

Minutes of a Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division, held September 28, 2021.

Present: S. Heistad
C. Leyson
D. Lonsdale
R. Maloughney
K. Pasula and
A. Watson, Trustees
K. Finnigan, Superintendent of Schools
R. Ledene, Assoc. Superintendent - Personnel
R. Sawula, Assoc. Superintendent - Curriculum
J. Smith, Assoc. Superintendent - Inclusive Learning
R. Steeves, Secretary-Treasurer
J. Heidt, Executive Assistant
A. Vischer, Communications Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 5:48 p.m.

Ryan Sawula, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum, led Trustees in prayer.

Trustee Watson read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions to Agenda:

- 3.3 Early Retirement Application Form
- 4.1.1 Rapid Testing Program

21/09/28-01-Lonsdale

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED BY ADDING:
3.3 EARLY RETIREMENT APPLICATION FORM
4.1.1 RAPID TESTING PROGRAM
TO THE AGENDA.**

CARRIED.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

21/09/28-02-Lonsdale

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 24, 2021 BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED.

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 BE
ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.**

CARRIED.

3. ACTION ITEMS

**3.1 SCHOOL RE-ENTRY ADJUSTMENTS - COVID-19
RESPONSE REPORT**

The Superintendent and the Associate Superintendent of Inclusive Learning reported that given the most recent announcement from the Government of Alberta and the new measures announced to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, changes have been made to reflect the new guidelines for schools.

Vaccine clinics have been set up at St. Joseph High School, École Secondaire Notre Dame High School, St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School and St. Francis of Assisi Middle School for those staff and students who wish to get vaccinated. The Superintendent emphasized that only those students with parental permission provided to Alberta Health Services will receive the vaccine at the school. AHS continues to provide strong support to our schools and the Division is thankful for the parents and guardians who choose to inform their school of positive COVID-19 cases in their children.

On behalf of the Board Trustee Leyson expressed her gratitude to the Superintendent and her team for the excellent work they have done during the pandemic.

3.2 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 458 - DUTY TO REPORT

The Secretary Treasurer reported that each school administrator and manager brought this Administrative Procedure to each of their staff in September.

3.3 EARLY RETIREMENT APPLICATION FORM EMPLOYEE
001-2022

An Early Retirement Application Form was brought forward from an employee who has been on leave.

21/09/28-04 - Lonsdale

**THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE
EARLY RETIREMENT APPLICATION
FOR EMPLOYEE 2022-001 FOR THE
FULL INCENTIVE.**

CARRIED.

21/09/28-04 - Maloughney

**IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MOTION,
THAT THIS IS SUBJECT TO THE
RECEIPT OF THE LETTER OF
RESIGNATION ON OR BEFORE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.**

CARRIED.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 [Superintendent Report](#)

Highlighted in the report:

- National Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30 is an important date in the Division. The Associate Superintendent of Curriculum presented the plans for the day. Schools have been encouraged to develop a plan that honours this day and a variety of activities will be permeated throughout the day in schools in all grades. Additionally, a six week initiative will be launched inviting RDCRS staff and students to join the Division in a reconciliation challenge as we move to continue our learning beyond September 30. This day was planned in concert with the Indigenous Community through the Indigenous Services Department and RDCRS will continue to receive feedback from students, staff, families, and stakeholders on how to proceed with National Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 in the future.
- The Superintendent commended the Associate Superintendent of Curriculum as well as Division teachers for their diligent work on the Early Learning Literacy Grant which is due to Alberta Education on September 30. The \$45M in funding which will be based on need will be

distributed to school divisions on a per-student basis for targeted interventions that will address COVID-19 learning disruptions.

- The Associate Superintendent of Inclusive Learning reported that the Alberta Education Nutrition Grant supported 145 families in July and 108 families in August throughout 17 schools. It was noted that Family School Enhancement Counsellors played an important role in the success of the summer program.

