

The Messenger

~ Notable News from the Edmonton Catholic Schools Board of Trustees ~



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Message from the Board Chair Sandra Palazzo

Dear staff, students and families,

I was humbled and honoured to be elected Board Chair at the June 24th Public Board Meeting. It is with pride that I serve our Division in this capacity alongside newly elected Vice Chair Lisa Turchansky and our esteemed colleagues on the Board.

When a school year comes to a close, we tend to become very reflective. Much has changed over this year. We said a tearful goodbye to Superintendent Carr after a courageous battle with cancer and welcomed our new Chief Superintendent, Robert Martin. Our world itself changed as we all adapted to a new way of living. And while much has changed, what has remained, is our love for Jesus Christ our Lord. He guides us and helps us navigate new waters. He walks beside us, just as he always has.

As a Board, we are always left in awe of our administration and teaching staff, but this year in particular, we have been overwhelmingly impressed at how all our staff have adapted to the new endeavour of online learning. And our students, as savvy as they are, and their families, have also seamlessly transitioned. And so after a long year full of change, and on behalf of the Board, I wish you all a safe and blessed summer. See you in September!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES CORPORATE SECRETARY RETIRES

Andrea Klotz bids farewell to the Division after 35-Years



Best Wishes to Andrea Klotz

The Board of Trustees bid a tearful farewell to its Corporate Secretary, Andrea Klotz. After serving Edmonton Catholic Schools for 35-years, Andrea retired on March 31.

Andrea began her career with ECSD working in Human Resources and eventually moved into the role as Corporate Secretary to the Board of Trustees. As the Corporate Secretary, Andrea worked with five Superintendents and 11 Boards and brought a true passion for governance and Trusteeship. Andrea was also integral in the creation of the annual Board of Trustees Retirement Gala, which would have celebrated nine years this year.

Andrea will be remembered in the Division as someone who truly loved her job and enjoyed working with the Division's Senior staff and various employee groups. She forged deep working relationships and friendships among stakeholders including our fellow servants in the Catholic community in the Archdiocese and the Ukrainian Eparchy. She will be remembered for many things, but her laugh may be the most iconic, as it would brighten any room.

The Board of Trustees wishes Andrea the best in her retirement and thanks her for her many years of dedication to the Division.



Trustees in the Community

Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Conquer Hunger Fund Supports Division Nutrition

Throughout the school year, Trustees were delighted to join the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation as the foundation presented schools in our Division with the Conquer Hunger Fund. The Conquer Hunger Fund provides financial assistance so schools may offer healthy school lunch and/or snack programs to students in need.

This year, the Conquer Hunger Fund was awarded to 18 schools and amounted to over \$145,000, ensuring that ECSD's most vulnerable students have access to nutritious food.

Thank you, Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation!



Trustees Stay Engaged with Communities Throughout Pandemic

Trustees have been delighted to continue engaging with their schools, parent councils and communities throughout the pandemic in a variety of innovative and unique ways.

Many school council meetings moved virtually through Teams or Zoom meetings, which has still allowed Trustees a chance to connect with their parent communities to discuss new challenges facing families. Trustees have also still maintained their connection with other locally elected Trustees via online platforms including participation in ASBA meetings such as the Spring General meeting. Trustees have also been blessed to be able to join their schools in car parades or thank-you drive bys hosted by their schools.

Thank you to all who have found creative ways of staying connected!



Congratulations Edmonton Catholic Schools Graduates of 2020!

The Board of Trustees would like to send its heartfelt congratulations to all the Edmonton Catholic Schools graduates of 2020!

While the celebrations might have looked a bit different this year, the accomplishment remains the same: 12-years of hard work and dedication has paid off. Our wish for you is that you remember to live fully and serve God in one another. And that whatever you choose to do, whatever life you create, it will give you great satisfaction and the feeling of great accomplishment.

The most exciting decisions of your life have yet to be made and you all have the freedom and potential to create the life you desire. Congratulations and God bless, Grads of 2020!



Changes to Funding for Parent Councils for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Division has been looking at ways to ensure funding be directed to priority needs and after a thorough review of the usage of Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) membership by our schools, it was determined that only a small number of school councils take advantage of their Division sponsored membership. Beginning next year, we will continue to pay for ASCA memberships for any school council that chooses to apply for the membership. Previously, we automatically enrolled all school councils. All school councils are encouraged to visit the ASCA website and complete the online ["Request for Membership"](#) without payment. Your membership will become effective immediately upon completion of the application. You may do this at any time during the year.

ASCA member school councils are entitled to:

- Submit a Proposed Advocacy Resolution for policy consideration;
- Vote on agenda items at General Meetings of the Association;
- Speak to any agenda item at General Meetings of the Association;
- Vote for candidates running for President, Vice President, and Director positions;
- Nominate an eligible parent school council member as a candidate for the Board of Directors;
- Participate on Board committees as invited;
- Participate on the School Council Engagement Task Force;
- Pay reduced fees, if any, for attendance at ASCA events;
- Examine the books and records of the Association.

