



Board of Education
Regular Meeting of the Board
Monday, April 17, 2023 - 1:30 p.m.
Boardroom (420 22nd Street East)

AGENDA

1.0 Welcome

- 1.1 Call to Order – Chair D. Boyko
- 1.2 Land Acknowledgement
- 1.3 Opening Prayer – Trustee D. Berscheid
- 1.4 Adoption of the Agenda
- 1.5 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 6, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

3.0 Delegations and Special Presentations

4.0 Post Meeting Assignments

5.0 Consent Items

The Chair will ask for a motion to receive the items, which are starred, and to approve all recommendations contained therein. Prior to approving the motion, any trustee may request a star(s) be removed.

6.0 Discussion/Decision

- 6.1 Financial Statements
 - 6.2 2023-2024 Budget Overview
 - 6.3 2023 Education Property Tax Mill Rate
 - 6.4 Board of Education Goals and Priorities
 - 6.5 2023 Catholic Education Week
 - 6.6 Relocatable Classrooms
 - 6.7 CCSTA Annual Conference Donation
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7.0 Correspondence

- 7.1 Expressions of Gratitude – posted on Bulletin Board
 - 7.2 Reading File – copies circulated at meeting
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8.0 Reports and Good News

- 8.1 Report of the Director of Education
 - 8.2 Board Activity
 - 8.3 Board Linkage
 - 8.4 Board Linkage – Catholic School Community Councils
 - 8.5 Convention Reports
 - 8.6 Committee/Partnership Reports
 - Joint Operations – Trustees D. Berscheid and W. Stus
 - Together in Faith and Action – Trustees S. Zakreski-Werbicki and T. Jelinski
 - Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation – Trustees H. Byblow and B. Elliott
 - māmawohkamātowin partnership/Saskatoon Tribal Council – Chair D. Boyko and Trustees D. Case and S. Zakreski-Werbicki
 - nākatēyimitowin educational partnership/CUMFI – Chair D. Boyko and Trustees D. Berscheid and W. Stus
 - Division Committee on Reconciliation and Healing – Trustee T. Jelinski
 - 8.7 Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association – Trustee B. Elliott
 - 8.8 Saskatchewan School Boards Association
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9.0 Committee of the Whole

10.0 Closing Prayer – Trustee D. Berscheid

11.0 Adjournment

12.0 Sign of Peace

Present: Chair Boyko, Vice-chair Boechler, Trustees Berscheid, Byblow, Elliott, Jelinski, Stus (Teams), Zakreski-Werbicki

Absent: Trustee Case (with notification)

Also: Director of Education Rivard
Superintendent of Education Gay (Secretary to the Board)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Boyko at 1:30 p.m. and began by acknowledging that we are on Treaty 6 Territory—traditional territories of First Nations including Cree, Dene, Nakota, Lakota, Dakota and Saulteaux—and homeland of the Métis Nation. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place, and we reaffirm our relationship with one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.

The opening prayer was led by Trustee W. Stus.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Trustees S. Zakreski-Werbicki and T. Jelinski that the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Moved by Trustees D. Berscheid and B. Elliott that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 13, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Discussion/Decision**6.1 Technology Services**

Motion: Moved by Trustees R. Boechler and D. Berscheid that the Board of Education receive the information as presented in the Technology Services report.

CARRIED

6.2 Staff Monitoring Report

Motion: Moved by Trustees B. Elliott and T. Jelinski that the Board of Education receive the information as presented in the Staffing Monitoring Report.

CARRIED

6.3 Transportation Monitoring Report

Motion: Moved by Trustees R. Boechler and S. Zakreski-Werbicki that the Board of Education approve the Transportation Monitoring Report as presented.

CARRIED

[Motion: Moved by Trustee D. Berscheid that the Board move into committee.]

CARRIED

[Motion: Moved by Trustee S. Zakreski-Werbicki that the Board move out of committee.]

