



**The Edmonton Society for
Christian Education**
Spring Society Meeting
Monday June 1, 7:30 PM

Agenda

7:30 PM	Welcome and Opening	Steve Vriend
7:35 PM	ESCE Business:	
	Approval of June 3, 2019 minutes (<i>attached</i>)	Steve Vriend
	West School Building Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation of Construction Costs 	Peter Buisman
	Approval of Construction budget going to \$16.6 million	Steve Vriend
	Principal's Report	Darren Oskoboiny and Krista Mulder
	Presentation for approval of the 2020-2021 proposed budget (<i>attached</i>)	Jared Harmata
	Election of new Board members (<i>Biographies attached</i>) Motion to destroy the ballots	Glenn Vandenborn Carrie Reinsma
	Acknowledgement of retiring board members, long term employees and retirees	Steve Vriend
8:30 PM	Closing	Dave deJong

June 3, 2019 ESCE AGM - MINUTES

High School Library - 7:30 pm

1. Welcome and Opening: Steve Vriend (Chair)

- a. We have Quorum
- b. Devotions Romans 12:1-2

2. ESCE Business

- a. Approval of May 30, 2018 Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the Minutes from last year - carried
 - ii. Question regarding 2.d.v "EPS wanted us to create a 'memorandum of understanding' for our agreement with EPS and we have done that"
 1. Q: is this finished? Can the community have a say in this?
 - a. A: This is not the typical system - the Board approves and is intended to be representative of the community. This will be brought before the Board
- b. First call for nominations for Board members
 - i. No nominations from the floor
- c. Executive Director's Report - West School Building project (Peter Buisman)
 - i. We reached our financial goal for fundraising - but we did not get the quantity of contributors we had anticipated/hoped for
 1. We will re-launch a fundraising project in the hopes the families that did not contribute yet, will contribute
 - ii. We changed all the bulbs in the High School to LED - we are already seeing the fiscal rewards of that
 - iii. Memorandum of understanding is an ongoing negotiation with EPS - We have a good relationship with EPS
 - iv. Auction was successful! Lots of first time attendees
 - v. CRA dispute: hearing in the fall, hope for a ruling next year.
 - vi. New storyteller: Alisha Worobetz. Check us out on social media!
 - vii. Question: 20 Kindergarten students were turned down from NE school - Were there considerations to figure out a means to NOT turn down students?
 1. We did look at options... They were not viable options as that school space is maxed. Some of the students that did not get accepted into NE were offered places at West School - those families turned that offer down
- d. Second call for nominations for Board Members from the floor
 - i. No Nominations from the floor
- e. Election of new board members (Glenn Vandeborn and Harriet Eskiw)
 - i. 3 key things the Board does:
 1. Uphold the vision and mission of the school
 2. Advance strategic plan for the school
 3. Maintain fiscal responsibility and accountability
 - ii. 3 names: Jennifer Snaterse, Jeremy Thiessen, Bryan Trevelyan

- f. Presentation of the 2019-2020 proposed budget (Jared Harmata - Treasurer)
 - i. Motion to approve budget as presented
 - ii. Motion seconded - Motion Carried
 - iii. Question: What is the Society's current mortgage balance?
 - 1. A: approx. 1.1M
 - iv. Question: Could students do the social media posts? And decrease/eliminate the 70K salary were paying the Community Engagement Coordinator?
 - 1. It is much more complex than social media posts. It is a full time job with an intended plan being executed.
- g. Ballots counted - All three Board members Nominated are voted onto the Board
- h. Motion to destroy Ballots - carried
- i. What's happening at ECS
 - i. Krista Mulder (Principal NE)
 - 1. Professional Development: Play your role in God's story
 - ii. Darren Oskoboiny (Principal West)
 - 1. Successful Passion Project with grade 12 students
 - 2. Exciting New build
 - 3. New flexible furniture - tremendously positive experience
 - 4. Enrollment has been really encouraging. Especially in the High School. We have 2 years of growing enrollment after 3 years of declining. This is really encouraging.

