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June 19, 2017

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

## Upcoming Dates

Last Day for Students  
June 29

PD/Staff Meeting -  
Last Day for Staff  
June 30

Next Regular Board  
Meeting  
August 21  
5:00 PM at Catholic  
Education Centre

2017-2018 Registration  
Begins  
August 22

Staff PD  
August 30 - 31

Opening Mass  
September 1

First Day of School  
September 5

## Trustee Election 2017



Trustee Election 2017  
Nomination Day  
September 18

More info:  
[bit.ly/GPCSDElection2017](http://bit.ly/GPCSDElection2017)

Trustee Election 2017  
Election Day  
October 16

More info:  
[bit.ly/GPCSDElection2017](http://bit.ly/GPCSDElection2017)

The Board of Trustees approved the 2017-2018 Budget during the June 19 Board Meeting.

### Staffing Improvements

Taken into account in the budget's preparation was the predicted 3% growth of the student population, and the elimination of Basic School Fees in accordance with the provincial government's Bill 1. To account for the growth, there will be a 7% increase in teaching staff and a 2.4% increase in support staff. Support staff hours have been increased, with Education Assistant hours increasing from 2965 to 3533 hours/week. The increase in hours will be coming to Inclusive Education, ESL, FNMI, PUF, Speech, and Literacy. Inclusive Education hours will increase from 1586 to 1745 hours/week. Literacy time increases from 355 to 426 hours/week. ESL time is a new addition, which will have a dedicated 54 hours/week in total. As well, a full-time Speech Pathologist will be hired through Peace Collaborative Services. A Support Staff Professional Development Fund with an

## 2017-2018 Budget Highlights

allocated \$5,000 was created to assist with the Professional Development needs of support staff.

### Schools Improvements

School Principals worked with District Administration to provide School Mini Budgets that will improve each school and classroom for the benefit of our students. Overall, the mini budgets will increase by 26% from \$1,197,646 to \$1,504,506. For the French Immersion program, \$8,000 will be allocated to ensure GPCSD leads the region in Junior/Senior High School programming. \$115,000 will be put towards classroom technology, including the creation of a Photoshop Lab at Ecole St. Gerard.

### Transportation

Once again, Kindergarten to Grade 3 students who live 1.7 km or more from their designated school will be provided bussing for free. Transportation will also be provided for free to all students who need to cross high traffic areas, such as 68 Ave., 132 Ave., 92 St., and Wapiti Road.

### Reserves

It is expected that reserves will

be below the provincial guidelines of 2.5% for Unrestricted Net Assets for the 2017-2018 year.

### Key Planned Activities

The 2017-2018 Budget was designed with several previously announced key projects in mind.

- Mother Teresa will be receiving six used modulars to account for student growth,
- The opening of St. John Paul II/Faculté St. Jean-Paul II in February 2018,
- St. Kateri's modernization, set to begin Summer 2017,
- The addition of one school bus and two maintenance vehicles, and
- The rebuilding of the District's Financial software and the upgrading of Financial and Payroll systems for greater efficiency.

### Future Planning

As the transition to St. John Paul II/Faculté St. Jean-Paul II occurs, the modernization of St. Patrick and the potential construction of a new 700/950 student K-Grade 9 school in Grande Prairie will be planned.

## Celtic Academy



Celtic Sports Academy is now officially established at Holy Cross Catholic School, with 18 students currently enrolled in the Grade 4-5 program, and 13 in the Grade 6-7 program with more interest continuing to come.

## St. Patrick Modernization Update



A kick-off meeting will be held in Edmonton before the end of June for the modernization of St. Patrick Catholic School. The meeting will provide a better idea of sequencing, repair scope and schedule, which will reduce project costs.