CARRIED

Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Trustee W. Stus that the meeting be adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

CARRIED

Secretary

Chair

6.1 Financial Statements

Board Priority:

- Promoting Stewardship

Presented by: CFO J. Lloyd

Background Information:

I certify the following data to be accurate for the period ending **February 28, 2023**:

Board Policy prohibits the development of fiscal jeopardy or loss of allocation integrity further specified as five constraints:

1. Reduce or liquidate fixed or restricted assets. - No fixed assets were disposed of.
2. Cause the organization to become indebted in an amount greater than can be repaid by specified revenues. - Accounts payable and salaries payable have all been met in a timely manner by cash on hand. There have been no overdue accounts or late payments.
3. Allow cash to drop below the amount needed to settle debts in a timely manner. - Accounts payable and salaries payable have all been met in a timely manner by cash on hand. There have been no overdue accounts or late payments.
4. Allow actual allocations to deviate substantially from approved budget expenditure. - Year-to-date actual allocations of funds to outcome areas are consistent with those previously approved as acceptable ranges by the board.
5. Violates Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. - No such violation exists.

Accounts Paid

Accounts paid by cheque and electronic funds transfer for the period January 1, 2023 to January 31, 2023 are as detailed:

Business Account	\$ 5,681,432.58
Payroll Account	9,575,562.94
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	\$15,256,995.52

Accounts paid by cheque and electronic funds transfer for the period February 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023 are as detailed:

Business Account	\$ 6,413,323.12
Payroll Account	9,881,363.92
	<hr/>
	\$16,294,687.04

It should be noted that full particulars of account payments are available for review at any time.

Financial Statements

The Statements of Financial Position and Operations have been prepared in accordance with The Education Act, 1995, using accounting principles prescribed by the Ministry of Education and are considered appropriate for Saskatchewan School Divisions.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education approve the accounts paid for the period January 1, 2023 to January 31, 2023 and February 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023 and receive the financial statements for the period ended February 28, 2023.

St. Paul's R.C.S.S.D. No. 20
Statement of Financial Position
Funds: Current Year/Previous Year
For the Period from September 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023

(Amounts are in CDN)
(Includes G/L Budget Name: MB2022/23)

Description	Current Year Actual	Prior Year Actual	Current Year Prior Year
Assets			
Cash	24,385,486	36,228,358	-11,842,873
Taxes Receivable	142,808	214,212	-71,404
Provincial Grants Receivable	2,792,146	1,178,026	1,614,119
Other Receivables	1,488,547	724,285	764,262
Total Assets	28,808,986	38,344,881	-9,535,896
Liabilities			
Other Payables	13,953,841	11,680,370	2,273,472
Capital Loans	24,912,905	26,838,869	-1,925,965
Accrued Employee Future Benefits	6,326,800	6,174,600	152,200
Other Liabilities	2,131,734	1,878,605	253,129
Capital Lease	361,722	557,878	-196,156
Total Liabilities	47,687,003	47,130,323	556,680
Net Financial Assets	-18,878,017	-8,785,442	-10,092,575
Non-Financial Assets			
Physical Assets	274,327,155	272,710,675	1,616,480
Prepaid Items	233,760	284,754	-50,994
Total Non Financial Assets	274,560,915	272,995,430	1,565,486
Net Assets	255,682,898	264,209,988	-8,527,090
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)			
Accumulated Surplus Previous Year	258,543,626	258,550,354	-6,728
Change in Accumulated Remeasurement Gains/Losses			
Earnings from Operations			
Total Accumulated Surplus	258,543,626	258,550,354	-6,728

St. Paul's R.C.S.S.D. No. 20
Statement of Operations
Variance: Current Year/Previous Year/Current Year
For the Period from September 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023
(Amounts are in CDN)
(Includes G/L Budget Name: MB2022/23)

Description	Current Year Actual	Budget For Period	Budget Remaining	Budget % Remaining	Prior Year Actual	Current Year Prior Year
Revenue						
Property Taxation		50,738,609	50,738,609	-100.00		
Grants		163,309,231	163,309,231	-100.00		
Tuition and Related Fees		2,128,094	2,128,094	-100.00		
School Generated Funds		2,885,649	2,885,649	-100.00		
Complementary Services		2,350,546	2,350,546	-100.00		
External Services		120,000	120,000	-100.00		
Other		2,121,227	2,121,227	-100.00		
Total Revenues		223,653,356	223,653,356	-100.00		
Expenditures						
Governance		656,438	656,438	100.00		
Administration		5,231,604	5,231,604	100.00		
Instruction		164,781,663	164,781,663	100.00		
Plant		34,207,901	34,207,901	100.00		
Transportation		9,447,058	9,447,058	100.00		
Tuition and Related Fees		158,864	158,864	100.00		
School Generated Funds		2,885,649	2,885,649	100.00		
Complementary Services		2,144,897	2,144,897	100.00		
External Services		120,000	120,000	100.00		
Interest and Bank Charges		1,320,592	1,320,592	100.00		
Total Expenditures		220,954,665	220,954,665	100.00		
Surplus (Deficit) for the Period		2,698,691	2,698,691	-100.00		
Change in Accum. Remeas. Gains/Losses						
Opening Accumulated Surplus	258,543,626		-258,543,626		258,550,354	-6,728
Closing Accumulated Surplus	258,543,626	2,698,691	-255,844,935	9,480.34	258,550,354	-6,728
Opening Physical Assets	274,721,206		-274,721,206		270,799,941	3,921,265
Current Year Fixed Asset Purchases		2,842,643	2,842,643	100.00		
Total Physical Assets	274,721,206	2,842,643	-271,878,563	-9,564.29	270,799,941	3,921,265

