

Board Meeting Digest

Monday, December 12, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board

DISCUSSION/DECISION

Celebrating and Promoting Catholic Identity Monitoring Report

Trustees received a monitoring report on progress regarding one of the Board's four key priorities: Celebrating and Promoting Catholic Identity.

Supt. Greg Chatlain led the presentation and was joined by Gilbert Chevrier, co-ordinator, religious education - Latin rite; Judy Gatin, teacher on assignment, religious education services; Guy Werbicki, principal, Cardinal Leger; and Mel Zimmer, teacher and faith formation facilitator, Cardinal Leger. Laurianne Gabruch, co-ordinator, religious education - Byzantine rite, was unable to attend.

The report touched on several initiatives occurring within the division, including:

- "Revealing Christ in All We Teach," the provincewide initiative to permeate Catholic faith into all curriculum areas,
- The Friendship Inn partnership that saw 14 elementary schools sign up to help students learn more about charity and social justice, while donating items to the Inn,
- Leading nearly 30 classrooms in two-day sessions to learn about and write icons,
- Continuing to train Grade 6 teachers and student teams through Youth and Liturgy,
- 15 division-sponsored staff retreats, involving 31 schools/workplaces.

Trustees also learned more about how the position of Faith Formation Facilitator is realized at Cardinal Leger School. In the program, a teacher becomes Faith Formation Facilitator and the school receives one substitute teacher day per month for the facilitator to advance faith-based initiatives at the school. There are currently Faith Formation Facilitators at 17 schools in the division.

Principal Guy Werbicki described how his school's facilitator, Mel Zimmer, is involved in nearly every aspect of the faith life at Cardinal Leger, from coordinating retreats, to planning liturgies and offering resources for teachers.

Draft Audited Financial Statements

Supt. Don Lloyd presented the audited financial statements for the 2010-2011 budget year, which just ended on August 31, 2011.

The statements show that the school division ended the year with a consolidated surplus of \$8,271,436.

The surplus in large part resulted from capital grants received from the provincial government for building projects under way in the division. As work continues on projects in the current budget year (2011-12), this surplus will be required to fund the balance owing on capital building projects.

Audio/Visual Installation Services Tender

Within the school division there are currently 70 Smart Boards, data projectors or sound system installations to complete in various schools. In order to see this work completed as expediently as possible, the division invited local firms to submit quotes on the cost to perform this work. Four companies responded. After the proposals were evaluated, Inland Audio Visual Ltd. of Saskatoon was chosen as the successful firm. Trustees ratified awarding the installation project to Inland for a one-year contract price of \$25,000 plus GST.

Saskatchewan School Boards Association Resolution Results

Trustees reviewed the results of voting on various resolutions at the recent Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) Annual General Meeting. The resolutions that received the strongest support included those to:

- Partner with the Ministry of Education to develop an initiative to support the transition of high school students in journeyman, technical programming and 21st century career options,
- Lobby the provincial government to allocate relocatable classrooms in October, based on September enrolment figures,
- Adopt the SSBA position statement on Assessment of Student Achievement, which outlines how boards may set expectations for improved student learning, support their staffs and report student achievement information.
- Adopt the SSBA position statement on Public Engagement, which supports parents as partners in education to mobilize communities to strengthen student achievement.