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## Greater St Albert Catholic Schools Education Foundation

### 2020 Annual General Meeting, September 24, 2020

#### President's Report

Good Evening Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools Education Foundation Community

Tonight, I am pleased to provide a report on the Education Foundation's activities over the past two years of my term as Chairperson.

Charities such as the GSACS Education Foundation have two primary objectives, to raise money, and then distribute said money in a manner that advances their vision and Mission Statement. The Education Foundation's Mission is to enhance the educational and spiritual opportunities of students in Greater St Albert Catholic Schools. Our Motto is **Building Better Futures, One Student at a Time.**

Prior to my appointment as chair for the Education Foundation, we were doing an excellent job raising money but were lacking in the distributing department. My term saw the Foundation improve its performance in this area. In spring 2018 we launched the Scholarship for the Future Award, a \$1,000 scholarship awarded to two graduating grade 12 GSACRD students who demonstrated commitment to service in their community and an appreciation for the unique opportunities offered by being a GSACRD student. For 2020, we had planned to change the scholarship to affect more students. Rather than offer two \$1,000 scholarships, we decided to offer two, \$500 awards to graduating grade 12 students, and four, \$250 awards to graduating grade 9 students. Unfortunately, COVID delayed the roll out of the grade 9 awards, but we look forward to offering them in June 2021. As for the High School awards, we are please to announce that the recipients of the awards are Sadie Vogel and Daphne Charrois. A formal presentation of the scholarship will take place at each students' respective High School Awards Night.

In addition to the creation of Scholarships, the Education Foundation also launched our school group grant initiative, the Futures Fund Grant. For the 2018-2019 school year, the Foundation funded just over \$7,000 worth of projects and initiatives at various GSACRD schools. Some examples include funding the purchase of mobile bookshelves for École Marie Poburan, funding for benches for an outdoor classroom

at Georges H Primeau Middle School, and purchasing Bibles for the grade 4 students at Neil M. Ross. Funding for 2019-2020 was unfortunately held up again do to COVID, but I am pleased to announce that as of last week, applications have opened for the 2020 Future Funds Grant requests.

It should be noted that during my term the Foundation did not just give away money, we did continue to Fund-Raise. In spring of 2019, we held a dinner that included a live music performance and silent auction. The event, Sweetheart Soiree: An Evening with Martin Kerr was a great success that netted \$7,733 in proceeds. Unfortunately, our planned 2020 events, a fun Casino Night and a Beatles Cover Band concert, had to be postponed, but we hope to hold another event once the pandemic is behind us.

Going forward, the Foundation hopes to improve on its strategic communications and large gift fund raising efforts. A \$1 Million dollar endowment fund, while lofty, has been the Foundation's goal since inception.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead Foundation these past two years. I am proud of the growth the Education Foundation experienced during my tenure as Chair, and I am confident that under Alyssa's leadership we will continue our positive trajectory. Thank you for your engagement with the Foundation, and God Bless.

Kristofer R.F. Akkerman  
2018-2020 Chair