Variance Analysis

St. Pauls R.C.S.S.D. No. 20

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Date Filter

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Budget Filter

MB2022/23

	Current Year Actual	Budget For Period	Budget Remaining	Budget % Remaining	Expected Budget % Remaining	Difference	Notes
Revenue							
Property Taxation	18,996,787	50,738,609	31,741,822	62.56%	50.00%	12.56%	1
Grants	96,601,602	163,309,231	66,707,629	40.85%	50.00%	-9.15%	1
Tuition and Related Fees	1,458,308	2,128,094	669,786	31.47%	40.00%	-8.53%	2
School Generated Funds	1,757,940	2,885,649	1,127,709	39.08%	40.00%	-0.92%	
Complementary Services	1,653,828	2,350,546	696,718	29.64%	40.00%	-10.36%	3
External Services	100,000.00	120,000	20,000	16.67%	40.00%	-23.33%	4
Other	1,541,678	2,121,227	579,549	27.32%	50.00%	-22.68%	5
Total Revenues	122,110,143	223,653,356	101,543,213	45.40%			
Expenditures							
Governance	318,517	656,438	337,921	51.48%	50.00%	1.48%	
Administration	2,702,407	5,231,604	2,529,197	48.34%	50.00%	-1.66%	
Instruction	96,080,519	164,781,663	68,701,144	41.69%	40.00%	1.69%	6
Plant	18,093,513	34,207,901	16,114,388	47.11%	50.00%	-2.89%	
Transportation	4,922,220	9,447,058	4,524,838	47.90%	50.00%	-2.10%	
Tuition and Related Fees	37,838	158,864	121,026	76.18%	50.00%	26.18%	7
School Generated Funds	1,193,963	2,885,649	1,691,686	58.62%	40.00%	18.62%	8
Complementary Services	985,772	2,144,897	1,159,125	54.04%	40.00%	14.04%	9
Interest and Bank Charges	637,850	1,320,592	682,742	51.70%	50.00%	1.70%	
Total Expenditures	124,977,599	220,954,666	95,977,067	43.44%			
Surplus (Deficit) for the Period	-2,867,456	2,698,690	5,566,146				
Change in Accum. Remeas. Gains/Losses							
Opening Accumulated Surplus	121,433,929		-121,433,929				

Variance Analysis

St. Pauls R.C.S.S.D. No. 20

Closing Accumulated Surplus	118,566,473	2,698,690	-115,867,783
Opening Physical Assets	146,803,823		-146,803,823
Current Year Fixed Asset Purchases	3,527,214	2,842,643	-684,571
Total Physical Assets	150,331,037	2,842,643	-147,488,394

Notes

1. It is expected that the total of property taxes and grants will be over budget by \$3 million due to being 500 students over enrolment projections on September 30th.
2. Online school tuition revenues are higher than projected.
3. Early learning intervention funding received in excess of budget.
4. Invitational Shared Services Initiative grant has been received in full for the year.
5. Interest revenue and cafeteria sales are trending to be over budget, while noon lunch supervision fee is under budget due to later implementation.
6. Instruction will be over budget due to being over enrolment projections by +1,200 students with the ministry only funding 500 of those students.
7. Tuition and related fees expenses are incurred unevenly during the year.
8. School generated funds expenses are incurred unevenly during the year and a disproportionate amount are incurred in the last two months of the school year.
9. Pre-kindergarten program is under projection and allocated resources were redeployed to support kindergarten programs students.

