

Minutes of a Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division, held October 26, 2021.

Present: S. Heistad  
M. Hollman  
M. LaGrange  
C. Leyson  
D. Lonsdale  
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. Visscher, Communications Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions to Agenda:

- 3.2 a) Presentation by delegation
- 3.2 b) Letter from community member for presentation at Board meeting
- 3.2 c) Vaccination/Rapid Screening Program Survey Results
- 4.1 b) Kindergarten Catchment 2022-2023

21/10/26-07 - LaGrange

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE AGENDA:**

- 3.2 a) - Presentation by Delegation**
- 3.2 b) - Letter from Community Member for Presentation at Board Meeting**
- 3.2 c) - Vaccination/Rapid Screening Program Survey Results**
- 4.1 b) Kindergarten Catchment 2022-2023**

**CARRIED.**

21/10/26-08 - Lonsdale

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAIVE THE NOTICE PERIOD TO ALLOW FOR A PRESENTATION FROM A DELEGATION AT THE OCTOBER 26 BOARD MEETING.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

21/10/26-09-Watson

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.**

**CARRIED.**

3. ACTION ITEMS

3.1 OPT OUT OF ALBERTA SCHOOL FOUNDATION FUND

The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association has encouraged its member Boards to exercise their right to opt out of the Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF) per s. 164 (2) through (5) of the Education Act. This can be done every four years following an election.

21/10/26-10-Lonsdale

**THAT THE BOARD OPT OUT OF ALBERTA SCHOOL FOUNDATION FOUNDATION FUND (ASFF) per s. 164 (2) THROUGH (5) OF THE EDUCATION ACT.**

**CARRIED.**

Seconded by Trustee Hollman (required)

3.2 VACCINATION RAPID SCREENING PROGRAM

Delegations were read from two people in attendance. Mr. Fred Simoni read a letter aloud to trustees opposing a mandatory vaccination program. Lydie (first name only) presented on behalf of the RDCRS United Staff for Freedom also opposing a mandatory vaccination program for staff.

Chair Pasula read aloud an anonymous letter representing staff who are also against mandatory vaccinations and rapid tests.

The Associate Superintendent of Personnel presented the findings from the recent staff survey. The survey was completed by 647 staff members and the results were shared with Trustees. He highlighted that 82.4% of staff are or plan to be fully vaccinated by November 4, 2021 and that 70.3% of staff support mandatory vaccination or rapid testing.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask administration several questions which led to a rich discussion. After much debate and discussion the Board felt more information was needed.

21/10/26-11 - Watson

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MOVE TO POSTPONE THE DECISION REGARDING THE VACCINATION AND RAPID SCREENING PROGRAM INDEFINITELY.**

**CARRIED.**

### 3.3 CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY

Superintendent Finnigan reported that parishes have given permission for Trustees to promote Catholic Education Sunday in person at masses on November 6 & 7.

Trustees and Sr. Administration signed up for masses over the weekend of November 6 & 7. [Mass schedule](#)

## 4. INFORMATION ITEMS

### 4.1 [Superintendent Report](#)

Highlighted in the report:

- Letters informing parents of Covid-19 cases in school have been going well and no contact tracing has had to be done to date.
- Trustee Leyson commended students of St. Patrick's Community School and St. Joseph High School along with Mr. Carl Fakely for assisting in making food at the Mustard Seed.
- Administration is not aware if second vaccination opportunities for students will play out at this time.
- Superintendent Finnigan expressed her pride in the RDCRS of our presence at the recent International Powwow held at the Westerner October 22-24. This amazing event drew more people than anticipated.

#### 4.1 (b) Kindergarten Catchment 2022-2023

- The Superintendent presented Trustees with Kindergarten catchment information for the 2022-2023 school year in which Kindergarten students will go to their catchment school rather than waiting until Grade one to attend their designated school. At parent teacher interviews, Pre-Kindergarten parents will be advised of their catchment school for kindergarten.

#### 4.2 [September 30 Student Enrolment](#)

Highlighted in the report:

- There has been a slight increase in student population this year although not as high as previous years.

#### 4.3 [Financial Report](#)

Highlighted in the report:

- The Secretary Treasurer provided a written report.
- An RFP has been sent in for modulars for St. Gregory The Great Catholic School

#### 4.4 [Capital Projects Report](#)

Highlighted in the report:

- The Secretary Treasurer provided a written report.

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

Highlighted in the report:

- The Associate Superintendent of Curriculum highlighted that “Think Tanks” are being created and some staff members have volunteered to participate in this.
- A parent survey will go out on Monday, November 1, 2021 with a deadline for feedback Friday, November 19, 2021.
- Next steps will be to analyze all the data received and create a final report for Board review.

#### 4.6 [Strategic Development Plan Request for Proposals](#)

- Proposal was reviewed by Trustees

#### 4.7 [Archbishop Everyday Heroes Submission](#)

- Trustees applauded this submission.

#### Trustee Reports and Updates

##### 4.7.1 Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA)

Trustee Leyson gave a verbal report.

- Next meeting on November 1, 2021.

##### 4.7.2 Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA)

Chair Pasula gave a verbal report:

- Annual General Meeting will be held on November 13, 2021.

- 4.7.3 Catholic Education Foundation  
Trustee Heistad gave a verbal report:
- A placeholder for March 10, 2021 is tentatively in place for a potential fundraising event.
  - Mr. David Bouchard is Chair and Ms. Dagmar Knutson is Vice-Chair.
- 4.7.4 Rural Caucus of Alberta
- Trustee Heistad indicated that the next meeting will be held on December 9.

Ryan Ledene led the group in closing prayer.

21/10/26-12-Hollman

**THAT THE REGULAR MEETING RECESS  
THE TIME BEING 11:06 P.M.**

**CARRIED.**

21/10/28-13-Leyson

**THAT THE REGULAR MEETING  
RECONVENE.**

**CARRIED.**

21/10/26-14-Watson

**THAT THE REGULAR MEETING ADJOURN,  
THE TIME BEING 11:45 P.M.**

**CARRIED.**

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CHAIR

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SECRETARY-TREASURER