

# Board of Trustees

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Greater St. Albert  
Catholic Schools



## Regular Board Meeting Summary April 25, 2022

### Division News

Over the last month, our schools had much to celebrate, including Yes Days, Break a Rule Day, Spring Break, Holy Week, Easter, and wrapping up various fundraisers supporting Catholic Social Services. We also heard from many schools how excited they were to participate in in-person events for the first time in two years.

Students across the division got into the school spirit, raising funds for their Lenten campaigns. A few examples include a Yes Day at **Sister Alphonse Academy**, raising \$2800. Homerooms at **Richard S. Fowler** each picked a theme and then contributed to building raffle baskets, after which they sold tickets. **Ecole Father Jan** raised \$2409, and the school principal, Evan Holstein, said, "We are so proud of our small little school who worked together to make such a difference in the lives of at-risk youth."

**Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools** was featured in various news articles regarding our literacy program with Dr. Georgiou and an acknowledgment during a recent press conference with the Education Minister, Adriana Lagrange. Our students have made considerable strides in their skills as readers thanks to this program run by the University of Alberta and led within our schools by various teachers.



A big congratulations to our **Sports Academy Coordinator, Geoff Giacobbo**, for winning the AEHL U15 AAA Coach of the Year award with St. Albert Sabres. Many of our academy athletes are winning various awards and securing all-star selection spots on multiple teams.

### School News



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Students from **École Marie Poburan, École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville, and École Secondaire St. Albert Catholic High School** experienced a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity earlier this month when they communicated directly with astronaut Mark Pathy. Only three schools in Canada were selected to participate in this program. Students had roughly 10 minutes to speak with Pathy before the ISS (travelling at about 28,000 km/h) zipped out of transmission range. Questions from the students covered topics such as solar flares, weather, and health. Pathy told the students it took him about two days to adjust to life in orbit — in addition to the roughly five-hour time-zone shift (Montreal is on Eastern Standard Time while the station is on Greenwich Mean Time), there is a complete lack of gravity, which makes it feel like you're falling all the time.



Students at **École Father Jan** celebrated La semaine de la francophonie! They had the pleasure of having Roger Dallaire present "C'est Un Petit Monde" to our classes. Merci à Roger et Canadian Parents for French Alberta!

Jaguars were also invited to dress in their best french outfits. Poutine was provided for lunch. Délicieuse!

Please congratulate the **Morinville Community High School** Wolves Cheer team on being double silver medallists at the 2022 ASAA Cheerleading Provincial Championships, bringing home 2nd place in the Game Day and the All-Girl Advanced divisions. This was a challenging year, but this tiny group of dedicated athletes continued to show up and work tirelessly to accomplish so much this season! We could not be prouder of them!

A huge congratulations to students at **Richard S. Fowler Catholic Junior High School!** The Richard Fowler Band received a "gold" designation for their St. Albert Rotary Festival performance. Congratulations to all the performers for their hard work paying off! Please also congratulate the **Morinville Community High School** band members for achieving silver at their first festival!



At **Sister Alphonse Academy**, students celebrated Holy Thursday. Grade 1s and 2s participated in a liturgy together while their teachers re-enacted the washing of the feet. What an excellent way to model to our students how to live like Jesus.

**École Georges H. Primeau Middle School** celebrated its first mass in over two years with Father Trini and the entire school together inside their gymnasium.

**Bertha Kennedy Catholic School** students participated in several school-wide activities to celebrate Holy Week. They broke bread together and drank "wine" (a.k.a. grape juice) as Jesus did with his disciples. They witnessed the burden of carrying the cross and crafted a resemblance of the three crosses on the hill.



In Grade 5 Social Studies, students at **J.J. Nearing Catholic Elementary School** learned about the Canadian Regions by participating in an "Amazing Race" project-based learning assignment. In the Amazing Race, students have traveled to each region and explored the vast differences in

landforms, history, natural resources, climates, and industries. Students have completed different "Pitstop" and "Detour" choice assignments in each region before partaking in fun challenge activities, such as the Jelly Bean Relay Race. Way to go, Grade 5's!

**École Notre Dame Elementary School** recently opened up its new fitness room. Their students enjoy all of the latest equipment and activities that this room offers.

**Holy Family Catholic School** students studied the Buffalo Woman by Paul Goble with their teacher and school The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Lead, Mrs. Gamache. They learned about indigenous culture and created art based on the illusions within the book.



Students from **Legal School** attended Easter Mass at St. Émile Parish. Thank you, Father Ambrose, for welcoming the school and reminding everyone that we are Easter people. We are Christians because of the Easter story. We are hopeful because "He has Risen." Special thank you to the parishioners in attendance to lead in song and Eucharist.

Holy Thursday was a perfect day for a student retreat at **Neil M Ross Catholic School**. Thank you to Colin Loiselle for starting their day with a liturgy and learning how our faith and indigenous teachings are similar. The students had a great time learning about one of the 7 Grandfather teachings and then carved soapstone. Thank you to our chaplain, Doug Kramer, for rounding out the retreat by having students come up and lead a play. We are BLESSED!

On April 17, students at **St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy** celebrated their namesake, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the patron saint of the environment and ecology. St. Kateri was also the first Native American to be recognized as a saint by the Catholic Church.

## CONSENT & ACTION ITEMS

The following Action items were approved:

- Review of Policy 18: Naming of Schools, Policy 21: Recruitment Selection of Personnel with no changes, Policy 20: Trustee Determination and Distribution for Elections with the changes as presented.
- **13.1.** 2022-2023 School Fees
- **13.2.** 2022-2023 Board Strategic Plan

- **13.3.** 2022-2023 Board Advocacy Plan
- **13.4.** Policy 2: Role of the Board

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- **15.2.1.** Leadership and Succession Planning Report (Dumont)
- **15.2.2.** First Nations, Métis and Inuit Report (Giesbrecht)
- **15.2.3.** Quarter 2 Financial Report (Paulik)

#### **NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled to take place on May 30, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.