

## **Monday, March 1, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board**

### **DELEGATIONS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Four students from E.D. Feehan Catholic High School and Holy Cross High School, along with E.D. Feehan assistant principal Roy Sondershausen spoke to trustees about the Nov. 23, 2009 Speak Out Saskatoon (SOS) event, which was held to discuss issues faced by youth in their schools and the broader community, with particular emphasis on safety.

Students shared their thoughts on some of the issues that were discussed at the SOS event, including vandalism, controlling smoking on school property and drug use. "Providing more opportunities to hang out with friends, be involved in activities and eliminating the need for drugs is something that we hope you can provide for the students in our system," said Feehan student Sage Chartrand.

Another Feehan student, Lyndsie St. Onge, discussed gangs and bullying. She agreed with Trustee Fred Wesolowski that presentations from adults who have escaped gangs and crime would be worthwhile for students.

Holy Cross student Kerry Brosnan noted that her school's student parking lot often becomes unsafe to drive in spring with many large, muddy potholes that damage student cars. Division administration will investigate the issue.

### **DISCUSSION/DECISION**

**Consent Items:** The items on the agenda marked with a star were received by the Board of Education through a single motion that indicated trustees approved of all recommendations contained in the items.



#### **Accounts Paid December 1 – December 31, 2009 and Financial Statements for Period Ended December 31, 2009**

Trustees approved the accounts paid and received the financial statements for the above-noted period.

## ☆ **Educational Leave Priorities**

The Board received the priorities for 2010-2011 educational leave awards. Executive Council identified the following target areas:

- Effective teaching practices research
- Course work leading to Special Education teacher certification
- Improving participation and outcomes for First Nations and Métis students
- Enhanced French education supports
- Assessment for Learning
- Cree language instruction
- Early childhood education
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Applications were due February 28, 2010. Applicants will receive notice of the acceptance or rejection of the application on or before April 1, 2010.

## ☆ **Continuous Improvement Framework Report 2008-2009**

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools has generated its public report on progress during the 2008-2009 academic year. The report was presented at the Annual Meeting of Electors on February 8, 2010.

The [Continuous Improvement Framework Report 2008-2009](#) is now on the Board Information page of the website.

## **Appointments to the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation Board**

Trustees appointed Lisa Lambert and Alice Risling to continue as the Board of Education's representatives on the foundation board.

## **Annual Meeting of Electors Summary Report**

The Board of Education received the summary of proceedings from the Feb. 8 Annual Meeting of Electors, which was held at St. Angela School. The summary outlines the presentations made at the annual meeting by Board Chair Diane Boyko, Division Treasurer Don Lloyd and Director of Education Bev Hanson.

## **Budget Principles, Guidelines and Calendar**

Trustees approved the Budget Principles, Guidelines and Calendar as outlined in the meeting package. This is done annually by the Board of Education.

The new fiscal year begins September 1, 2010. The division will learn in March about its grant from the provincial government. A preliminary budget is scheduled to be ready by May, with the final budget set to be adopted by the Board in June.

## **Building Relationships and Partnerships Monitoring Report**

Supt. Gordon Martell, with support from other members of Executive Council, presented this report, which offered an overview of ongoing collaboration with community partners in order to enhance Catholic education, in light of the Board's stated priority for 2007-2009 to "Build Relationships and Partnerships."

- **Parents and Church:** The Board recently held a consultation meeting with representatives from Catholic School Community Councils and more such meetings are planned. Administration maintains regular contact with Bishops from the Eparchy of Saskatoon and Diocese of Saskatoon.
- **First Nations and Métis groups:** The division has formalized its partnerships with the Saskatoon Tribal Council and the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. Supt. Martell said that two current initiatives of the partnership are studying assessment practices and exploring how to enhance aboriginal content in curriculum.
- **New Canadians:** The division recently celebrated the expansion of the Settlement Support Workers in Schools (SSWIS) program, from one worker in 2006 to the current team of six workers. The partnership includes the Saskatoon Open Door Society, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Saskatoon Public Schools. A two-day Immigration Symposium, led by the City of Saskatoon, was held in December.
- **Post-secondary Institutions:** Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools continues to collaborate with the College of Education in a program that sees pre-service teachers work in schools with practising teachers.
- **Partnerships in Education:** This program brings the "outside world" directly into contact with our schools in order to enrich the learning experiences for students and to increase community awareness and support for our schools. To date, we have 28 schools formally paired with 36 community organizations and businesses.

## **Catholic School Community Councils Liaison Report**

Trustees discussed the Jan. 27 meeting held at Holy Cross High School with representatives from each Catholic School Community Council (CSCC). Participants shared information, insights and practices with respect to the work of CSCCs.

Trustee Wayne Stus noted that council members share a common concern regarding how to encourage more participation in the councils. Supt. Brendan Bitz, the senior administrator responsible for the councils, said that the division is helping councils share ideas and information about this topic and about ways to streamline information sharing in general.

## **Saskatoon Teachers' Association**

Chair Diane Boyko and Supt. Don Lloyd presented an overview of the joint presentation made with Saskatoon Public Schools to the Saskatoon Teachers' Association convention about education funding. Chair Boyko said the purpose of the presentation – entitled *Keeping Classrooms in the Equation* – was to encourage teachers to lobby the provincial government for stable funding for K-12 education that isn't dependent on resource revenues.