3. ESCE Celebrations

- a. Thank you to retiring board members (Steve Vriend)
 - i. Larissa Vogan (Secretary) Jim Hummel
- b. Long-term service and retirements (Peter Buisman)
 - i. 5 Year: Ellen Haimila, Brianne Benoit, Nick Boschman, Pam Hall, Holly Jensen, Angela VanKooten, Liz Rachul
 - ii. 10 Year: Lucia Blair, Dominique Dickau, Conrad Hoover, Colleen VanVeen, Geraldine Kingma, Rebecca Esser,
 - iii. 15 Year: Clint Schenk, Louise Reich, Teresa Lindemulder, Sharon Yskes, Leena Ayers
 - iv. 25 Years: Joan Konynenbelt, Linda Hale
 - v. 30 Years: Astrid Potvin, Lori Walters, Laurie Zylstra
- c. Retirees
 - i. Pam Noppers
 - ii. Marian Piekema (40 Years!!!)
 - iii. Kathy Doornenbal (since 1987!!)
 - iv. Brian Doornenbal (since 1987!!)

4. Motion to adjourn meeting after closing prayer - carried

5. Closing: Dave De Jong

Increased Costs to the Construction Project

At a special meeting of the Society held on Dec. 4, 2017 the Society passed a motion to build and renovate the West School. At that time the motion was to do the project for not more than \$16 million and that we would not borrow more than \$12 million for the project. At that time, in December of 2017 the estimate for the project was \$15.5 million. We were incredibly grateful for the support of the Society for this project as we almost had unanimous support for that motion.

Since that time we raised \$4,786,374.23 (which we are incredibly grateful for), started building and renovating, and are nearing completion of the project. As we moved forward with the project it was becoming clear that the original estimate of \$15.5 million was not going to be realistic for the following reasons:

- The original budget price for the renovations on the West side of the building was \$1,000,000. After receiving quotes from the trades it was clear that the builders and architects had underestimated that cost. It is now estimated to cost \$1,360,000.
- We were not anticipating that we would have to do any renovations to the existing gymnasium. However, as the design of the new building was completed it was clear that renovations totaling \$202,680 were needed. Most of that was used to reinforce the roof to meet code to manage the snow load.
- In 2004 a report was prepared that did an analysis of the presence of asbestos in the West school. At that time we were assured that there was no asbestos. When we started the new build another analysis was done and a different conclusion was reached. We therefore had to add \$142,000 for asbestos abatement.
- As the final design was completed there were a few areas where changes were made that increased the cost. These included, but were not limited to, the following items:
 - Rooftop unit screens were added
 - Changed the roof membranes to a more robust membrane
 - Added interior and exterior doors and windows
- At the same time several items were deleted from the project to save costs. These included but were not limited to the following items:
 - Overall size of paved parking lot east of the new school was reduced – approximate savings \$75,000
 - East wing modulars were sold (for \$1.00 plus the cost of removal) instead of demolished – approximate savings \$125,000
 - West wing hazardous materials abatement and selective demolition were reduced by deciding to leave most stucco as is and cover it instead of abating

- it and the exterior wall type was changed from steel stud back to wood – estimated savings \$300,000
- Interior windows and exterior doors were designed as aluminum but changed to pressed steel – savings of \$230,000
 - Rooftop HVAC units were changed from Carrier to Lennox and controls simplified – approximate savings of \$400,000
 - Light fixtures changed, most open ceilings deleted and suspended ceilings added, numerous other electrical changes made – approximate savings of \$224,000
 - ESCE will project manage and supervise west wing remediation using Roy Schouten and Suzanne Hogendoorn instead of Clark – approximate savings \$150,000

As you can see, as with any building project, the building committee has been working hard to manage the costs without compromising the intent of the design or the quality of the building. It has been a constant work in progress.

With all of the changes our latest estimated cost estimate is \$16,412,615. Since we only have permission to go to \$16,000,000 we are coming to the Society to approve an increase to the project costs to \$16,600,000. We don't anticipate too many other changes as the project is nearing completion so our hope is to stay around the latest cost estimate. We do not anticipate any borrowing over \$12,000,000 even if the project does go to \$16,600,000.

The board has been watching the costs quite closely and it was becoming clear in March and April that we would not be able to bring the costs down to \$16,000,000 unless we seriously decreased the scope of the West wing renovations. With that in mind the board made the decision to ask the Society for permission to go to \$16,600,000 at the AGM of June 1. This decision was made pre-COVID with the thought that if the Society did not support the motion to increase the budget we could still stop the west wing renovations. Since that time, with students no longer in the building it made a lot of sense to start the renovation early. We would reduce the overall impact to the community because of the empty building, reduce the overall cost because of reduction in the expenditure of monthly fixed costs and it would speed up the reopening of the renovated area of the west building by at least 3 months. We understand the increase isn't insignificant but it is also not insurmountable. We are also honouring the original motion to not borrow more than \$12,000,000. Our latest borrowing estimate is \$11,850,000. If the motion is not approved then there would need to be continued discussions.

