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Engagement and Advocacy Efforts:

A key focus of the Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools (RDCRS) Board Strategic Plan is fostering strong relationships within the school, faith, and broader Central Alberta communities, with a priority on engagement and understanding the needs of rural-urban school communities. The Mustard Seed organization, a vital partner in this work, provided over 29,000 lunches to RDCRS students last year. To support these efforts, the Board of Trustees approved the allocation of \$30,000 of its school Nutrition Grant to The Mustard Seed. Upcoming initiatives to raise awareness and support the important work this organization is doing will include fundraisers and school engagement activities.

For more information regarding the Division's Engagement and Advocacy Efforts, please click [here](#).

New Restrictions on Personal Mobile Devices & Access to Social Media:

The Associate Superintendent of Curriculum presented the report highlighting progress toward implementing new restrictions on personal mobile devices and student access to social media announced by Alberta Education, stating policies are required by January 2025. He noted that most schools already meet Alberta Education's standards, and the Division's three networks—student, staff, and guest—allow for control over social media access. The inclusion of a new board policy on this matter will be discussed at the September Board meeting.

For more information regarding the Division's Engagement and Advocacy Efforts, please click [here](#).

Enhanced Early Years Assessment:

The Associate Superintendent of Curriculum presented a report on the mandatory literacy and numeracy screening requirements set by Alberta Education. RDCRS has chosen to use the Alberta Education Assessment, which is both research-based and cost-effective. While the expanded assessments are seen as beneficial for identifying student needs, the Associate Superintendent of Curriculum highlighted the challenge of securing funding for necessary interventions following the screenings.

For more information regarding the Enhanced Early Years Assessment Framework Report, click [here](#).

Archbishop Dinner:

The Board of Trustees and Senior Administration have received an invitation to attend the Archbishop's Dinner event on October 4, 2024. The Archbishop's Dinner is a gathering of over 1,000 Catholics – including clergy, religious men and women, leaders of Catholic organizations, indigenous leadership, and parishioners. Trustees approved for up to ten people to attend the event as they emphasized that it aligns with the Division's strategic plan for stakeholder engagement and a valuable opportunity to represent the Division and engage with community stakeholders.

For more information regarding the Archbishop Dinner, please click [here](#).

The next Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.



Murray Hollman, Board Chair

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