

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

**JANUARY 2018**

## TRUSTEES

Ron Schreiber, Chair  
Okotoks

Harry Salm, Vice Chair  
Strathmore

Mark Chung  
Drumheller

John de Jong  
Brooks

Michelle Rude-Volk  
Oyen

Vijay Domingo  
Canmore

Joanne Van Donzel  
High River

Andrea Keenan  
MD of Foothills

## SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Scott Morrison  
Superintendent

Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico  
Associate Superintendent

Michael Kilcommons  
Associate Superintendent

Vincent Behm  
Associate Superintendent

Jerry Bagozzi  
Treasurer

Rhonda Schachterle  
Director of Student Services

Cheryl Kuemper  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Dave Lunn  
Director of Facilities

Dawn Quinlan  
Director of Human Resources

## Building Relationships

The Board of Trustees met in Strathmore on Friday, January 19 with their counterparts from Golden Hills School Division (centered in Strathmore) Senior Administration from both Boards were also in attendance, as the group engaged in

roundtable discussions about common challenges and initiatives. The event was a success as the two Boards shared their perspectives on education, and got to know one another better. In the future, the Board hopes to meet with the Board

of Grasslands School Division (centered in Brooks). In addition, the Board is working on arranging dates to meet with Foothills School Division (centered in High River) to reinforce the strong relationship we already enjoy.

## Advocacy for English Language Learners

The Trustees are considering proposing a motion that the Alberta School Boards Association urge Alberta Education to devote more attention to the needs of English Language Learners across the

province. The Board believes that attending to the needs of English Language Learners will be

the most significant issue schools in Alberta will face in the coming years. If we get this right as a province, we will remain one of the best educational systems in the world.



## #Relationships in a Digital Age

Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Cheryl Kuemper, addressed the Board to talk about a new CTR Catholic project.

Mrs. Kuemper outlined progress on a new, and potentially revolutionary, approach to addressing one possible contributor to the increase in student anxiety, depression, and overall wellness: namely, smart phones and other social media devices that have become a core accessory in society today.

Much has been written in recent months regarding the disconnect and loneliness that our youth are experiencing, despite being connected at all times. For many, relationships are largely managed through texts, Instagrams, Snapchats, and "likes" on the social media platforms trending at the time.

Mrs. Kuemper and her committee are developing a series of lesson plans, designed for Grades 4 to 12, to support students and parents as they navigate these difficult waters, balancing the real need to utilize technology, with the very real necessity to manage personal relationships and self-preservation of mind and spirit.



## Superintendents' Updates

*“It was very affirming to meet with a large group that is single-mindedly supportive of our faith, our students, and our division.”*

There are many developments to share. Superintendent Dr. Scott Morrison addressed the following:

- A move to centralized budgeting, which will provide opportunity to monitor and manage our financial resources more effectively.
- The Centre For Learning@HOME is providing both enhanced programming and support for parents,
- Per Diem Professional Development, an initiative by Trustees, Senior Administration, and representatives from our local Alberta Teachers Association, to

utilize one time Classroom Improvement Funding to provide valuable PD outside of regular school hours,

- Recruiting efforts for future teaching staff are going very well. After the recent St. Mary's University job fair, 38 teachers were interviewed by CTR.
- Bishop McGrattan invited Associate Superintendent, Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico,

to sit on his newly established Spiritus Committee.

- Dr. Morrison was asked to sit on the Bishop's Pastoral Centre Strategic Plan Review Committee.
- Recently our four Superintendents met with Principals for a Principal's Superchat. The group discussed pertinent challenges and initiatives. It was very affirming to meet with a large group that is single-mindedly supportive of our faith, our students, and our division.



## Managing the Ever-Present Financial Challenges

Associate Superintendent Michael Kilcommons provided an update to some of the financial realities that face the division as they already look forward to 2018-2019. Staffing costs rise every year as teachers and support staff move up the pay grid, transportation costs increase despite a previously anticipated decrease in funding, and the governments five year funding enhancement for English Lan-

guage Learners is running out for over 170 of our students.