6.2 2023-2024 Budget Overview



Board Priority:

- Promoting Stewardship

Presented by: Executive Council

Background Information:

On March 22, as part of the 2023-2024 provincial budget, the government announced an increase in operating funding for PreK to 12 education of \$49.4 million or 2.5% additional funding compared to the prior budget day. The \$49.4 million or 2.5% operating grant increase announced in the provincial budget includes some funding adjustments that have already been made, therefore, the real impact of this budget compared to 2022-23 actual revenues is considerably less. Of the \$49.4 million:

- \$20.0 million was announced in July 2022 for last year's inflationary increases and is included in school divisions' 2022-23 Ministry approved budgets.
- \$15.5 million was provided in December 2022 for September 30 enrolment increases that exceeded projections by 3,840 students province wide.
- The remaining \$13.9 million is for enrolment increases and amounts to a real increase of 0.7% in 2023-24.

Other Updates:

- Education property tax (EPT) rates will remain the same for residential, commercial/ industrial properties, and agricultural land.
- Top 10 Capital List: The new high school in Holmwood is on the list but no approval was announced to start the design process, which is very concerning.
- The budget includes a \$7 million fund to allow school divisions to retain the 200 additional educational assistants hired in the 2021-2022 school year. This funding is conditional and cannot be used for any other program or initiative. Our school division allocation from this fund is \$753,533.
- \$23 million to support the start-up and operation of the new Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) will continue to operate a Cyber school to serve students attending Catholic schools in the province.

Capital Funding

The province announced \$147.3 million for capital investments including:

- \$115.7 million to support 20 ongoing capital projects. This includes approval for the St. Frances Cree Bilingual School project to complete the design and move into construction.
- \$16 million for relocatable classrooms across the province.

Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR)

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) was allocated \$3.8 million for PMR funding or a decrease of 9.03% from last year. This reduction is very concerning for the school division as the costs of construction have increased by up to 45% over the last two years. This funding is typically used to for roof repairs, starting new roof replacements, and HVAC upgrades.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Funding Allocation

The net increase in projected funding for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is \$4.7 million which will primarily only cover the cost of our projected enrolment growth of 700 more students.

Due to the funding levels, offering the same services as in 2022-2023 will not be possible. The current budget has no consideration for support staff collective agreements, teacher salary increments and local agreement costs, statutory benefit increases and other payroll related costs, fuel, insurance and utility increases as well as other general inflation, unprecedented enrolment growth, and continuing need for specialized programming to meet student needs.

Budget Development

The 2023-2024 draft budget has been updated to reflect the inflationary increases and enrolment growth of 700 students. The school division has already welcomed 600 of the 700 additional students since September 30, 2022, and has received no funding for these students. This unprecedented enrolment growth will need to be considered when building the budget for next year.

On the expense side, we anticipate dramatic inflationary increases for things like utilities (up an estimated four per cent, or \$300,000), fuel and contract costs for transportation (up an estimated five per cent, or \$300,000), insurance (up an estimated ten per cent, or \$98,000), contractual increases for non-teaching job classifications, and an increase in the federal carbon tax on many other expenditures, to name just a few. These increases to costs are projected to far exceed the increase in revenue from the province.

When increases in funding do not keep up with inflation, the school division's ability to maintain all current programs and services to students will be negatively affected. This is disheartening, to say the least, especially when we know that there is increased diversity in the students we are serving.

As an initial reference point, for the division to replicate the same level of services next year with inflation and additional students, the division would require an additional \$1.5M more than it was allocated. As such, service levels will not be able to remain the same. It should also be noted that this does not reflect any additional budget items that the division needs to consider that may require budget next year. It is anticipated that there are at least an additional \$500,000 of requests for next year. These requests include student computer devices that must be replaced, resources to actualize the new Provincial Education Plan, and learning resources for over 700 new students.

Post-budget day communication from the Government of Saskatchewan referenced that boards of education have 'reserve' funds that should be used to offset operational shortfalls. The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools' Board of Education has always taken the approach that the provincial taxpayers generously provide tax revenue to supply educational services to the children and youth of our communities for the year they were gathered. We have strived to honour that trust and allocate the resources accordingly, by passing balanced budgets each year. For a variety of reasons, some historical, some boards may have access to unrestricted reserves while others do not. Equity of access to educational supports is a prime goal in our sector which is also supported through the Funding Distribution Model.