The Edmonton Society for Christian Education

2020-2021 Budget

Statement of Operations

	2018-2019 Actuals	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Budget
Student Enrollment:			
Preschool	74	76	76
K-12	1,441	1475	1475
1. REVENUE			
1.1 Christian Program Fees	1,626,789	1,617,180	1,677,995
1.2 Preschool Fees	65,120	68,400	72,000
1.3 Transportation Fees	131,130	118,000	121,565
1.4 Facilities Lease	805,058	812,800	807,800
1.5 Memberships & Donations	37,900	40,000	40,000
1.6 Church Collections	14,495	15,000	15,000
1.7.2 Special Fundraising - Auction	46,618	40,000	45,000
1.7.3 Special Fundraising - Golf Tournament	31,394	45,000	45,000
1.8 Miscellaneous Income	4,502	2,000	2,000
1.9 Senior High Cafeteria Revenue	31,702	20,000	25,000
1.10 Contributions Deferred to Future Periods	(46,618)	-85,000	(90,000)
1.11 Amortization of Def. Cap.Contributions	195,444	121,250	196,250
1.12 Capital Campaign	2,522,427	750,000	475,000
1.13 Capital Campaign Revenue deferred	(2,407,454)	-750,000	(475,000)
TOTAL REVENUE	3,058,507	2,814,630	2,957,610
2. SCHOOL SUPPORT			
2.1 School Staff Christian Prof. Dev. and Curriculum Dev	251,836	258,500	287,851
2.2 Memberships in Christian support organizations	106,400	103,900	79,200
2.3 Preschool Expenses	62,454	68,400	72,000
2.4 Senior High Cafeteria Expenses	21,345	20,000	25,000
2.5 Other Christian Program Expenses (i.e. Grad gifts)	20,859	20,000	20,000
2.6 Christian Program Learning Resources	12,277	15,000	15,000
2.7 Furniture, Equipment, Computers under \$1000	32,654	32,000	32,000
2.8 Amortization of Furn., Equip., Comp.	170,978	130,000	147,000
SUBTOTAL	678,803	647,800	678,051
3. TRANSPORTATION			
3.1 Salaries & Benefits	111,636	86,749	15,145
3.2 Licences & Insurance	7,047	8,000	
3.3 Fuel & Oil	35,988	25,000	
3.4 Maintenance	59,259	40,000	
3.5 Cell Phones	2,210	1,600	
3.6 Bus Loan Interest	0	0	
3.7 Amortization of Buses	28,593	20,574	
3.8 route costs			120,000
3.9 field trip costs			52,000
SUBTOTAL	244,733	181,923	187,145
4. DEVELOPMENT & STUDENT RECRUITMENT			
4.1 Salaries & Benefits	95,528	170,722	162,946

4.2 Advertising & Promotion	38,659	30,000	35,000
4.3 Society Expenses related to development	50,310	30,000	30,000
SUBTOTAL	184,497	230,722	227,946
5. FACILITIES			
5.1 Maintenance	223,739	127,000	142,000
5.1.1 Salaries and Benefits	114,013	123,904	125,752
5.2 Utilities	313,032	310,000	310,000
5.3 Insurance	39,570	41,000	50,000
5.4 Mortgage Interest	56,509	49,001	470,053
5.5 Amortization of Buildings & Portables	448,154	467,457	690,894
5.6 Amortization of Vehicle	5,949	5,840	9,540
5.7 Temporary Portables	114,973		
SUBTOTAL	1,315,939	1,124,202	1,798,239
6. ADMINISTRATION			
6.1 Salaries & Benefits	294,527	258,050	269,006
6.2 Office Expenses includes equipment leasing	51,394	38,000	45,000
6.3 Insurance	7,282	7,300	7,300
6.4 Memberships & Dues	11,681	10,688	10,688
6.5 Professional Fees	39,263	26,000	26,000
6.6 Bank Charges, Discounts, Interest	11,698	15,000	15,000
6.7 Computer Systems Support	26,957	33,300	33,300
6.8 (Gain) Loss on sale of Equipment	1,841		
6.9 Bad Debt	57,876	35,000	35,000
SUBTOTAL	502,519	423,338	441,294
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,926,491	2,607,985	3,332,675
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES - OPERATIONS	132,016	206,645	(375,065)
Capital Levy	202,468	200,900	202,500
Total surplus/(deficit)	334,484	407,545	(172,565)
Write off of portables taken down at West	(387,645)		
Total surplus/(deficit)	(53,161)		

