

BOARD BULLETIN

January 2013 – MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

Our Motto:

"Showing the face of Christ to all."



BOUNDARY REVIEW AND TOWN HALL MEETING

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 passed a motion directing Administration to seek stakeholder input to review school boundaries and attendance zones and to provide a report to the Board. A Town Hall Meeting is scheduled on **Monday, January 21, 2013 at St. Louis School @ 7:00 pm** to obtain stakeholder feedback. In preparation for the meeting the following information was circulated to our stakeholder community.

SCHOOL BOUNDARIES & ATTENDANCE ZONES DISCUSSION for the Town Hall Meeting:

Background: There will be a presentation by Senior Administration providing the rationale for the following proposed boundary changes. Changes are recommended to balance utilization rates, equality of transportation for programming in Grades K-6 and to provide cost effective transportation. Following is a listing of schools with the current attendance zones. Changes are indicated with a strike-through of an existing area and/or adding a new area (highlighted in yellow). Schools with no strike-through or highlighted text remain the same. **Division-wide transportation would no longer be provided to the Elementary Fine Arts Program and to Grade 6 Academy Program. Transportation will continue to be provided to eligible students within natural attendance areas. Boundary and Attendance Zone recommendations from Administration for Board Consideration are as follows:**

École St. Thomas d'Aquin, Grades K – 6, French Immersion: All division attendance zones.

Monsignor McCoy High School, Grades 10 – 12: All division attendance zones.

St. Mary's School, Grades 7 – 9: All division attendance zones with exception of Southridge, Saamis Heights, Vista Heights and Hamptons. All division attendance zones for the Fine Arts Academy and French Immersion.

Notre Dame Academy, Grades 6 – 9: All students in Southridge, Saamis Heights, Vista Heights and Hamptons. All division attendance zones for Sports Academy. **Division-wide transportation would no longer be offered for the Academy Programming in Grade 6.**

St. Patrick's School, Grades K- 5: All students in Southridge, Saamis Heights, Vista Heights and Hamptons.

St. Louis School, Grades K – 6: All students in North and South Flats, **SE Hill east of Division Avenue SE & SW Hill, Harlow, River Heights, Kensington, Tower Estates, Cottonwood & Wild Rose Trailer Court area.** All students living in the area East of Medicine Hat and north of Highway #41A and South of the Saskatchewan River.

St. Michael's School Bow Island, Grades K -12: All students in Bow Island and surrounding area.

St. Francis Xavier School, Grades K – 6: All students in Crescent Heights East of Division Avenue North. All students in Parkview, Ranchlands and Northlands. **All students from Redcliff and Rural Area #1 (West of Medicine Hat & North of the South Saskatchewan River. NECH will consist of a "Flex-Zone" with transportation provided to eligible students to St. Francis or St. Michael's School, MH.**

St. Michael's School MH, Grades K – 6: All students in Crescent Heights West of Division Avenue. All students in Riverside, **Harlow, River Heights, Kensington & SW Hill West of Division Avenue,** and students in

St. Michael's School MH continued...

~~the NECH "Flex-Zone". All students in Tower Estates, Cottonwood and Redcliff. All students in the area West of Medicine Hat and North of the South Saskatchewan River.~~ Division-wide transportation would no longer be offered to this elementary Fine Arts program.

Mother Teresa School, Grades K – 6: All students in Marlborough, Connaught, Crestwood, Norwood, Meadowlands, Southview, Somerside, Somerset, Ross Glen, Southlands & Desert Blume. All students in Dunmore. All students in the area East of Medicine Hat South of Highway #41A. All students in the area West of Medicine Hat South of Highway #1. All students south of south Boundary Road.

HUMAN PAPILOMAVIRUS VACCINATION (TOWN HALL MEETING) DISCUSSION -

Background: The topic of HPV vaccination was addressed by the Medicine Hat Catholic School Board Trustees in October 2008; the motion to allow the vaccine to be administered in Division Schools was defeated. Bishop Henry's statement from June 2008, to not allow the vaccine to be administered in Catholic schools, remains the only formal statement from the Diocese of Calgary. Our Board has recently requested that the Superintendent of Schools commence a consultation process with the parent community in Medicine Hat and Bow Island Catholic Schools to gain feedback with respect to the offering of the HPV Vaccine in the school. Bishop Henry has endorsed our consultation process.

Discussion: Information on HPV and the HPV Vaccine has been circulated home to parents. Parents are asked to review the information prior to the Town Hall Meeting. Parents will be given the opportunity to respond to the following question: **Should the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education offer the administering of the HPV Vaccination in our schools?**

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – Following the Town Hall Meeting, a **Special Board Meeting** is scheduled for **Monday, January 28, 2013 at 7:00 pm at St. Louis School, 861 – 4th Street SE.** The Board will consider the input gathered from the Town Hall Meeting regarding the **proposed Attendance Zone/Boundary** recommendations.

Note: The HPV Board discussion will occur at a later date at a regularly scheduled Catholic School Board Meeting in 2013.

As part of our ongoing engagement with our parents, staff and community stakeholders we invite your feedback, comments or opinions on any topic of importance to you. Email us at communications@mhcbe.ab.ca or; you may wish to contact us personally by phone, if so, please call the Catholic School Board Office at 403.502.8347. We want to hear from you. Your opinion matters. We value your input. Thank you.

*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

The next regular Catholic School Board Meeting is Tuesday, February 12, 2013 @ 3:00 pm @ the Catholic School Board Office, 1251 – 1st Avenue SW., Medicine Hat. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS – As part of the Board of Trustees ongoing effort to keep our school and stakeholder community informed, a Bulletin is published following the monthly Catholic School Board Meeting. The Bulletin highlights just a few of the School Division's many Initiatives, Projects & Activities. We hope you find this publication of interest and value to you.