Executive council will continue their work on reviewing budget allocations, following board approved budget principles, and ensuring appropriate resources are provided for curriculum renewal and areas of focus. The budget reference committee will also be consulted throughout the budget development process.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education receive the information as presented in the 2023-2024 Budget Overview report.

6.3 Education Property Tax Mill Rate



Board Priority:

- Promoting Stewardship

Presented by: CFO J. Lloyd

Background Information:

On April 16, 2018 the Board of Education enacted Bylaw 2018-A to continue setting the Education Property Tax (EPT) mill rates. As long as Bylaw 2018-A is in effect, the Board of Education is required to pass a resolution annually prior to May 1st of each taxation year.

The provincial government announced on March 22, 2023, that Education Property Tax mill rates for 2023 will be the same as the 2022 rates.

The 2023 provincial mill rates for each property class are as follows:

Agricultural Property	1.42 mills
Residential Property	4.54 mills
Commercial/Industrial	6.86 mills
Resource (oil and gas, mines and pipelines)	9.88 mills

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education for St Paul's R.C.S.S.D. No. 20 pass a resolution exercising its constitutional right to levy education property tax and set education property tax mill rates, and in doing so the aforementioned school division hereby sets education property tax mill rates as follows:

By adopting the potential provincial education property tax mill rates as set by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for the 2023 taxation year.

6.4 Board of Education Goals and Priorities



Board Priority:

- Celebrating and Promoting Catholic Identity
- Improving Student Learning and Achievement
- Building Relationships and Partnerships
- Promoting Stewardship

Presented by: Director F. Rivard and Executive Council

Background Information:

There are a number of layers within the education sector that connect together to outline the strategic plans for education. From the Provincial Education Plan through the Board Goals to the Areas of Focus Plans, to the School Learning Improvement Plans to the classroom and sprint short-term goals, this process is foundational to our work.

Since January, the board of education has been undertaking a comprehensive review of the board goals. Presented within this report is the final draft of the board goals.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education receive the information and approve the draft board goals and priorities as presented.

Board Priority:

- Celebrating and Promoting Catholic Identity

Presented by: Superintendent T. Hickey and Coordinator Darcie Lich

Background Information:

This Board Priority is described as follows:

- To strengthen the Catholic dimension of our school division, as we support the faith journey of each individual:
 - Providing shared experiences, learning opportunities, and closer connections between parish, home, and school – to enrich the faith lives of students, families, and all school community members.
- To be proactive in building understanding of Catholic Education.

The following report outlines some of the plans for Catholic Education Week 2023. The theme for this year is **We are Many, We are One / À plusieurs, nous sommes un.**

“We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another.” (Romans 12:5).

Plans include a sub-theme for each day of the week:

- Monday: When We See / En voyant
- Tuesday: When We Listen / En écoutant
- Wednesday: When We Reflect / En réfléchissant
- Thursday (World Catholic Education Day): When We Learn / En apprenant
- Friday: When We Act / En agissant

Materials have been prepared by CECAS for use in all Catholic school divisions in Saskatchewan, and include the following:

- Daily social media ‘blasts’(twitter-length)
- Media materials for dioceses/school boards
- Daily prayers and reflections
- Liturgy of the Word for World Catholic Education Day, with recorded message from Bishop Stephen Hero or Bishop Mark Hagemoen

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education receive the information as presented in the Catholic Education Week report.

6.6 Relocatable Classrooms

Board Priority:

- Building Relationships and Partnerships
- Promoting Stewardship

Presented by: Assistant Superintendent R. Martin

Background Information:

On Feb 15-16, 2023, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, in partnership with Edwards Edwards McEwen Architects, issued three Request for Tenders (RFT) for the 2023 relocatable classroom construction at the following schools in Saskatoon:

Tender #1 Tender Close Date – March 7, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

- Holy Cross High School: 2 - B Unit Relocatable Classrooms

Tender #2 Tender Close Date – March 7, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

- St. Joseph High School: 1 – B Unit Relocatable Classroom

Tender #3 Tender Close Date – March 8, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

- Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School: 2 – A Unit Relocatable Classrooms

These RFT's were posted on SaskTenders to satisfy the requirements of the New West Trade Partnership Agreement and the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

Due to the complexity of each tender and at the request of the Contractors, GSCS split the due date of the award over two days. Two (2) projects closed on March 7, 2023 and one (1) closed on March 8, 2023.