The Story Behind the Budget

Strategic Plan for 2020 - 2021

- Gaining an understanding of what the new normal will look like after Covid-19.
- Continue to Develop Teaching for Transformation, our schools plan for integrating Christian faith and learning, with specific emphasis on Formational Learning Experiences (students being engaged in real work, servicing a real need for a real audience).
- Continuing developing the Bible program
- Finalizing the new agreement with Edmonton Public Schools
- Continue our Marketing Renewal emphasis
- Establishing ourselves in the new west school building
- Ensure fiscal sustainability

Covid-19

- We are building this budget now with the thought that things will be back to normal by Sept. 1. That may be unrealistic. Things are changing so quickly. We will have to keep a close eye on everything and update the numbers as things become more clear.
- The touchpoints
 - We may have to think about a decline in enrollment. If we see a decline in enrollment then we have to cut expenses. So far, the enrollment numbers look very good. As a matter of fact we are looking right now at a slight overall increase.
 - There may have to be an increase in the subsidy budget - here to we may have to cut expenses
 - The bad debt line item may have to increase - if this is the case we may again have to cut expenses.

General Items

- We are building this budget with a 5% increase in Christian Program Fees.

Implications of the increase.

	20-21 fees	5% increase rounded to an even number	Difference Per Year	Difference Per Month
One student in Kindergarten	625.00	660.00	35.00	3.50
One student in Kindergarten and one student in Grades 1 - 12	2,255.00	2,370.00	115.00	11.50
One student in Grades 1 - 12	1,630.00	1,710.00	80.00	8.00
Two students in Grades 1 - 12	2,380.00	2,500.00	120.00	12.00
Three or more students in Grades K - 12	2,815.00	2,955.00	140.00	14.00
Additional Senior High Campus fee for one student	175.00	180.00	5.00	0.50
Additional Senior High Campus fee for two or more students	350.00	360.00	10.00	1.00

Priorities for 2019-2020:

Revenues

- We are projecting that we will collect \$2,959,215 in revenues next fiscal year.
- We are projecting similar enrolments for next year so we should expect \$1,679,600 will be collected through program fees
- Even though we are projecting similar enrollments we will have to watch this closely. So far we have only budgeted \$100,000 for subsidies.
- The rest of the money will be collected through fundraisers and through money collected from building leases
- The capital campaign is pretty much over. We are still collecting pledged amounts. We have to collect just over \$550,000 yet in pledged amounts.

Support for Christian Programming

- \$123,750 will be earmarked for continuing support of the development of Christian pedagogy by providing funds for professional development i.e. teacher's convention, deeper learning support, conferences, substitute teaching time, continuing our membership in the Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) and Christian Schools International (CSI).
- \$20,000 will again be set aside for teachers to have 1 days of PD work with FLE's. Much of the work is guided by the PCCE. Just over \$70,000 goes for our membership in the PCCE.
 - In 19-20 the staff was developing cor practice #3; Formational Learning Experiences (FLE's).
 - In 20-21 this development will continue.
- \$20,000 will also provide funds for a .2 coordinator for this project. This coordinator will most likely be one of the administrators. The other administrators will continue to receive \$36,000 for their roles in supporting this project.
- The budget will continue to provide \$35,000 for Christian resources, support for miscellaneous Christian program items such as graduation, and for restorative practice support.
- We will continue to provide almost \$70,000 for 12 hours per week of pastoral care workers in each school.
- Our schools also will receive \$95,000 for support towards the hiring of a Mental Health Therapist. Due to provincial budget cuts this position was no longer feasible but felt to be very necessary. There were cuts to some different categories that were felt to be less important, to facilitate this expense.

Transportation

- We will continue to support 2 routes next year to bring students from St. Albert, Spruce Grove and Stony Plain areas and we are going to continue with the shuttle between Northeast and the High School. These routes will be outsourced.
- We will also be organizing the field trips for the schools. All the field trips will be run by the same company that does our routes. The cost of each field trip will be charged back to the school. We do have to pay for the time it takes to organize all of the field trips that we have. Society staff will continue to take care of the route design and the field trips.