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780.532.3013

## Accountability Report - Inclusive Education

The Board of Trustees received the Inclusive Education Accountability Report as presented. The report summarizes the extensive work done by staff to meet the needs of all students. Highlighted in the report, the use of Early Years Evaluation (EYE) instruments for all students entering Pre-Kindergarten has proven effective in identifying student needs. The information gathered through the assessments is critical in identifying student needs and ensuring that appropriate supports and services are implemented in a timely manner. Program Unit Funded (PUF) students in Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten programs have been the greatest area of growth and need. In the past year, two new programs were established at St. Catherine and one additional program was set up at Holy Cross. With the use of EYE instruments, many students entering these programs have had their needs identified, with some receiving funding through PUF. Also highlighted in the report was the District's continued focus on emotional-mental health. Catholic Family Services has received an increase in funding, as they continue to prove to be an excellent support for our students. Our District is continuing to work with community partners in implementing the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA). Administration and staff have attended training on an ongoing basis, allowing them to increase their skill set in using the protocol and better identify situations that require a VTRA meeting.

## UNIFOR Memorandum of Agreement

The Board of Trustees and UNIFOR have come to a three-year agreement, covering 2017-2021. **In the agreement UNIFOR asked and the Board agreed for a common cut-off and pay date for UNIFOR staff.** Due to this, staff who are affected should be aware that September pay may be less than expected. Wages for Year One will increase 0%, Year 2 will see a 2.5% increase paid as a lump sum in December 2018, and Year Three will have a 3.0% increase in effect on September 2019. Other changes to the agreement include recall rights being changed from 16 to 12 months, and pay day being changed to the last banking day of the month.

## Valhalla School Foundation

The Board of Trustees received a letter from the Valhalla School Foundation, requesting the Board to consider cooperative bussing. The Board of Trustees motioned to thank the Valhalla School Foundation for their letter, but will not pursue cooperative funding at this time.

## Key Messages for Catholic Wellness Curriculum

The Council of Catholic School Superintendents is sharing background information related to the need to develop a Catholic Wellness curriculum. Some of the key messages presented include: that the Catholic worldview emphasizes the sacredness of the individual and the human body; resources or materials that are developed for Catholic educators in Alberta are done so in collaboration with the CCSSA, ACSTA, REN, and the Bishops of Alberta and represent the tenants of our faith, not the opinions of individuals; Catholic educators are committed to raising a generation of well informed, critically thinking, morally developed young people; and Catholic school districts currently teach human sexuality embedded in the current provincial outcomes.

## Classroom Initiative Funding

The Board of Trustees directed the Superintendent to keep the Board apprised of the Classroom Initiative Committee's progress in lieu of appointing a Trustee to the Committee. The Superintendent will appoint the Director of Inclusive Education or the Director of Operations as a representative along with the Secretary-Treasurer, Superintendent, and both Assistant Superintendents. The CIF is one-time funding of \$643,000.

## Policy Review

The Board of Trustees reviewed the following Policies:

- *Policy 10 – Board Committees:* The Board of Trustees approved Policy 10 - Board Committees, and Policy 10 Appendixes A & B as presented.
- *Policy 11 – Board Representation:* The Board of Trustees approved Policy 11 - Board Representation as presented.

## Committee Reports

Board Chair Wyant reported on the Board Chair/ Superintendent & Bishop Meeting held on May 23, 2017. Trustee Wohlgermuth reported on the ASBA SGM 2017.

## Financial Report

Acting Secretary-Treasurer Fontaine presented the May 2017 Financial Report to the Board of Trustees. The report showed that revenues and expenditures are on track. A report was presented on the added requirement of reporting on school fees, with data contained in the 2017-2018 Budget.

## Faith Formation Report

# FORMED

Faith Lead Tapson submitted the Faith Formation Report for June 19, 2017.

In the report, Faith Lead Tapson covered Grade 12 Retreats that St. Thomas More and St. Mary's Sexsmith participated in. The Retreats are designed to be a series of walks and reflections of each year students have been in school.

The last Faith Committee meeting of the year was held on June 1, 2017. Plans for next year and successes and challenges in the past year were discussed.

The Grade 4 Religion Curriculum will be implemented during the 2017/2018 school year. As a District, we will be purchasing the Digital Subscription of the resource along with print materials. As we near the end of June, schools across the District celebrate Mass to mark the end of the School Year. In our Elementary schools, these Masses are led by the departing grade 8 class and serve as a final opportunity for them to serve their school community.

The District will purchase a subscription to Formed.org. This subscription makes available the best Catholic video studies, movies, audio presentations, and eBooks from the most trusted apostolates. This subscription will be used for staff faith formation and will be an excellent resource for our staff to further their faith formation.

