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**April 24, 2017**

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

### Upcoming Dates

**St. Mary's Sexsmith High School Registration**

April 25  
7:00 PM

**St. Thomas More, Fairview Kindergarten Registration**

April 26  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**District Band Concert**

April 26  
7:00 PM at St. Joseph Catholic High School

### ACSTA

**2017 S.P.I.C.E Retreat**

April 27-30  
More info: [bit.ly/2nDCi0J](http://bit.ly/2nDCi0J)

**North West Regional Skills Competition**

April 28  
Fairview

**Vocation Days**

April 30-May 7  
More info: [bit.ly/VocationDays](http://bit.ly/VocationDays)

**Staff PD - No School**

May 5

**Non-Operational Day - No School**

May 19

**St. Thomas More, Fairview PD/Staff Meeting - No School**

May 19

**Victoria Day**

May 22

**Next Regular Board Meeting**

May 29  
5:00 PM at Catholic Education Centre



## Two New Schools in 2018-2021 Three Year Capital Plan

The 2018-2021 Three Year Capital Plan for Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools was approved by the Board of Trustees.

The top two priorities presented by the Three Year Capital Plan are for the simultaneous construction of two 700 student schools that can expand up to 950 students. The schools would be similar in design to St. Catherine Catholic School. The first of the new schools would open for Fall 2019 in O'Brien Lake

West, while the other would open for Fall 2020 in the Centre West area, adjacent to the new Grande Prairie Regional Hospital.

The two new schools were deemed necessary in order to address the growth challenges currently facing the French Immersion and English programs. As of the current school year, schools located in south Grande Prairie (Mother Teresa, St. Kateri, École St. Gerard, and St. Joseph) are at or near capacity. With the City

of Grande Prairie continuing to develop further south, the two new schools provide an optimal solution.

Other priorities included in the Three Year Capital Plan include the modernization and right-sizing of St. Thomas More Catholic School in Fairview, the modernization and right-sizing of Ste. Marie Catholic School in Spirit River, the construction of a new K-6 School in Northeast Grande Prairie, and a new K-9 School in Clairmont or North Grande Prairie.

## Government of Alberta expands 2017-2018 Nutrition Program



The targeted school nutrition program set by the Alberta Government will be expanded for the 2017/18 school year. The school nutrition program was introduced in the 2016-2017 school year to 14 school jurisdictions as a pilot project. \$3.5 million in funding was

provided to the selected jurisdictions.

The Alberta Government announced on April 5, 2017 that the program will now expand to every publicly-funded school jurisdiction for the 2017-2018 school year with an additional \$10 million in funding added.

Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools, along with 45 other school authorities, will each receive \$141,000 in grant funding to implement the program. Funds provided will cover the costs associated

with ordering, preparation and delivery. Suggested funding is \$5 per student, per day, for the school year.

The program will complement the current Grande Prairie Schools Snack Program by providing nutritional hot meals that cover the four food groups to students. Which school the program will be based out of will be determined.

All school jurisdictions, including GPCSD, will be required to submit a detailed project plan to the Alberta Government.

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780.532.3013

## School Fees & Bill 1

The Board of Trustees received information regarding GPCSD Administration drafting a budget that falls in line with Bill 1 and includes the elimination of base school fees. \$377,000 in funding has been provided by the Government of Alberta to offset the removal of fees. Specific fees to be removed or updated have yet to be determined.

## Locally Developed Courses for Senior High Students



A list of Locally developed courses to be possibly offered for Senior High students in the 2017-2018 school year was approved by the Board.

Locally developed courses are developed, acquired and authorized by school authorities to provide students with unique opportunities to explore a range of interests in subject areas that complement provincial programs of study.

A sample of courses on the list include:

- Oil and Exploration
- Advanced Film and Media Studies
- Anthropology
- Geology
- Indigenous Studies
- Journalism
- Paleontology
- Portfolio Art
- SciTech

The full list will be submitted to Alberta Education for approval.

## St. Mary Beaverlodge Request

The Board of Trustees received a letter from the Town of Beaverlodge, requesting additional funding for the community kitchen located inside St. Mary Catholic School. The Board and Town of Beaverlodge partnered together to right-size the school's gym and build a shell for the community kitchen, with the Board contributing \$1.1 million to the projects.

The Board of Trustees motioned to thank the Town of Beaverlodge for their letter, but will not provide additional funding. Alberta Education is clearly articulating that K-12 funding is to be used only for K-12 initiatives.

## Maintenance Shop Design



The Board of Trustees directed GPCSD Administration to continue developing (design only) a 10,000 sq. ft. Maintenance and Transportation Shop to be located at the Community Knowledge Campus (CKC).

## ASBA Zone 1 Friends Of Education Award

The Board of Trustees motioned to nominate Elder Angie Crear to be the recipient of the ASBA Zone 1 Friends of Education Award.

## Audit Committee 2017-2018

The Board of Trustees appointed Community Members Len Salacki and Karen Munjak to serve on the Board's 2017-2018 Audit Committee. The Audit Committee assists the Board in managing the integrity of the financial statements of the School Board, of the School Board's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, of the independence and qualifications of the independent auditor, and of the performance of the School Board's internal audit functions and its independent auditors.

## Policy Review

The Board of Trustees reviewed the following Policies:

- *Policy #6 - Trustee Code of Conduct:* The Board of Trustees approved Policy #6 - Trustee Code of Conduct as presented. No changes were presented.

## Committee Reports

Board Chair Wyant reported on the ATA Liaison Meeting held on April 5. Trustee Schoorlemmer reported on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Meeting. Vice Chair Ouelette reported on ACSTA.

## Financial Report

Secretary-Treasurer Nestibo reported that the March 2017 update will not be available until next Board Meeting. Significant work remains to be addressed with respect to financial processes and Budget preparation.

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

Send them to [communications@gpcsd.ca](mailto:communications@gpcsd.ca) or call 780-532-3013.

## Faith Formation Report



Faith Lead Tapson presented the Faith Formation Report for April 24, 2017.

In the report, the St. Joseph Parish Mission, held on March 26-29, was summarized. Overall, our schools did an excellent job of supporting the mission through a lesson plan that engaged students in a discussion about the theme "Ignite the Light." The final activity of the mission resulted in 400 illustrations of what it means to ignite the light of Christ, which were hung in Tranquil Hall at St. Joseph Parish.

The annual SPICE and Blueprints retreats will have 8 staff members and 9 administrators, respectively, in attendance. These retreats will provide an excellent opportunity for staff and admin to learn, grow, and build community with other Catholic school leaders in Alberta.

Vocation Days now extends to over two weeks. The first week of Vocation Days (April 24-28) will introduce and teach about discernment and vocations. The second week (May 1-5) will have students apply their knowledge to contest entries. Presentations on vocation and discernment will be hosted throughout the second week at our schools.