Despite all of this, and the fact that we fully expect flat funding, Mr. Kilcommons did not present a doom and gloom scenario. Rather, he announced that the senior administration have been working closely with site based administrators in our schools to monitor and manage our finite resources.

The preliminary budget for next school year is due on May 31, but the Finance team and Senior Administrators believe that they are well on their way to a balanced budget.



## PACE Committee

Trustee John de Jong (Brooks) reiterated the purpose and need for the **P**arents **A**dvocates for **C**atholic **E**ducation Committee. Forming out of CTR Catholic's Council of School Councils, it is a group of representatives from most of our communities who wish to share with all of our stakeholders the values added through Catholic education, and

our need to be vigilant and purposeful in maintaining what we have. Their presentation January 11 in Strathmore was very successful, and additional meetings are scheduled in all communities:

- January 23 in Okotoks at École Good Shepherd School.
- February 28 in Brooks at the St. Joseph's Collegiate

and Christ The King Academy gymnasium.

- March 11 in High River (to be confirmed).
- March 20 in Drumheller (to be confirmed).
- April 12 in Canmore (to be confirmed).
- September in Oyen (date to be confirmed).

## Many Great Things Happen in Our Communities

The communities of Drumheller, Okotoks Wards I and II, High River, Brooks, and Assumption hosted Ward meetings since the last Board meeting. The minutes with more detail are always attached to the Board Meeting agendas on our website, but a few highlights are noted here.

### **Drumheller Ward:**

This Ward includes St. Anthony's School.

**Faith:** Father is very engaged with the school, with regular visits.

**Learning:** The "Red Flag Folder" is an excellent intervention process.

**Safe and Caring:** The School Council hosted a blanket ceremony and opened it up to the community. A large percentage of the attendees were First Nations community members.

**Stewardship:** The online auction is being organized by a student and it's the second time he's done that. The art work is all produced by students.

### **Okotoks Ward I:**

This Ward includes Holy Trinity Academy, St. Francis of Assisi Academy, St. John Paul II Collegiate, École Good Shepherd School, and St. Mary's School.

**Faith:** CTR is seeing an increase in the number of non-Catholic families who are inquiring about coming to our schools. The Ward feels this is because they are welcoming and invitational. Parents see something valuable and special that they want their children to be a part of. The parish's "Living Nativity" event made a profit of \$2,700. The Ward is very impressed with Father Luciano's ardour for promoting special parish initiatives.

**Learning:** The Okotoks schools are staying focused on academic excellence via sticking with existing goals and new initiatives that extend and enhance their existing goals. This focus has historically made CTR Catholic great.

**Safe and Caring:** All schools started to open their doors early in advance of the first day of school. This, coupled with a

one and half day first day of school, helped to reduced anxiety.

**Stewardship:** Holy Trinity Academy asked parents to give gift cards in lieu of Christmas food donations to the staff, and the staff distributed them to students in need. CTR Catholic is doing an excellent job of welcoming new Canadians by directing resources at training their teachers to meet the needs of English Language Learners.

### **Okotoks Ward II:**

This Ward includes The Centre for Learning@HOME and St. Luke's Outreach Centre.

**Faith:** St. Luke's Outreach Centre has a very low Catholic population, but superb faith results.

**Learning:** The Centre for Learning@HOME remains the top academic online school in the province.

**Safe and Caring:** St. Luke's Outreach Centre has a safe and caring satisfaction rate of 95%.

**Stewardship:** The Centre for Learning@HOME's supplementary resource allocations support students very well, yet are lower than the budgets expended on traditional students.

### **High River Ward:**

This Ward includes Holy Spirit Academy and Notre Dame Collegiate.

**Faith:** Holy Spirit Academy's School Council is being intentional about their faith focus.

**Learning:** Self directed learning has initiated excitement to offer AP English, Military History, Programming, and Synthetic Biology.

