

Regina Catholic Schools



Public Board Meeting

Mon May 5, 2025 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM CST

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Ryan Bast (Board Chair), Vicky Bonnell (Co-Deputy Chair), Bob Kowalchuk (Co-Deputy Chair), Rob Bresciani, Greg Fischer, Shauna Weninger, Darren Wilcox

STAFF PRESENT: Sean Chase (Director), Josh Kramer (CFO), Kelley Ehman, Heidi Hildebrand, Dave Magnusson, Ryan Robinson, Twylla West, Mark Wernikowski, Jill Hrynkiw (Recorder)

PRESENTERS PRESENT: Axel Castillo, Chevonne Lesiuk, Makara Simpson

R. Bast called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer

R. Bresciani opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. RCSD Vision Statement

R. Bast: To provide a quality Catholic education that is faith-based, student-centered, and results-oriented.

3. Land Acknowledgement

R. Bast: We are blessed to serve, live and learn on Treaty 4 territory, traditional lands of the nêhiyawak (neh HEY o wuk), nahkawé (NUK ah way), Nakota, and homeland of the Métis, Lakota, and Dakota. Collectively, we are committed to seeking the Truth and taking intentional steps toward Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in our communities.

R. Bast shared the meeting may be recorded.

4. Consent Items

R. Bast: The following consent items have been received as information. Do any of the trustees want to move a consent item to discussion? No Trustees responded.

i. RCSD Board of Trustees Update - May 2025

ii. Student Enrolment - April 1 - 30, 2025

iii. Staffing Report - April 1 - 28, 2025

iv. Asset Protection Hotline Report

v. Battle of the Books City Finals 2025

vi. Catholic Education Week Proclamation

vii. Downtown Express - May

5. 14118: Adoption of Agenda

S. WENINGER: That the agenda be adopted.

 CARRIED

6. Conflict of Interest

R. Bast: Do any of the trustees have a conflict of interest based on the agenda they need to declare? No Trustees responded.

7. 14119: Adoption of Minutes

G. FISCHER: That the minutes of the April 7, 2025 Public Board Meeting be adopted.

 CARRIED

8. Presentation

a. Student Trustees (STRIVE) - Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School

The student presentation from Archbishop M.C. O'Neill High School STRIVE committee highlighted several academic, faith-based, and extracurricular successes, along with upcoming plans. Academically, students have completed first semester finals and are preparing for AP exams and second semester assessments. Faith life remains strong, with meaningful liturgies and Lenten fundraising efforts. The school continues to advance Truth and Reconciliation through initiatives like ribbon skirt making and guest speakers for Indigenous Storytelling Month. Student life is vibrant, with strong engagement in athletics, spirit events, and fine arts, including a successful band trip and improv tournament. Looking ahead, students are preparing for multicultural week, SRC elections, and H2Woah Day. The school is also planning for the June graduation, which will include a mass, exercises, and reception to celebrate O'Neill's Grade 12 students. Student feedback suggested areas for growth such as forming a debate team, expanding retreat options, and increasing peer tutoring beyond math.

A. Castillo, C. Lesiuk, M. Simpson and M. Wernikowski left the meeting.

9. Decision Items

a. 14120: Annual 3-Year Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) Plan

R. BRESCIANI: That the Board approve and authorize Executive Council to proceed with processing and submitting the three (3) year plan as required to ensure inclusion in the program.

 CARRIED

b. DRAFT Changeroom Policy

S. Chase shared an update on the draft Changeroom Procedure that has been developed in response to the Ministry directive and is currently under review. Suggested edits have been received from Trustees to enhance clarity, inclusivity, and alignment with Board values. Further review is underway by key stakeholders, including the Archdiocese, the Division's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility (DEIA) Committee, School-Based

Administrators (SBA) , STRIVE students, CSCC parents/guardians, and High School Gender and Sexual Diversity Clubs. This collaborative process is intended to ensure the procedure reflects a balanced, respectful, and student-centered approach that upholds safety, dignity, and Catholic values.

c. 14121: 2025-26 Rental Fee Increases

Trustees reviewed the proposed 2025–26 Rental Fee Increases and discussed the importance of ensuring facility rental fees adequately cover associated costs. Trustees recommended that rental fees be reviewed and updated annually. They also requested a thorough analysis of actual facility costs to ensure the Division is not subsidizing external use at a financial loss.

V. BONNELL: That the Board approve the proposed fee increases for child care service providers, Before and After School Programs, and facility rentals for the 2025–26 school year, as presented.



