



inspire. create. believe.

August 21, 2017

Catholic Education Centre, 9902-101 Street, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 2P4

Upcoming Dates

2017-2018 Registration Begins
August 22

Schools Re-Open
August 22

Opening Mass
September 1

Labour Day
September 4

First Day of School
September 5

Day off in Lieu - PD Day
September 22

St. Thomas More, Fairview
Day off in Lieu - PD Day
September 25

Next Regular Board Meeting
September 25
5:00 PM at Catholic Education Centre

Trustee Election 2017



Trustee Election 2017 Nomination Day
September 18
More info:
bit.ly/GPCSElection2017

Trustee Election 2017 Election Day
October 16
More info:
bit.ly/GPCSElection2017

All St. Patrick students to be temporarily relocated for the 2017-18 school year



The Board of Trustees made the decision to temporarily relocate all St. Patrick Catholic School students and staff for the 2017/2018 school year.

“Due to the rapid deterioration in building quality over the summer, and our desire to provide a safe environment for students & staff, we decided to move students prior to the start of the school year,” commented Board Chair Eldon Wyant. Although the District was able to manage the air quality in St. Patrick School in 2016-17, recent air sampling tests conducted on July 5th and August 8th indicated there was a significant deterioration in air quality between the two samples. The safest way to remediate the building is to remove people from the building while remediation occurs.

District Administration, Principals, and Staff met on August 22 to discuss various solutions for families, with the goal to keep as many students together as possible. Students are directed as follows:

- **Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 7 Students**
All Pre-K to Grade 7 St. Patrick students will be accommodated at [Holy Cross Catholic School](#), with **FREE yellow bus transportation being provided to all Pre-K to Grade 7 St. Patrick students.** Bus routes will be made available the last week of August. Four new bus routes are being created and buses will drive through the St. Patrick attendance area, pick up students, and transport them to Holy Cross.
- **Grade 8 Students**
All Grade 8 St. Patrick students will be accommodated at [Mother Teresa Catholic School](#), with **FREE yellow bus transportation being provided to all Grade 8 St. Patrick students.** Bus routes will be made available the last week of August. Students will board the elementary Mother Teresa Montessori bus in the St. Patrick attendance area and be transported to Mother Teresa.

Parents of St. Patrick students are being contacted directly by school staff.

For more information on the relocation, please visit bit.ly/StPatrickSchool to read the full media release. Further updates will be communicated directly to families and posted at www.gpcsd.ca.

Changes in District Business Services Operations

Several changes to Business Services Operations will be coming to the District for the 2017-2018 School Year.

New software will be implemented to increase efficiency in multiple departments, including payroll, budgeting and reporting, records management, leave management, and online registration payments.



Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools

Classroom Improvement Fund Update

The Board of Trustees received an update from the Superintendent on the Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF). The CIF is a one-time provincial fund that is provided to initiatives that would improve learning conditions for students and provide them with new learning opportunities in school.

The CIF committee will be meeting on August 25 to review submitted proposals, of which there is more than the available \$643,000 in funding can be allocated to. It will take approximately one month to ensure resources are in place once proposals have been selected to receive funding.

Connect with us for more News, Events, and Updates:



@GPCatholic



@GPCSD



GPCSD.ca



780.532.3013

St. Mary Beaverlodge Property Sale

An agreement was signed between Grande Prairie and District Catholics Schools and Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers to auction off the original St. Mary Catholic School, Beaverlodge property. The property will go up for auction on October 4, 2017 during the regularly scheduled public auction.

Accountability Report - Transportation

The Board of Trustees were presented with the Transportation Accountability Report for the 2016-2017 School Year. The report summarized the transportation services provided to students by both contracted services (First Student in Grande Prairie, Sexsmith, Beaverlodge & Spirit River), and partnerships with Peace Wapiti (Sexsmith, Beaverlodge, Spirit River) and Peace River School Boards (Fairview). In total, GPCSD has a combined total of 95 urban and rural bus routes. 72% of the routes are in cooperation with Grande Prairie Public (31 shared routes), Peace Wapiti Public School Division (23 shared routes), and Peace River School Division (12 shared routes).

The Board accepted the governance implications to continue encouraging cooperative transportation, continue pursuing high level discussions with the Peace Wapiti Board to increase joint transportation routes to accommodate St. John Paul II/Faculté St. Jean-Paul II, and continue supporting safe transportation methods through FirstStudent, and all vehicles owned and operated by the Board and Staff.

Accountability Report - Occupational Health and Safety

Presented in the Accountability Report for OH&S, the District has achieved a result of "Excellence" in the category of "Safe and Caring Schools", which is above the provincial average. Based on survey data, teachers, parents and students agree that students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others, and are treated fairly. The Board accepted the governance implications recommended in the report, which included approving the annual "Occupational Health & Safety Organizational Commitment" motion. The commitment ensures that the District continues to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment and working conditions that meet the legislative requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Industrial Standards.

Accountability Report - Personnel

The Personnel Accountability Report for the 2016-2017 school year was presented to the Board of Trustees, which summarized the Human Resources department's activities within the year. The report outlined three areas that will continue to receive attention in the 2017-2018 school year, which are: the supervision and evaluation process currently used to evaluate and monitor staff performance, new teacher induction and mentoring, and the Leadership Academy's ability to build leadership capacity within the District. The Board of Trustees accepted the Governance Implications in the report as presented.

Revised Unifor Collective Agreement

The Board approved amendments made on July 25, 2017 to the Unifor Collective Agreement. The amendments clarify that overtime is directed by a Supervisor while "Banked Time" is generally the result of requesting extra time. Overtime shall be banked at 1.5 hours per each hour worked, and Banked Time is straight time. This process is in accordance with past practices and Provincial direction on Banked Time/Overtime agreements. Administration also proposed new pay grids for Early Learning Instructors and Maintenance, which Unifor agreed to.

Policy Review

The Board of Trustees reviewed the following Policies:

- *Policy 15 – School Closures:* The Board of Trustees approved Policy 15 - School Closures as presented.
- *Policy 16 – Recruitment and Selection of Staff:* The Board of Trustees approved Policy 16 - Recruitment and Selection of Staff as presented.
- *Policy 10 - Board Committees:* The Board of Trustees approved Policy 10 - Board Committees as presented. The Board directed the Superintendent to gather information from other districts regarding teachers/board committee structures

Financial Report

Acting Secretary-Treasurer Fontaine presented the July 2017 Financial Report. The report showed that revenues and expenditures are on track. An employee from MNP has been contracted to assist with the annual Audit. Auditors will be in October.

Questions or concerns regarding Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools Board News?

Send them to communications@gpcsd.ca or call 780-532-3013.

Faith Formation Report



Faith Lead Tapson submitted the Faith Formation Report for August 21, 2017.

In the report, Faith Lead Tapson announced that she will become the Supervisor of Religious Education and FNMI Education, effective as of the 2017-2018 School Year. As Supervisor of Religious Education and FNMI Education, Tapson will continue and seek to provide resources, professional development, retreats, and learning opportunities for students and staff.

A full-time Chaplain/Youth Worker will be hired. Some of the responsibilities of the Chaplain include entering into direct and personal contact with the students, providing the opportunity to discuss, create dialogue, and explore various faith topics, preparing and giving classroom presentations in schools on a variety of subjects, and assist in the planning and implementation of student Faith Formation opportunities.