4.1.1 Rapid Testing Program

- Due to the recent health care crisis in the province due to COVID-19, the Associate Superintendent of Personnel informed the Board of Trustees of preliminary plans to potentially implement a rapid screening program for staff. This plan requires further exploration of rapid screening protocols and requirements by the provincial government. Administration was asked to look into avenues in which there would be no cost for testing to the Division with the onus on the employee (without being too costly to staff). The Board would be open to meet on a timely basis should a report be provided before the next scheduled Board meeting.

4.2 [Inclusive Education Support Report](#)

Highlighted in the report:

- A comprehensive written report was provided by the Associate Superintendent of Inclusive Learning which focused on the strength of our Division's inclusive approach. This approach supports students receiving assessments when students are identified and strategies provided to teachers in order for students to meet their full potential. High wait times continue to be an issue with outside mental health agencies and we continue to work with our community partners to find ways to help our students on a timely basis. The Board of Trustees will send a letter to the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Mr. Mike Ellis, and the RDCRS MLA's regarding mental health support challenges the Division continues to struggle with.

4.3 [Alberta Education Kindergarten-Grade 6 Curriculum Review](#)

Highlighted in the report:

- The Associate Superintendent of Curriculum highlighted from the report that the Division will use three tiers of feedback to review and analyze the subject content of the new draft curriculum. Feedback is intended to address age appropriateness, scope of learning and the sequencing of

learning and it was noted that Minister LaGrange has requested that the feedback be very specific. Parents and stakeholders will be able to provide feedback using the RDCRS Connects platform.

4.4 [Preliminary Student Enrollment](#)

Highlighted in the report:

- The Secretary Treasurer reported a .05% increase in student population growth to date. There are currently 10,372 students enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year. The Secretary Treasurer noted that the Weighted Moving Average numbers are very close to the predicted numbers from January 2021.

4.5 [Financial Report](#)

Highlighted in the report:

- The Secretary Treasurer reported a \$4.6M surplus for this year and suggested that \$2.0 M be moved into capital funds to build up any surplus for future school builds in the event that we do not receive enough funding for potential upcoming school builds. He noted that modulars cost the Division extra funds that are not accounted for by the government as well. By moving these dollars, the Division would have \$6.8M in capital reserves and \$4.8M remaining in operating reserves.

4.6 [Capital Projects Report](#)

Highlighted in the report:

- The Secretary Treasurer reiterated that costs for St. Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic School has escalated due to shortages in supply and Alberta Infrastructure will not provide additional funding. Some cost savings were accomplished with CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Principles and parking stalls have been reduced while noting there will be plenty of parking stalls for the maximum capacity of staff. The design team and the IPD team will be meeting on September 29 to discuss further cost savings.
- A Sod Turning Ceremony will be held on October 7 for St. Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic School with a predicted school opening in September of 2023.

4.7 Trustee Reports and Updates

4.7.1 Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA)

Trustee Leyson gave a verbal report:

- The September 27 meeting was held virtually.
 - Trustee Leyson noted that over the summer the ASBA Executive were frustrated with the draft curriculum.

4.7.2 Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA)

Chair Pasula gave a verbal report:

- The last Board Meeting Highlights were provided and Chair Pasula noted that in October the ACSTA membership will be meeting to discuss the possibility of a redesign which could involve reducing their number of board members.

4.7.3 Catholic Education Foundation

Trustee Heistad gave a verbal report:

- The last meeting was held on September 27.
- Pending the pandemic, the Foundation is hoping to host a fundraising event this year.
- The Foundation is currently seeking additional membership on the Red Deer Catholic Education Foundation. Community members are asked to contact Trustee Leyson if interested in being involved with the Catholic Education Foundation.

Trustee Leyson led the group in closing prayer.

21/09/28-05-Heistad

**THAT THE REGULAR MEETING RECESS
THE TIME BEING 8:02 P.M.**

CARRIED.

21/09/28-06-Lonsdale

**THAT THE REGULAR MEETING
RECONVENE.**

CARRIED.

21/09/28-07-Maloughney

**THAT THE REGULAR MEETING ADJOURN,
THE TIME BEING 8:50 P.M.**

CARRIED.

(CHAIR)

(SECRETARY-TREASURER)