Development, Marketing and Fundraising

- Enrolment for our K-9 schools continues to look very strong. We have very few openings in those areas. We have been concentrating our marketing on challenging

grade 9 families to make ECS their choice for high school. Several events have taken place, which were supported by the society, that were geared to grade 9 students. In the 2020 - 2021 school year we will continue to support these events. Our entire development and marketing budget will be \$227,964. This includes funds for a development director, the Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), advertising, website development, promotional material and anything else that goes with development.

- 2020-2021 is a year that we have to develop all new promotional material. We have used the old stuff long enough and we have run out.
- We are also spending \$65,000 developing and monitoring our brand through the use of a Community Engagement Coordinator. We are getting our story out there through social media, our website and any other way we can to ensure that people know what we are about.

Facilities

- For students to do their best work they need facilities that will allow them to do so. We are committing \$150,000 towards furniture and fixtures that schools can use to help to create learning environments that are 21st century.
- We are also going to build a new maintenance garage.
- This year however the west school will need the bulk of the money as they have a lot of new rooms to fill. \$100,000 will go to the west school and the High school and Northeast school will get \$25,000 each.
- Of course we will continue to be in the midst of a large building project. The projection is that we will be spending \$5.7 million on the building in 2020-2021. Financing will cover this amount. When it is all said and done we are projecting that we will be borrowing \$11,850,000 for the project. Together with the remaining loans that we have (\$854,000 from the NE mortgage and \$577,000 from the loan for the new portables at NE) we will have a consolidated mortgage of \$13,281,000. At 4% the payments would be \$68,620. Right now we are paying \$60,741 per month for our loans and mortgages, an accelerated amount. The difference would be \$7,879 per month or \$95,548 per year. Mortgage rates are pretty low right now so we may be able to do a bit better than 4%. Each ¼% it goes down saves the society about \$23,000.
- We expect to spend \$144,000 on regular maintenance next year.

Administration

- Not much has changed with the administration budget from last year. We will have to follow closely what the bad debt might look like.

BOARD NOMINEES – 3 TO BE ELECTED

Harriet Eskiw

My name is Harriet Eskiw and I am an Edmonton Christian School Alumni. I have served on the ESCE board for the past 3 years and have taken on the role of Secretary this past year. My husband Kevin and I have been married for 20 years and have been members of the Edmonton Society for Christian Education for the past 11 years. We have 2 children who have both attended Edmonton Christian School West since kindergarten. Emily is in grade 10 and Nathan is in grade 7. Our family attends Beulah Alliance Church.

I attended Capernwray Bible School for one year before obtaining my Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the U of A. I worked as a pediatric nurse at the Stollery Children's Hospital for 8 years until Nathan was born. Since then, I have had the privilege of staying home with my children while working casually at a pediatrician's clinic. Being a nurse is a blessing to me as it allows me to use the gifts God has given me. I have strong organizational skills, a caring and compassionate heart and a great love for people. I have also enjoyed using these gifts to serve the women on the streets of Edmonton as a volunteer on the People At Risk Salvation Army van for the past several years. This van provides the women with items they need for their physical and spiritual well-being as well as offering assistance in securing shelter and counselling. I love meeting the women, chatting with them, listening to their stories and praying with them while providing for their physical needs of food and clothing.

I particularly love working with children and find myself gravitating to areas of service that involve kids! I taught Sunday school at Beulah for many years and served as a GEMS leader at WECA. Working part time has afforded me the luxury of spending a lot of time in my children`s classrooms and volunteering on field trips giving me a firsthand glimpse into the awesome things that go on at our school.

I loved my years at Edmonton Christian School and feel so thankful and blessed that my own children have the privilege of a Christ-centered Education. I would be honored to continue to serve on the board and use the gifts that God has given me to serve Him and our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Brent Taylor

My wife Arlene Schilke and I have been members of the society since 2014. We have four children who are in Grades 5, 8, 10 and 11. They attend Edmonton Christian West and High School. Our family currently attends Beulah Alliance Church which has been my church home for the past 29 years.

We live in Lewis Estates where our children were previously enrolled in the Logos program at Winterburn School. I volunteered on the Winterburn School Council for two years, with one served as Chair.

