

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division Board Strategic Priorities for 2014-2015

Preamble:

The Board of Trustees provides strategic priorities in order to set direction for the upcoming school year. It is expected that the strategic priorities of the Board align with the goals set out in Alberta Education's Business Plan. The following goals have been articulated by the Minister of Education in the *Education Business Plan 2014-17*:

Goal One	An excellent start to learning
Goal Two	Success for every student
Goal Three	Quality teaching and school leadership
Goal Four	Engage and effective governance

In addition, Alberta Education has made a concentrated effort to forward the vision of Inspiring Education. This vision, supported by the *Ministerial Order on Student Learning* is weaved through the above goals. As such, Boards must recognize their commitment to graduating students who are, "*Engaged Thinkers, Ethical Citizens with an Entrepreneurial Spirit.*" In order to achieve this vision, schools and school divisions must operate in a vastly different manner while still maintaining accountability to the government and assurance to the community.

Strategic priorities must be established prior to the budget process. Upon acceptance and approval, the Board will develop a budget that reflects these strategic priorities. It is assumed and further regulated by the School Act, that the Board operates in a fiscally responsible manner and therefore, an accumulated operating deficit is prohibited.

Board Strategic Priorities

1. Walking together in our Catholic faith

- As a Catholic School Division, it is imperative that we maintain and enhance a strong Catholic Christian Faith culture. We will continue to provide opportunities to engage in our faith. Our staff and students will be guided by the social teaching of the Church which will enrich their personal relationship with Christ.
- Catholic identity will be guided by our Three Year Faith Plan.

2. Preparing students for their future

- High quality learning begins with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy. Preparing our students for an ever-changing world requires high quality teaching, outstanding leadership and flexibility in programming. Students will become confident, resilient and engaged learners. It is important that they can create, communicate effectively, collaborate with others and be critical thinkers. This requires a major shift in how we operate schools and encourages partnerships with the community.
- Preparing students for the future will be guided by the Education Plan.

3. Engaging and effective governance

- School boards need to provide strategic, fiduciary and generative governance to meet the needs of their community.
- Engaging and effective governance will be guided by the Board's Annual Work Plan