



InTouch

Board Approves \$100 Million Annual Budget

Associate Director and Superintendent of Business and Corporate Services, Tom Mustapic, had lots to smile about at Monday night's Board meeting.

Mr. Mustapic recently announced his plans to retire in September and presented the Board of Trustees with his last budget, which can be defined as balanced and featured a number of additional positions and programs for the upcoming school year.

"It is indeed my pleasure to bring this budget forward. Working closely with Senior Team, and our Principals, I believe we were able to meet a number of requests and make a number of new, exciting additions to our curriculum," he said.

Director of Education, Pino Tassone, personally thanked Mr. Mustapic for not only his budget but for his many years of dedicated service.

"Our organization is truly fortunate to have had Tom lead our Board for so many years. He is a highly-regarded professional throughout the province and it has been an honour and a pleasure to have worked with him these many years," said Mr. Tassone.

Highlights of this year's budget:

- Approve the continuation of a 1.00 FTE Education Officer - Early Years Lead position
- Approve the creation of a 1.00 FTE Employee Services Assistant (Attendance)
- Approve a 0.50 FTE Math Resource Teacher position
- Approve a 0.50 FTE FSL/FI Resource Teacher position
- Approve a 0.68 FTE increase to the Secondary Technology/Assessment for Learning Resource Teacher
- Approve Secondary School Technology Training Release to a maximum of \$75,000 for the 2014-15 budget year
- Approve a 1.00 FTE Attendance Counsellor position
- Approve a \$55,000 increase to School Counselling Support Services
- Approve a 1.00 FTE Mental Health Leader
- Approve 5.00 FTE Student Support Persons
- Approve the 2014-15 Operating Fund Salaries & Benefits in the amount of \$81,157,859
- Approve the 2014-15 Operating Fund Non-Salary Expenditures in the amount of \$15,662,889
- Approve the 2014-15 Capital Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$2,851,160

Early Dismissal Days Scheduled for Next Year

Recently Trustees were informed of the measurable benefits of our pilot project, involving four early dismissal days at the secondary level.

Namely, they "supported secondary students in obtaining their required volunteer hours" while also promoting "improved student achievement by providing additional professional learning for teachers," explained Secondary School Coordinator Rob Murphy

Next year's tentative early release days would be: Wednesday, October 29, 2014

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Sample Schedule of an Early Release Day

Period 1 8:40-9:30

Period 2 9:30-10:20

Opening prayer 10:20-10:30

Period 3 10:30-11:20

Period 4 11:20-12:10

Dismissal of students 12:10 - Students bussed home to begin their volunteer experience.

Lunch for Staff 12:10-12:45 - Professional Learning Session 12:50-2:50

Board Staff Visited North Caribou Lake

As part of our initiatives and projects to improve cultural awareness of staff and students, and to develop collaborative partnerships with the Aboriginal community, we were able to send a small group from our board to tour North Caribou Lake, also known as Round Lake.

“The goals of the visit were to create awareness, promote our school board, and share best practices,” explained Omer Belisle, Superintendent of Education.



Students Honour the Sacrifices of War

This past March break, 41 students from St. Ignatius and St. Patrick High Schools travelled to Europe for a very special journey.

The year 2014 marks very important historical milestones: the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War I, the 75th Anniversary of the start of World War II and the 70th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings. The students and their teacher chaperones marked these events by visiting a number of important Canadian battlefields and cemeteries in the Netherlands, Belgium and France. Leading the group were St. Patrick teachers Dave Battistel, Jo-Anne Borgo and Carlo Cappello and St. Ignatius teachers Alicyn Papich, Riley McWhirter and Sara Vidotto. The trip began in Amsterdam, the group taking in the culture of the colourful city while also visiting more sombre places such as Anne Frank House. Then it was on to the beautiful city of Ypres, Belgium and northern France, where the group visited the Canadian National War Memorial at Vimy Ridge.

The last leg of the journey would take everyone to the famous city of Paris. Braving the chaos of the Metro, the group marvelled at the sights of Notre Dame Cathedral, Sacre-Coeur, the Eiffel Tower, the Champs Elysees and the Louvre.

More information and photos of the trip, including a day-by-day account, can be found on the St. Patrick Social Science website at: www.stpatsocialscience.com



St. Ignatius and St. Patrick students pray at the Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands.

Opportunity for Everyone to Compete

A number of students competed in this year's first All Ability Athletes (AAA) division at the Elementary Track and Field meet held on June 10-11. Students with special needs in grades 4-8 chose to join their school track team and compete in a 50 m dash, 100 m dash and baseball throw with their peers. The new division was a great success and a huge thank you goes out to all those who participated, competed, organized and came to cheer on the athletes.