The tender responses ranged for each project as follows:

Tender #1

- Holy Cross High School – 3 bidders - \$680,000 to \$764,000 plus PST and GST
 - 2 - B Unit Relocatable Classrooms

Tender #2

- St. Joseph High School – 4 bidders - \$450,000 to \$496,000 plus PST and GST
 - 1 - B Unit Relocatable Classroom

Tender #3

- Bishop Filevich S – 4 bidders - \$826,000 to \$886,000 plus PST and GST
 - 2 - A Unit Relocatable Classrooms

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education award the tenders for:

Tender #1 and #2 to D2 Construction Ltd. for the tendered prices of:

- ***Holy Cross High School - \$680,000 plus PST and GST***
- ***St. Joseph High School - \$450,000 plus PST and GST***

Tender #3 to KIM Constructors Ltd. for the tendered price of:

- ***Bishop Filevich School - \$826,000 plus PST and GST***

6.7 Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association Annual Conference



Board Priority:

- Celebrating and Promoting Catholic Identity
- Building Relationships and Partnerships

Presented by: Chair D. Boyko

Background Information:

Planning for the annual Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA) conference that is being held in Saskatoon from June 1-3, 2023, is well underway. An important aspect within the conference is the support for Toonies for Tuition. One of the ways the planning committee has decided to raise funds for this initiative is to have eight raffle baskets created. Each of the eight Catholic school divisions have been asked to donate \$250 for the purchase of gift cards for the raffle baskets. Delegates will be able to purchase tickets for these baskets during the conference. The proceeds for the ticket sales will go towards the Toonies for Tuition fund.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education provide a \$250 donation to support the creation of a raffle basket for the CCSTA Conference.

Director's Report

April 17, 2023

Lent and Easter: Our students and staff have journeyed through Lent in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Each of these pillars intend to bring us closer to God by preparing our hearts and minds for Easter. We now sing “Alleluia” and celebrate the 50 days of the Easter season.

Small Christian Community Committee Update: This committee is made up of 14 members who facilitated a 7-week video series, The Search, Finding the Meaning of Life, through the Augustine Institute with the goal of providing GSCS staff the opportunity to engage in dialogue and deepen their own personal relationship with God. The video series was offered at five different school locations from February 1-March 22.

Living in Harmony Ceremony: On March 21, as a part of Cultural Diversity and Race Relations, GSCS participated in the annual Living in Harmony Awards. The awards recognize outstanding achievements by individuals, organizations, and schools contributing to the elimination of racial discrimination. The winners are selected by the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Holy Cross High School's Truth and Reconciliation Club was recognized for their efforts with the City of Saskatoon's Living in Harmony award. The Truth and Reconciliation Committee at Holy Cross consists of students and staff who work together to promote diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, and cultural and relational pedagogy. The City of Saskatoon also acknowledged recipients from 2020-2022, since there were no award ceremonies held for those years. St. Frances Cree Bilingual School, École St. Matthew School and St. Marguerite School were among those recognized.

ITEP Round Dance: On Friday, March 31, the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) Student Council hosted a Round Dance to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools' representatives enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the event, be with community and see many ITEP alumni, partners and wāhkōtowin teacher candidates.

Concours d'art Oratoire: For the first time face-to-face in over three years the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools' Concours d'art Oratoire competition took place at École St. Mother Teresa School on March 31. Students in Grade 6 to 8 from all our French immersion programs presented three-to-five-minute speeches. It was great to return to this annual tradition celebrating the French language.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Feast and Round Dance: A great big thank you to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education (FNMIE) team for hosting an amazing GSCS Feast and Round Dance. The event was hosted by E.D. Feehan High School on March 17. Students, staff and community members were treated to a celebration of language, ceremony and culture.

Métis Flag Raising: St. Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic School held a Métis flag raising ceremony on March 29. Special thanks to Trustees Boyko, Jelinski and Berscheid for representing the board. Also, we do need to acknowledge the significant work of the school staff, students and our FNMI Education team in preparing for and carrying out this ceremony.

Provincial Budget Day: March 22, 2023 - The provincial government shared the budget during the afternoon of March 22. More detail is provided in the package regarding the specifics of 2023-2024 budget.