



Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the The Red Deer Catholic Separate School Division, held May 24, 2024.

- Present:
- S. Heistad
 - M. Hollman
 - D. Lonsdale
 - K. Pasula
 - A. Watson, Trustees
 - K. Finnigan, Superintendent of Schools
 - L. Latka, Secretary-Treasurer
 - R. Ledene, Associate Superintendent - System Services
 - R. Sawula, Associate Superintendent - Curriculum
 - M. St. Pierre, Executive Assistant
- Not in Attendance:
- C. Leyson, Trustee
 - J. Smith, Associate Superintendent - Human Resources

*Board Chair Hollman called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.
Trustee Watson read an opening prayer aloud.*

05/24/24-01-Lonsdale

**THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MOVE IN CAMERA
AT 11:34 A.M.**

CARRIED.

05/24/24-02-Pasula

THAT THE BOARD MOVE OUT OF CAMERA AT 1:07 P.M.

CARRIED.

05/24/24-03-Watson

**THAT THE BOARD RECESS UNTIL THE PUBLIC MEETING IS
CALLED TO ORDER.**

CARRIED.

*Board Chair Hollman called the meeting back to order at 1:35 p.m.
Trustee Pasula read an opening prayer aloud.
Associate Superintendent Sawula read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.*

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

05/24/24-04-Lonsdale

THAT THE AGENDA BE ACCEPTED AS WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITION:

5.4 PRIDE MONTH

CARRIED.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

05/24/24-05-Watson

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2024 BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

CARRIED.

3. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations at the meeting.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1. 2024-2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Secretary-Treasurer Latka began by providing Trustees with a presentation of the new budget software that is being used to illustrate how the Division's budget is built. Latka then presented the 2024-2025 Budget Presentation showing a balanced budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

Trustees posed various questions regarding how projected student enrolment numbers affect the budget. Latka explained that the Division provides the best possible estimate of student enrolments in the spring as funding is based on projected enrolments. She stated that student enrolments are reconciled by Alberta Education the following year, and there are risks associated with overestimating or underestimating student enrolments, including a recovery of funding dollars the following year.

Trustees also asked how home education impacts the budget. Latka explained that home education is funded at a different level and that part of that funding goes back to the parents, who have up to three years to request the funding. In addition, home education funding is adjusted for enrolment changes in the current year.

Trustees discussed the idea of eliminating school fees and the idea of the management of fees by a Central Office fund. Trustees stated that school fees can pose a significant

hardship to many families and that should not be something that happens in a publicly funded education system. Latka explained that there is currently a mechanism in place for schools, who know their families best, to absorb some fees for families utilizing the fee waiver system.

05/24/24-06-Pasula

THAT ADMINISTRATION DEVELOP A PLAN TO ALLOW FUNDING FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES THAT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN RED DEER CATHOLIC REGIONAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS TO BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

DEFEATED.

Recorded vote requested by Trustee Pasula
In Favour: Pasula, Hollman
Opposed: Watson, Heistad, Lonsdale

Trustees debated the motion and concerns were raised that the idea could result in money being taken out of the classroom and they did not want that to happen. Other Trustees stated that programs such as sports and fine arts should be considered core programs and funded by Alberta Education otherwise it creates a situation where some families may not have access to these programs even with a waiver process in place. The discussion ended with a vote to defeat the motion.

Latka presented the remainder of the slides on the Budget Presentation. Trustees asked for more information on recent retirement announcements and resignations and directed Administration to provide a summary report on the division's retirements and resignations utilizing exit interview information.

Board Chair Hollman called for a 15 minute break at 3:03 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer Latka presented Trustees with the Budget Report for the year ending August 31, 2025 stating she is presenting a balanced budget.

05/24/24-07-Watson

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE 2024-2025 BUDGET AS PRESENTED.

CARRIED.

Recorded vote requested by Trustee Pasula
In Favour: Hollman, Watson, Heistad, Lonsdale

Opposed: Pasula

Trustee Pasula requested that it be recorded that he won't be able to support the budget and that he is not satisfied that sufficient effort has been made to contain the rising cost of fees to parents and families, and that there is no mechanism in the budget that promotes the waiver of fees to students and families facing barriers to accessing the public education benefits that all of the children in our schools should be able to take advantage of and benefit from. He added that the current model leaves the burden to accommodate students to gain fair access to primarily high need schools, schools that have already faced significant budget costs, to financially subsidize the fee waiver costs themselves rather than access a more equitable central administration operated fund.

Board Chair Hollman thanked the Administration team for their hard work on this difficult budget.

4.2. RDCRS EDUCATION PLAN 2023-2026

Associate Superintendent Sawula presented the year three implementation adjustments for the Division's Education Plan for 2023-2026. Sawula explained that the Division reviews the plan annually to make adjustments, taking into consideration the latest results from provincial and local measures. All updates are summarized within the executive summary document.

Trustees discussed the adjustments within the Education Plan and questioned how stakeholder engagement was used to form the education plan and how staff feedback was gathered. Sawula informed Trustees stakeholder engagement is demonstrated in pages 11 and 12 of the Education Plan, the collaborative leadership model allows for constant feedback to senior administration and that a stakeholder event for the broader community occurred in November. Sawula also explained that the staff data gathered from the Schollie Survey and from the Alberta Education Assurance Survey (AEA) is shared with school administrators and staff.

