

# BUDGET GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## District Budget 2013–2014

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### I. Preamble

The Board of Trustees considers the District Budget as one of its primary planning documents. It is in the budget that the trustees communicate to the Catholic community their financial plan for offering an authentic Catholic education to the students enrolled in the District. To this end the Board has a responsibility to inform the Administration as to the principles and priorities that are to be reflected in the budget as they prepare it for the Board's consideration and approval.

While the budget is not a philosophical statement per se it must reflect the Board's Foundation Statement and must be structured in such a way to make it possible for the mission of the District to be actualized and for its Core Values to be expressed. It is axiomatic that this includes the dynamics associated with the delivery of the Program of Studies but also includes the requirement to express the need to treat every member of the Edmonton Catholic School Community with the dignity and respect due them as one who is created in the image and likeness of God.

### II. General Considerations

In considering the District Budget the challenge is to allocate available resources in a manner that would most effectively contribute to the success of the District's Mission. It is, however, also incumbent on the Board, through the Administration, to examine on an ongoing basis all District operations to help ensure that the resources allocated are being utilized in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Such an examination applies to all facets of the District's operations but, obviously, takes on greater importance with the larger cost areas – most particularly in this is the effective and efficient assignment of staff. At the present time two other large cost centres that require close monitoring are the effective and efficient use of technology and the effective and efficient utilization of all District facilities.

In carrying out its governance responsibilities the Board of Trustees has prepared the following list of Budget Guiding Principles. These Principles are to be used by the Administration to guide them as they prepare the budget for the Board's consideration and eventual approval. The above noted challenge regarding the need to allocate available resources in the most effective manner possible is embedded in the Guiding Principles. In an attempt to add further definition to the Principles the Board has identified four general areas that are to be considered by the Administration as they apply the Principles to their budget deliberations. These identified areas are not meant to override the Principles but are to add clarity to them. They include the challenge to consider in a special way:

- a) the need to address programming and assistance for students with special needs in an inclusive setting;
- b) the need to provide professional development opportunities for all staff;
- c) the need to prepare teachers [and other staff] for their role as Catholic educators;
- d) the need to ensure the continuing integrity of the District's physical plants.

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### III. Budget Guiding Principles

- Budgetary resources are allocated such that the District can effectively celebrate and promote Catholic education and therefore, to help ensure that the mission of the District will be actualized
- The budget will be balanced; today's dollars for today's students
- Every student has a full range of learning opportunities that meet their needs to complete the mandated Program of Studies, with appropriate supports and resources
- Funding allocations support the *District Plan for Continuous Growth*
- Funding supports the *Statement of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning in Edmonton Catholic Schools*
- Student success is the direct or indirect focus of all budgetary allocations
- Every student has access to an equitable share of budget resources