**Safe and Caring:** Both Holy Spirit Academy and Notre Dame Collegiate had safe and caring rates that were well above provincial averages.

**Stewardship:** Holy Spirit Academy's breakfast club is an amazing success, serving up to 40 students a day.

### **Brooks Ward:**

This Ward includes Holy Family Academy, Christ The King Academy, and St. Joseph's Collegiate.

**Faith:** Principal Ben Galeski suggested incorporating the Five Marks of Catholic Education into the Faith Surveys.

**Learning:** The Brooks schools are getting inquiries about their ELL experiences from near and far, including the ELL Head of Nova Scotia.

**Safe and Caring:** The three school Councils are cooperating on bringing in a social media expert to talk about online safety.

**Stewardship:** The schools are active in St. Vincent de Paul and Mission Mexico.

### **Assumption Ward:**

This Ward includes Assumption School.

**Faith:** Assumption's faith results are superb. The satisfaction rates were 100%, 98%, 97%, and 100%.

**Learning:** Assumption's Language Arts results are superb as is the culture of literacy with kids recommending books to one another.

**Safe and Caring:** Assumption's results on the Safe and Caring pillar were superb at 95%.

**Stewardship:** Assumption School sent four representatives to the Council of School Councils event. School Council's fundraising efforts are superb.





Andrea Keenan, Trustee for MD of Foothills

## Vision of the Board

The truth of Christ and knowledge of God's creation will be experienced by and manifest in the students, staff, parents, and supporters of our Catholic School Community.



## Trustees' Corner by Andrea Keenan

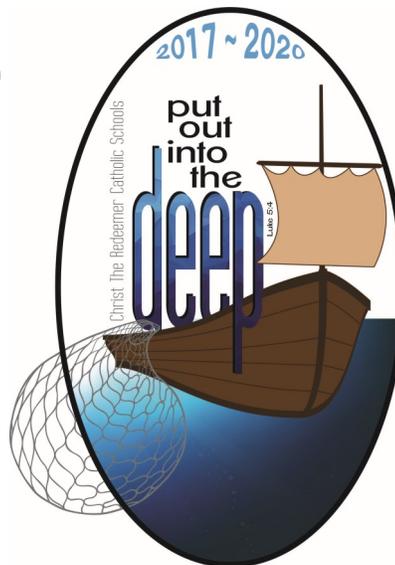
We are one month into a brand new year. The Christmas season is merely a memory. The new year brings new beginnings, new goals and new resolutions. However, our personal good intentions, can be snuffed out so quickly, as social media bombards us continually with how to be the best, how to have the best goals, how to be the prettiest, the handsomest, the smartest; and the worldly list goes on. Honestly, who doesn't fear what the new year will bring when we continuously strive for perfection and fear dejection? Are we even good enough? Fear can take over in a heartbeat and the everyday noise can overtake our peace.

Enter the calming elixir - faith. Our faith, if we let it, can calm our fears. Our faith speaks the truth to fear. When life gets out of hand, and the fears and worries are too much, we

need to step back from the worldly noise, and remind ourselves that God will provide. He is our soothing balm. He is our safe haven and our peace. Fear and worry can blind us from seeing this simple truth. Fear stops us from living the life that God has intended for us. Even when we don't feel like we are enough, God fills in the blanks and makes us enough; just as he wanted us to be.

As you continue on this year, and wherever your journeys may lead you, know that you are enough. God will provide. Just trust that he knows the when and what you need. Think about it. Jesus even said, "Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?" (Matthew 6:26) That's all the convincing I need. How about you?

Remember that Trustee biographies are available on CTR's website at: <http://www.redeemer.ab.ca/Trustees.php>.



## Next Board Meeting Date

The next Board meeting will take place on **Thursday, February 15, 2018**, at Christ the Redeemer's Catholic Education Centre, Okotoks, AB..

**For any information on items in this publication, please contact Ron Schreiber, Board Chair, at [rschreiber@redeemer.ab.ca](mailto:rschreiber@redeemer.ab.ca) or at 403-938-6374.**