

## **Monday, Dec. 7, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board**

### **DELEGATIONS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Curtis Harman, partnership coordinator of the Saskatoon Chapter of the Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan, spoke to the board about his organization's "Partnership Program" in which a team from the society will visit a school to discuss schizophrenia.

The team includes a person living with schizophrenia, a family member of someone who has schizophrenia or bipolar disorder and a mental health professional. The goal of the program is to reduce stigma associated with mental illness, and to make people aware of triggers, symptoms, warning signs and treatment.

### **DISCUSSION/DECISION**



#### **Learning Activities Outside the Province**

Trustees received the report which noted trips taken by students at Holy Cross, St. Joseph, Bishop James Mahoney and Bethlehem.

**Consent Items:** The first item on the agenda, marked with a star, was received by the Board of Education through a single motion that indicated trustees approved of all recommendations contained in the above-noted item.

### **Audited Financial Statements and Variance Analysis**

Supt. Don Lloyd presented the financial statements for the fiscal year from Sept. 1, 2008 to Aug. 31, 2009. The school division ended the year with a consolidated deficit of \$1,910,759 which was realized on revenues \$135,975,930, expenditures of \$136,869,992, reduction of capital lease obligations of \$144,697 and capital debt repayment of \$872,000.

The deficit was not unplanned. Standard accounting practice requires a deficit to be recorded in order for the school division to access funds from its capital reserves.

In his written report to trustees, Supt. Lloyd noted that school boards are no longer allowed to set education property taxes. The provincial government is working on a new system to determine how much funding each school board should receive annually; the Education Minister recently said this work will take a year longer than expected.

Supt. Lloyd said that in the meantime the government has indicated it is willing to work with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools as it deals with specific areas where additional funding is warranted.

### **Celebrating Catholic Identity Monitoring Report**

Supt. Greg Chatlain reported to the board regarding activities undertaken to further the board's first priority: Celebrating Catholic Identity. The report included an overview of work undertaken in several areas:

- celebrating the diversity within our Catholic identity by presenting various sessions regarding the Byzantine Rite
- Faith Development Committee
- Distinctiveness of Catholic Education Committee
- support to elementary school religion reps and Faith Formation Facilitators
- continuing participation in the Revealing Christ in All We Teach project
- Affirming Hope conference – April 2009
- staff retreats
- elementary and high school student participation in liturgy education projects.

### **Improving Student Learning and Achievement Monitoring Report – Part II**

Improving Student Learning and Achievement is one of the Board of Education's four priorities. The first part of this monitoring report was presented at the Nov. 23 board meeting and included High School Reculturing and Early Learning.

***Kindergarten – Grade 5 Mathematics Report*** – Ass't Supt. Cindy Coffin, Principal on Assignment Diane Côté and Grade 1 teacher Monique Unruh reported to the Board on four key areas that have been emphasized in order to strengthen mathematics achievement in the division:

- building teacher capacity
- parent support
- purchase of resources (Math Makes Sense)
- staffing support

Ass't Supt. Coffin also shared results of the June 2005 Grade 5 provincial mathematics assessment (AFL). Students performed meaningfully higher than the province in three of five performance areas.

***Advanced Placement (AP) Program*** – Ass't Supt. Coffin, Co-ordinator Elaine Stakiw, Teacher Marina Meyers and former Bishop James Mahoney student Allison Night discussed this program, which gives students an opportunity to take courses (English Literature and Composition, French Language, Studio Art, Calculus and Chemistry) that enhance and enrich the Saskatchewan curriculum.

Students may earn university credit for the class, based on their result on the AP exam, which are submitted to and marked by participating universities, including the University of Saskatchewan.

Both Night and Meyers emphasized that the classes are an excellent way to help students become familiar with working at a university level.

***Career Development*** – Co-ordinator Lana Bauer presented an overview of career/life planning that is occurring in schools through Practical and Applied Arts and Career Education Curricula.

The mission of the career education program is to provide a comprehensive, developmental career education program to address the academic, career and social development of all students.

***Physical Fitness Development of Students*** – Supt. Greg Chatlain presented this report, which outlined In Motion activities in the division, the St. Mary agility program, introduction of functional fitness kits in all schools and the professional development opportunities that were available to teachers over the past year.

### **Trustee Remuneration and Expense Schedule**

Each year trustees review their remuneration and expense schedule. Under the 2008-2009 schedule, trustees received \$22,000 annually, while the Board chair receives \$27,000. All trustees may also spend \$4,500 annually for travel and conferences.

Trustees voted to adopt the above-noted schedule for 2009-2010 as well.

### **St. Therese School of Faith and Mission**

A delegation from the school spoke to the Board last month, requesting to become an associate school of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

At the request of the Board, school division administration investigated whether this was possible under provincial government rules.

It was determined that because St. Therese does not offer K-12 programming, it does not fall under the mandate of our school division and therefore it cannot become an associate school.

St. Therese officials were to be informed of the decision.