

# BOARD BULLETIN

**December 11, 2012 – MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **PRESENTATION –LEARNING SERVICES**

Mr. Hugh Lehr, Associate Superintendent of Learning Services, introduced Mrs. Monica Braat, Teacher and Inclusive Education Facilitator in our School Division. Mrs. Braat presented information on the **Literacy for All Initiative**. The project is designed for teachers of students with significant disabilities. We have 30 teachers participating across the Province of Alberta collaborating using an online community model. The goals of the project are to: *Enhance the capacity of participating teachers to better meet the diverse learning needs of students with significant disabilities; Create a provincial community of practice to analyze the effectiveness and appropriateness of the MEville to WEville literacy and communication teacher resource in the Alberta context; Support and build teacher understanding of literacy and communication strategies for students with significant disabilities.* The Board acknowledges the



many efforts being made in our Division to support student learning.

★ **Literacy for All Initiative at MHCBE Goal:** Building literacy and communication skills for Grades 1 – 6 students identified with significant disabilities. St. Michael's School MH is piloting. To read more about this Alberta Education Initiative log on to: <http://education.alberta.ca/departments/ipr/inclusion/capacity/literacyforallpilot.aspx>

**BOUNDARY REVIEW** – The Board work plan indicates the Board will **annually review school boundaries and attendance zones** in an effort to seek balanced utilization and cost efficiencies. Any changes to boundaries or attendance zones must be made prior to the annual February registration. The Board of Trustees has passed a motion which directs Senior Administration to seek stakeholder input to review school boundaries and attendance zones and to provide a report to the Board. Administration will engage our school community at the upcoming Town Hall Meeting; at which time Administration will communicate the proposed recommendations for boundary changes.

**HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINATION** - The Board of Trustees recently passed a motion which directs Senior Administration to **commence a consultation process with parents** to seek input with respect to the offering of the **HPV vaccine** in Division schools. The Board voted on the motion resulting in 4 Trustees in favor and 1 Trustee opposed. Mr. Peter Grad, Board Chair voted against the motion. The vote was recorded. The Board will engage stakeholder input at the upcoming Town Hall Meeting.

## **TOWN HALL MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2013**

– The Division is focused on providing effective and efficient operations for the Division and wishes to **engage our community stakeholders in meaningful dialogue** about issues affecting Catholic Education. A Town Hall Meeting is scheduled to allow Senior Administration to present a proposal for the Board's consideration regarding Boundaries. A dialogue will also occur regarding the HPV Vaccination. The Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 21, 2013** to be held at **St. Louis School** located at **861 – 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE** at **7:00 pm**. Topics for discussion:



★ **Attendance Zones and School Boundaries**

★ **HPV Vaccination**

All Catholic stakeholders are welcome to attend. More details of the Town Hall Meeting will be circulated home to students in early January. Information will also be posted on the division website in January 2013.

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING** -The Board of Trustees called for a **Special Board Meeting to be held on Monday, January 28, 2013; the time & location will be determined.** The Board will consider the recommendations and

## **Our Motto:**

**"Showing the face of Christ to all."**



feedback from the Town Hall Meeting. Any changes to school boundaries or attendance zones would require a Board Motion.

## **BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) –**

What is BYOD? The Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education is excited to introduce a new initiative where students will be able to **bring their own technology device to school for the purpose of learning**. This is a growing trend in education and we are now on-board. Presently we have 11



teachers at 5 different schools including Elementary, Middle School & High School piloting this project. A parent information evening was held in early December 2012 to provide the details around this initiative. The Board is currently **developing appropriate use practices** including **User Agreements** and **Digital Citizenship Agreements**. Our students and teachers are excited about this new opportunity to engage learning. For a detailed explanation on BYOD, read the "A Guide for Schools" published by Alberta Education.

<http://education.alberta.ca/media/6749210/byod%20guide%20revised%202012-09-05.pdf>

## **AMBASSADOR FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION** – A new **Administrative Procedure 491–Ambassador for Catholic Education** has been developed for use in nominating individuals or groups to receive an Ambassador for Catholic Education Award. Categories of recognition include **Edwin Parr Nominees; Excellence in Teaching Nominees; The Power of One Award; Christian Witness Award; Above and Beyond Individual Award; and Above and Beyond Group Award**. The Board wants to be sure **we acknowledge and recognize our staff, students and parents** who make a difference in our school community.

The awards criteria along with nomination procedures are outlined in AP 491. AP's are found on the division website under Document & Publications/Policy & Procedures. Nominations can be submitted by students, staff, parents and community members.

## **STUDENT BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

– Our Board has a long history of engaging various stakeholders in our education community. Alberta Education is strongly encouraging Boards to **"listen and gather input from all"**. One stakeholder voice that the Board wishes to engage with on a more regular and ongoing basis is students. The proposal is to include a **Student Board Advisory Committee** as part of Board Policy 8. The Board will develop the terms of reference for this Student Board Advisory Committee and present the idea to schools for student engagement.

## **\*2013 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

Since 1989 the Excellence in Teaching Awards program has recognized innovative and outstanding teaching that takes place every day in classrooms across Alberta.

This is your opportunity to nominate your **favorite Teacher or Principal**. Nomination packages on-line @ [www.education.gov.ab.ca/teachers/excellence.aspx](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/teachers/excellence.aspx)

The next regular Catholic School Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 08, 2013 @ 3:00 pm @ the Catholic School Board Office, 1251 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW., Medicine Hat. Everyone is welcome to attend.