Trustees requested that the data gathered from the staff Schollie survey and AEA survey be made available to them for review. Trustees directed Administration to create a one page schematic demonstrating the Division's goals and aspirational priorities showing how we are moving to our preferred state.

05/24/24-08-Heistad

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE
ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO OUTCOMES, MEASURES,
STRATEGIES AND PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AS AMENDED
FOR YEAR THREE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
2023-2026 DIVISION EDUCATION PLAN.**

CARRIED.

4.3 SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Board Chair Hollman presented the Superintendent and Board Evaluation Committee report and requested the creation of a sub-committee to review proposals.

05/24/24-09-Watson

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES STRIKE AN AD HOC-COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND BRING A RECOMMENDATION BACK TO THE BOARD REGARDING MOVING FORWARD WITH THE 2023 -2024 SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD EVALUATIONS.

CARRIED.

Trustee Pasula and Board Chair Hollman agreed to sit on the committee.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1. CENTRAL ALBERTA COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE UPDATE REPORT

Associate Superintendent Sawula presented the Central Alberta Collegiate Institute Update (CACI) report. Sawula also extended an invitation for Trustees to attend a CACI event happening on June 20, 2024 at Olds College. The event will offer a review of the programming and showcase the CACI model.

Trustees posed questions regarding funding and the sustainability of the programming and what happens after the grant money ends. Sawula informed Trustees that this question is being investigated and that the Division is always looking for more partnerships with other post-secondary institutions.

5.2. GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR NEW BLACKFALDS SCHOOL

Associate Superintendent Ledene presented the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new Blackfalds School report and plans for the groundbreaking event to occur on October 17, 2024. Ledene also announced that the Town of Blackfalds has agreed to pay for the initial servicing in the new subdivision to ensure the site is ready for the new school construction.

5.3. JUNE BOARD MEETING & ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING DATE CHANGE

Trustees discussed the possibility of rescheduling the June 18, 2024 Regular and Organizational meetings due to the continuation of the Judicial Review on the same date. Trustees agreed that they will keep both meetings on the originally scheduled date of June 18, 2024 but with a start time of 6:00 P.M.

5.4 PRIDE MONTH

Superintendent Finnigan shared that Pride Month begins in June. High school principals are meeting with students in École Secondaire Notre Dame High School United and Alphabet Soup Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) groups who would like to organize activities focusing on social justice. She stated that last year's activities focused on giving back to the community and providing morning prayers. In addition, a Division message will be provided through social media: "As our society recognizes Pride month, Red Deer Catholic Regional School Division reaffirms that we are honoured to pastorally serve all persons, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender. All are welcome. All belong. All receive outstanding education offered with respect, compassion and sensitivity."

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Finnigan presented the Superintendent Report as information.

6.2. SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Latka presented the Secretary-Treasurer report projecting a deficit of \$4 million for the current school year. She also highlighted new information in the report, including detailed information on the total fees charged and waived for both schools and transportation. In addition, she shared information on the total carbon tax that has been paid in the last four years, which was submitted to the province at the beginning of May. Trustees expressed gratitude for the detailed report.

6.3. TRUSTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

- Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

There was no report provided.

- Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA)

Trustee Heistad informed Trustees that ACSTA will bring forward an issue that is being faced by separate school divisions to the Minister of Education.

- Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards

Trustee Heistad informed Trustees that the Rural Caucus will meet on Sunday, June

2, 2024, the same location as the ASBA SGM.

■ Catholic Education Foundation

Trustee Pasula informed Trustees that the committee will meet on Monday, June 10, 2024 to review and approve the grant and scholarship applications for the current school year. Pasula also provided Trustees with an update on Summer Fund 50/50 that is happening, the final draw is scheduled on Friday, June 14, 2024.

6.4. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Correspondence Report was not provided.

6.5. Upcoming Events:

- May 27, 2024 - Edwin Parr Celebration
- May 30 - June 2, 2024 - Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association Convention (CCSTS) and AGM
- June 2 - 4, 2024 - ASBA Spring General Meeting
- June 6, 2024 - Grad Mass - École Secondaire Notre Dame High School
- June 6, 2024 - Grad Mass - St. Joseph High School
- June 11, 2024 - Red Deer Catholic International Year End Picnic
- June 18, 19, 2024 - Judicial Review
- June 18, 2024 - Regular Board Meeting & Organizational Meeting - start time changed to 6:00 P.M.
- June 25, 2024 - Grad Mass - St. Dominic High School
- June 26, 2024, Graduation Ceremony - St. Dominic High School
- June 27, 2024 - Graduation Ceremony & Celebration - École Secondaire Notre Dame High School
- June 27, 2024 - Graduation Ceremony & Banquet - St. Joseph High School

Trustee Watson read the closing prayer aloud.

Board Chair Hollman called for a break at 4:54 p.m.

05/24/24-10-Pasula

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES GO INTO CAMERA AT 5:01 P.M.

CARRIED.

05/24/24-11-Heistad

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MOVE OUT OF CAMERA AT 6:08 P.M.

CARRIED.

05/24/24-12-Watson

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN, THE TIME BEING 6:08 P.M.

CARRIED.

(CHAIR)

(SECRETARY-TREASURER)