS USING CPTED (CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN); WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY, IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURES THAT BENEFIT THE SCHOOL AND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS THAT IT SERVES E.G. SPORTS AMENITIES, MEETING SPACE, OTHER FACILITY ACCESS; RELATED TO SERVING THE COMMUNITY, ENSURE THAT EASY ACCESS TO SPACE/FACILITIES IS INTEGRATED INTO THE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANS E.G. EASY PUBLIC ACCESS AND LOCK-OFFS; PROVISION OF A 'PERFORMANCE' SPACE; AND,

**INTEGRATION OF A 'CULTURAL' SPACE
AND CULTURAL DESIGN ELEMENTS THAT
DEMONSTRATE ALL ARE WELCOME, ALL
BELONG.**

CARRIED.

**3.6 POLICY REVIEW - POLICY 22 - RED DEER CATHOLIC
REGIONAL SCHOOLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Slight changes were made to Policy 26 - Gifts and
Sponsorship Acceptance.

21/04/27-10-Watson

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACCEPT THE
CHANGES TO POLICY 22 - RED DEER
CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION AS
AMENDED.**

CARRIED.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Board Chair Report

Highlighted in the report:

- The Sr. Admin structure will be brought forward to the May board meeting along with the budget.

4.2 Superintendent Report

Highlighted in the report:

- Pre-kindergarten 3 year old program will be blended with the Pre-kindergarten program.
- There is a lower enrollment in the Pre-kindergarten for 2021-2022 school year as a whole. In order to maximize public funds, students will be brought together in the city of Red Deer with Maryview School being the 'hub' in the south end with six programs and St. Teresa of Avila School will be the 'hub' in the north end with four programs. Rural schools will continue the Pre-kindergarten program as is. Parents with qualifying students will receive a letter and phone call explaining the change.
- Catholic Education week May 10-14.

- 4.3 Financial Report
Highlighted in the report:
 - The Secretary-Treasurer expects the budget surplus to be in the \$1-1.5M range by the end of the year.
- 4.4 Catholic Education Week (May 10-14)
A written report was provided.
- 4.5 St. Lorenzo Ruiz Design Team Update
Highlighted in the report:
 - The Committee will be meeting this week with various staff in current schools for feedback.
 - The Committee will be speaking with architects to discuss some requests from the Board.
- 4.6 Trustee Reports and Updates
 - 4.6.1 Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA)
Trustee Leyson gave a verbal report:
 - May 31 will be the Edwin Parr banquet virtually.
 - 4.6.2 Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA)
Chair Pasula gave a verbal report.
 - Grace held its annual forum on April 19 via Zoom which was well attended.
 - A steering committee is being formed for the next Grace meeting.
 - 4.6.3 Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards
Trustee Heistad gave a verbal report.
 - Met today and focus was on mental health and what school boards are currently facing over the pandemic. Minister LaGrange spoke at this meeting and a report is being put together from a rural perspective. Minister LaGrange indicated a technology-type project will be underway soon.
 - 4.6.4 Catholic Education Foundation
 - Applications for student scholarships and school based projects can be found on the Red Deer Catholic Regional School's website.

The Board of Trustees received a presentation by the Communications Department. Trustees commended the work the team has done in the Division.

Trustee Watson led the group in closing prayer.

21/04/27-11-Maloughney

**THAT THE REGULAR MEETING RECESS THE
TIME BEING 8:45 P.M.**

CARRIED.

21/04/27-12-Heistad

THAT THE REGULAR MEETING RECONVENE

CARRIED.

21/04/27-13-Leyson

**THAT THE REGULAR MEETING ADJOURN, THE
TIME BEING 9:03 P.M.**

CARRIED.

(CHAIR)

(SECRETARY-TREASURER)