10. Discussion

a. Review 2024-25 Board Annual Work Plan and Events Schedule

Trustees reviewed upcoming May events from the 2024-25 Board Annual Work Plan and Events Schedule.

b. 2025-26 Budget Update

The 2025–26 provincial budget allocates \$2.4 billion in operating funding to Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions—an increase of \$186.4 million (8.4%) over the previous year. This includes \$130 million to support a new teacher collective agreement and respond to enrolment growth, \$54.4 million for non-teacher salary increases, transportation, inflation, and the addition of 50 Specialized Support Classrooms, and \$2 million specifically for K-3 literacy. While the full Funding Manual is pending release, capital funding includes \$65 million for Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR), up \$15 million, and \$191.3 million for school infrastructure, with \$28.5 million earmarked for relocatable classrooms. Regina Catholic Schools will receive \$153.682 million in operational funding, a 10.9% increase from the previous year, which includes funding for four new Specialized Support Classrooms and additional resources to address classroom complexity. On the capital side, PMR funding will rise by \$535,000 to \$3.073 million, and the division will continue development on major joint-use school projects, including St. Raphael and new schools in The Towns. Once the budget is approved by the Board and the Ministry of Education, it will be shared with all stakeholders.

11. Governance

No Governance to report.

12. Governance - Executive Council Reporting

No Executive Council Governance to report.

13. Reports

a. Chair's Report

Board Chair Ryan Bast shared several updates since the last public meeting which included, mourning of the passing of Pope Francis on April 21, 2025, with flags flown at half-mast. Easter celebrations included Stations of the Cross, a Passion Play at St. Catherine School, and a Holy Thursday Mass at Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School, followed by Easter break. RCSD hosted a successful New Teacher Recruitment Fair at the Catholic Education Centre, and schools supported the recent federal election by accommodating polling stations. Trustees toured École St. Mary, Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School and Mother Teresa Middle School. Other events attended include the Northeast Community Association AGM, the Grand Opening and Blessing of CEC 2.0, and the Saskatchewan Prayer Breakfast. Recognition was given to St. Kateri School for their success at the Battle of the Books City Finals, and Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School hosted the 50th Annual Band Days and Grand Concert.

b. Committee Chair Reports

c. Trustee Reports

R. Bresciani shared the enthusiasm of staff and students experienced while touring École St. Mary.

V. Bonnell shared a heartwarming testimonial heard during the recent school tour of Mother Teresa Middle School (MTMS). The story highlighted a student who entered MTMS in Grade 6 unable to read and, through the support and programming provided by the school, is now graduating from university with a degree in education. V. Bonnell noted that it is truly a gift to be selected to attend such a transformative school.

d. Director's Report

Director of Education Sean Chase highlighted key updates. The payroll team was commended for their exceptional work in processing complex April salary adjustments and retroactive payments resulting from the newly signed Provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement (PCBA), which impacted multiple employee groups besides teachers. The Grand Opening and Blessing of the new Catholic Education Centre on April 29, 2025 was celebrated with appreciation extended to all involved in the transition and development of the new facility. Staffing efforts were noted as particularly complex this year, with significant senior administration changes, the largest number of school-based administrator hires in over a decade, continued enrolment growth requiring additional staff, and a high volume of continuing contracts and new teacher hires. Gratitude was expressed to Human Resources and Education Services staff for their dedication and professionalism during this demanding period.

14. Community Linkage

a. CEC Grand Opening and Blessing

Video

The Board of Trustees along with division staff were proud to officially open and bless the new Catholic Education Centre (CEC 2.0) at 2550 Sandra Schmirler Way, a milestone representing over a decade of planning, collaboration, and commitment to Catholic education. The event began with opening remarks, prayer, and a land acknowledgement delivered by Board Chair Ryan Bast. The Honourable Everett Hindley, Minister of Education, brought greetings and recognized the importance of Catholic education in Saskatchewan. A ribbon cutting ceremony marked the formal opening of the facility, followed by a blessing by His Grace, Archbishop Donald J. Bolen. Guests were then invited to tour the new building, guided by the Board of Trustees. The celebration reflected the Division's gratitude, pride, and shared dedication to serving students, families, and the broader community in a modern, faith-filled environment.

15. Correspondence

16. 14122: Move in to Closed Session

D. WILCOX: That the Board move in to Closed Session.

 CARRIED

i. Matters Related Directly or Indirectly to Collective Bargaining

ii. Litigation Issues

iii. Negotiations for Purchase, Lease or Other Acquisition or Sale of Property

iv. Sensitive Matters

17. 14123: Move out of Closed Session

R. BRESCIANI: That the Board move out of Closed Session.

 CARRIED

18. Items for Future Agenda

High School Specialized Program Transportation Options

☉ J. Kramer and S. Chase to bring High School Specialized Program Transportation Option to Planning meeting.

Assigned to: Josh Kramer, Sean Chase, Jill Hrynkiw, Caroline Sackville

19. 14124: Adjournment

D. WILCOX: That the meeting be adjourned.

 CARRIED

20. Closing Prayer

V. Bonnell closed the meeting with a prayer.

21. 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Goals

- a. Continue to prepare for the future of the school division through succession planning.
- b. Continue to support and advocate for Catholic Education and liaise with our Church.
- c. Create a long-range plan, five to ten years that is sustainable.
- d. Establish the role of the board as it relates to the division.
- e. Ensure Board/Division culture is maintained.



Ryan Bast, Board Chair



Josh Kramer, Chief Financial Officer