

BOARD BULLETIN

November 13, 2012 – MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

PRESENTATION – LEARNING SERVICES



Click: [Diversity in Alberta Schools: The Journey to Inclusion](#)

Mr. Hugh Lehr, Associate Superintendent Learning Services, introduced Teachers, Mrs. Natasha Taylor, Mrs. Deanna Burzminski and Mr. Lon Bosch who were in attendance to educate the Board of Trustees about the practical

application of [Differentiated Instruction](#) in our Catholic Schools. Also known as D.I. - this Alberta Initiative for School Improvement provides the opportunity for every student to be engaged in the classroom by offering them choices to meet their individual learning needs through **strategic assessment, thoughtful planning** and **targeted, flexible instruction**. In addition, each School now has a **Learning Coach** who provides support to the classroom teacher thus creating the opportunity to **co-teach** and to **implement the best practices of Differentiated Instruction**. Teachers learn how to *design "tiered" lessons*; they might also *set the stage for their classrooms* using *particular colors, lighting and design* to allow students to be less distracted and more attentive. Students are also provided with self-regulating tools to help regulate stimulus they experience in the classroom. Differentiated Instruction is helping our Schools meet the mandates set by the Province of Alberta on Inclusive Education. Our Teachers are collaborating and sharing promising practices as part of a **Learning Support Team** and as a result building capacity within our schools.

Diversity in our Schools, Our Journey to Inclusion...

Did you know that MHCBE is also engaged at the Provincial Level in piloting a number of initiatives for Alberta Education? In addition to Differentiated Instruction and Learning Coaches we are excited to be involved in piloting the following programs:



★ **Inclusive Education Planning Tool** - A digital resource to help Teachers enhance their instructional practice to better meet the diverse learning needs of all students. **St. Michael's School MH** and **Notre Dame Academy** are involved in the pilot program.

★ **Advancing Adolescent Reading Initiative** - A comprehensive Professional Development Program for (Gr 7-12) Alberta educators to teach reading skills and implement evidence-based reading instruction and intervention. **Monsignor McCoy High School** is piloting.

★ **Literacy for All Initiative** - To build Teacher capacity to better meet the literacy and communication needs of (Gr 1-6) students identified with significant disabilities. **St. Michael's School, MH** is piloting.

★ **Numeracy for All Initiative** - To build Teacher capacity to better meet the numeracy needs of (Gr 1-6) students with significant disabilities. **St. Louis School** is piloting this program.

★ Want to learn more about these **Provincial Initiatives** and to watch a video on **Learning Coaches in Action**, log onto [Alberta Education Inclusive Education](#).

HUMAN PAPILOMAVIRUS - The Board of Trustees upheld its decision made in 2008 to **not allow the HPV Vaccination to be administered in Medicine Hat & Bow Island Catholic Schools**. Recently the Calgary Catholic Board of Education is surveying stakeholders in their community to determine their opinion on the matter. The Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education indicated that they have not received any particular concerns from parents locally.

BOARD MEETING CHANGE - The Board voted to change the Board Meeting start time from 6:00 pm to **3:00 pm**

Our Motto:

"Showing the face of Christ to all."



for the Public Meeting. The Board also changed the **start time of the Committee of the Whole Meeting from 4:00 pm to 1:00 pm**; beginning with the December 11, 2012 Board Meeting. Public is always welcome.

SUBSTITUTE FOR A DAY

- Each month a School is chosen to receive a "Sub for a Day" Certificate as part of a School Engagement Initiative. This certificate is awarded to a school that demonstrates tangible engagement within their school community through **Events, School & Program Enhancements** and **Citizenship**. The certificate creates the opportunity for the school to have a certificated **Central Office staff member teach for a day at their school**. This experience is intended to support our classroom teachers, to engage our students and to create the opportunity to build relationships. Recipient's to-date: Mother Teresa School, Notre Dame Academy and St. Michaels' School in Bow Island. Congratulations!

Mother Teresa School -
Promoting Health & Wellness
Fitness Expo



Notre Dame Academy -
Promoting Citizenship and Programming
Enhancement - Layton Family Fundraiser
and Career & Technology Program
Enhancement



**St. Michaels' School,
Bow Island** -
Promoting Programming
Enhancement & Student
Learning through One-on-One
Computing Project



SAFE AND CARING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR STUDENTS

- As part of [Alberta's New Education Act](#), schools and school divisions must have procedures in place to **ensure a safe and caring learning environment** is established. The new legislation, in particular, clearly delineates definitions of **bullying; personal harassment; sexual harassment; discrimination; discipline; supporting positive behaviours; respect for the human person and Catholic teachings on social relationships**. This new document is endorsed by *Alberta Education, Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association, College of Catholic School Superintendents Association* and the *Alberta Bishop's*. Medicine Hat and Bow Island Catholic Schools will be implementing this new Administrative Procedure once it is finalized tentatively slated for January 2013.

The Board of Trustees and Senior Administration extend warm blessings for the Holy Season.



Wishing all of you a blessed Advent Season... may your hearts be filled with joy, love and peace during this time of preparation and anticipation.

The next regular Catholic School Board Meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012 @ 3:00 pm @ the Catholic School Board Office, 1251 - 1st Avenue SW., Medicine Hat. Everyone is welcome to attend.