Walking Together in the Light of Christ

Our Division is blessed to see generosity and love everywhere we look. This year's theme beautifully captures the heartwarming work that happens daily as students, their family, our staff, our parishes and our communities gather together in the great endeavor of Catholic education. It is rooted in scripture from the gospel of Matthew (5:16): "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works..." The act of shining your light before others by sharing your gifts and talents not only serves as an example for others, it also gives glory to God. During a time where the generosity of others has been so evident, our Board wanted to recognize those who have generously shined their light in our school communities through acts of loving service.

Minister LaGrange Joins Trustees to Prepare Food Hampers for ECSD Families

Edmonton Catholic Schools' Learning Services team has continued delivering food hampers to ECSD families in need throughout the COVID pandemic. This month, Trustees were joined by Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange, as they, along with many other selfless volunteers, packaged food hampers for our families. The hampers are provided to families whose students accessed our nutrition program at participating schools prior to classes being cancelled.



The initial hamper deliveries happened on April 6 and to-date, ECSD has delivered over 1,900 hampers filled with fruits, vegetables, and non-perishable food items.

These hampers are made possible through the use of allocated funds that would have been used to support nutrition programming via various funding organizations - Alberta Education Nutrition Program, Breakfast for Learning, Breakfast Club of Canada and the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation.

The Learning Services team displayed a creative thinking approach to re-allocating these funds and ensuring that they continued to reach our students that need it the most. Furthermore, by reaching out to families, this initiative has allowed schools to continue their connection with these families.

Thank you to the ECSD Learning Services team and to all the volunteers that made these hampers possible this year including the special guest volunteers such as Archbishop Smith and Minister LaGrange! A special thank you to Cheryl Shinkaruk, Manager of Programs and Projects who continues to ensure ECSD students and their families are a top priority!

Get to Know Your Trustee

CARLA SMILEY | TRUSTEE WARD 73

What do you like most about being a Trustee?

I can put my whole self into it. It's a privilege to serve the Catholic and broader community, to represent the Division, and to advocate for the needs of the children. I love giving praise where it is due and challenging where we can be better.

What are three things you like to do in your spare time?

Hike, kayak, introduce people to Jesus and His Church (not necessarily in this order).

What's your favourite bible quote?

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you." Matthew 6:33.

What was your favourite subject when you were in school?

English, and anything taught by my favourite teacher, Mrs. Gobeil in Grade 2. She loved us! And prepared us for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

What is your best memory of being a Trustee so far?

I have so many good ones! Hmmm. school tours come to mind - 95! These were incredible opportunities to witness the endless creativity of God's love. Each school is unique and expresses something of this.

What personal qualities do you possess that make you a good Trustee?

Commitment, integrity; willingness to listen, learn, and appreciate the gifts and contributions of others.

What would you like to hear God say to you when he meets you in Heaven?

"Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Master!" Matthew 25:23.

What was your motivation to become a Catholic school Trustee?

I was asked if I would consider running for Trustee and my first response was "no way!" Then I realized it was a call from God I had to discern, I didn't know for sure that was what He wanted until I was elected. Now I can see what a great plan He had in mind for me. It has been a gift to serve this dynamic Division.

What is one thing you hope to accomplish as a Trustee?

I listed three things I wanted to accomplish on my campaign brochure – I call them my ABC's. We have worked very well as a Board on all of these items, and honestly, they are ongoing: Advocate for the continuance of publicly funded Catholic education, commit to building a united Board faithful to Catholic teaching and effective governance, and build (stronger) bridges between home, school, and parish to better support our children. I am proud of our Board and the work we are doing together!



LISA TURCHANSKY | TRUSTEE WARD 76

What do you like most about being a Trustee?

Every single thing! I love the meetings, the opportunity to be involved in decisions, I love representing the families and the community who voted me in, I love attending school events, concerts and celebrations.

What are three things you like to do in your spare time?

1. Hosting friends and family at my house as often as I can and as many as I can (my husband is very patient).
2. Going to our cabin and sitting around the fire with my family and friends, singing songs and listening to music.
3. Relaxing in my backyard at dusk, watching the sun set through the trees while listening to the owls hoot and thinking to myself how very grateful I am for the life I have.

What's your favourite bible quote?

"Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
Matthew 19:14.

What was your favourite subject when you were in school?

English. I could always talk and write my way around to a good mark. I disliked math because $1 + 1$ always equaled 2. There was no wiggle room.

What is your best memory of being a Trustee so far?

I absolutely loved visiting all 95 schools in our Division. It was a remarkable and joyful experience for me. I always knew we had extraordinary staff in our schools, but to see them in action and to see how proud of their school and students they were, it was a humbling experience. We all appreciated the tremendous amount of work that went into our visits by everyone and were all so grateful that Superintendent Carr had the foresight to know that it was something that would be of great benefit to everyone.

What personal qualities do you possess that make you a good Trustee?

I love our schools and our students; I don't like to be told no....I feel that no is the first step to yes; I am very active in my community and committed to social justice and giving back; I am passionate about Catholic education.

What would you like to hear God say to you when he meets you in Heaven?

I changed my mind.

What was your motivation to become a Catholic school Trustee?

I was very active in my children's school volunteering and being a part of the School Advisory Committee, so this seemed like the next natural step. I also had some remarkable friends strongly encouraging me..

What is one thing you hope to accomplish as a Trustee?

Maintain the extraordinary gift that is Catholic Education and ensure all our students reach their fullest potential.



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WHAT'S AHEAD

Last Day of Instruction

June 26