



Advocacy Plan (December 2017)

#1. Our Catholic Schools support the family's efforts to teach values & beliefs that are similar to values & beliefs taught in the home.

- We are inclusive, caring, safe, and welcoming of all students.
- Faith is our pillar and through the teachings of our Church and Pope Francis we seek to make a difference in our world, by offering a values-based Catholic education.
- We practice Servant Leadership and participate in works of Social Justice that help the poor and marginalized.
- We are proud to be publicly funded and an integral part of Alberta's choice-based education system.
- We permeate our Catholic faith and explore other religions of the world in our classrooms.
- We emphasize Catholic Social Teachings as a way to improve world for all people

Vision

Our students and staff achieve personal excellence, are engaged in their communities, and live their Catholic faith.



#2. Student Mental Health

- When Community Mental Health projects were originally set up in various Alberta School Districts, Grande Prairie was not included.
- When an expansion of the Community Mental Health projects occurred, again Grande Prairie was omitted. We were told the expansion into Grande Prairie was omitted due to the Bitumen Bubble. Local Boards have lobbied for several years.
- The North Health Zone has the highest
 - Percentage of population under the age of 18 in Alberta
 - Suicide rate per capita
- VTRA training has occurred throughout the region. We are now spending \$389,000 in Inclusive Education funding for additional Mental Health services through Catholic Family services. FCSS provides 30,000 from the City.
- Research indicates that the earlier the intervention, the less likely the child will develop more serious mental health issues
- We seek three years of funding, and the pyramid of intervention will be the model
- Focus on individuals who have a high risk of developing Mental Health issues (eg. parents with mental health issues), targeted Community Services for awareness, Community Forum with partners to identify and solve the "gaps", K-9 focus to promote Mental & Physical Wellness promotion, and Family Assurance Sessions to ensure families we have their best interests in mind.
- Would collectively increase Wellness staff by 5.0 FTE (on January 2014)



#3. Transportation: Student Transportation

- We cooperate with Peace River School Division, Grande Prairie Public and to a degree Peace Wapiti Division. Cooperation results in a 15% financial premium provided to us.
- We are already at or over capacity on the City of Grande Prairie as junior high/ high school students seat 2 students per seat. Elementary seats 3 students.
- We operate/ contract over 100 routes and safely transport students approximately 10,500 km per day
- We jointly operate a First Ride Program 2 times year and prior to the start of the school year so students learn how to ride the bus.

#4. A Solution for Growth: A 950 student Elementary-Junior High School in O'Brien West (Grande Prairie) in Partnership with the YMCA.

- There is an urgent need to address a lack of capacity in our elementary schools, namely Mother Teresa (21 modular classrooms) and St. Gerard (21 modular classrooms).
- Neither school was constructed to incorporate so many modular classrooms as they lack core space. St. Kateri is also challenged for space.
- O'Brien Lake West will meet the needs of students in the core and outskirts of the city. It would have a core for 950 students but open with a capacity for 750 students.
- Baragar data indicates our growth in the City of Grande Prairie will grow by 1800-2000 students, not including the additional growth in junior/ senior high that will result when the hospital opens in 2019.
- YMCA partnership was suggested by Infrastructure/ Education to meet Premier Notley's daycare and childcare initiative. Government would construct the facility and the Board would lease it back.

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