I began a career in the meetings and events industry 27 years ago as an audio visual technician. This eventually led to producing and managing conferences, conventions and live events. My wife and I operate Timewise Event Management, as well as Event Technology Solutions. We both actively volunteer in our industry at an international level. I currently sit on the Board of Directors for Meeting Professionals International, our industry's largest professional association. We provide corporate governance and strategic guidance to this organization of 18,000 members globally.

I have a B.A. in Christian Studies from Briercrest Bible College. I look forward to putting this education and my experience serving on boards to work as a Board Trustee for ESCE.

Jason Veenstra

I am married to Andrea Veenstra (Huitsing) with four kids ages 5 to 13 who all attend Edmonton Christian Northeast School. Andrea and I are both imports to Edmonton having moved here after high school (Andrea from Thunder Bay, Ontario and myself from Smithers, BC) and have enjoyed in the school community at ECNS. We are proud to have all four of kids there at one time for this shortened year and hopefully a full next year. We are long standing members of First Christian Reformed Church and I have routinely been on Council during our time at First.

I currently work for North American Construction Group based in Acheson, Alberta as their CFO. As mentioned, I grew up in Smithers, BC and attended the Bulkley Valley Christian School from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and am a firm believer in the importance of Christian education. I attended King University College for two years but transferred to and graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Alberta. Lastly, I am a Certified Professional Accountant after articling at Ernst & Young.

Executive Director Year End Report

Peter Buisman

You can't start any year-end report now without first talking about the unprecedented time that we are all living in. Our world is so very different from what it was even 3 months ago. From what we read and hear we know that there will be a new normal and our school will not be an exception. Right up front we just have to say how grateful we are to the staff and administration for all their work in trying to maintain some sense of learning normalcy. As well, we are incredibly grateful to our parents for their support of the school staff and for all of their efforts in keeping the learning going. Our school community as a whole has been amazing in supporting one another and the community at large. The Society is so blessed to have such tremendous support. When so many families are, no doubt, feeling the financial crunch, they continue to support the school and Christian education.

As a Society we have had many conversations with other schools, supporting organizations, lawyers, and human resource consultants to ensure that we are doing what we can to support the families in our community, keep our buildings going as best we can and to support our staff. We are happy to report that the Society's finances continue to be in good shape as the decreases that we are experiencing in funding are being offset by some decreases in expenses. We are also happy to report that, so far, enrollment looks quite strong for the 2020-21 school year. Again, we want to ensure our families that we will do what we can to support you. If you are struggling with the payments or if you are thinking about withdrawing because of finances, talk to us first. We want to be sure that Christian education is available to the families in Edmonton who desire that for their children.

As the pandemic unfolds and we process all the new information the board is looking at what the school will look like in the next 2, 5 or 15 years. One thing we know, schools will not be the same. The board is truly interested in staying true to the vision and mission. There are ongoing conversations about how, even in a time such as this, we can be relentless about who we are as a Christian school. No doubt the strategic plan will have to be altered with a special eye looking at reviewing our program fee assistance program. The government is considering several scenarios to have students come back to the classroom, all of which the schools have to be prepared for. The society is looking at these scenarios to find ways to support the staff and students in all of them.

We feel truly blessed by what has been happening with the building project. If you have driven by lately or if you have been following the project via the pictures on our website, you have noticed that there has been significant progress. It looks very much like the new part of the school will be finished for a Sept. 1 opening. As well, since there are no students in the school, we decided to move forward on renovating the West side of the building.

Instead of that renovation being finished sometime in the new year we are now looking to have that done by the end of November. We are extremely pleased with the progress and with the way the design is turning out. The school will be an amazing facility that reflects 21st-century learning.

We were very much hoping to schedule tours of the new building this month for anyone that wanted to come. We are keeping a close eye on whether or not that might be possible but so far we simply cannot do it. This is just another thing that is disappointing at this time. This, along with the auction and other events that were planned and cannot happen does make the intentional development of community hard. We are happy to at least have an online auction that may generate some participation and give us a bit of a feeling of participating together. We may even raise a bit of money to boot. We are grateful to all those who already donated to the auction. It is very much appreciated.

We have been thankful for the partnership we have with the Prairie Centre for Christian Education as they have been very supportive during this time. The weekly "Throughline" devotionals that have gone out to parents have been a huge support and have given many families opportunities to enhance student and, for that matter, family learning and service.

We are certainly hoping that this time of isolation will soon be over. Schooling is an important part of family life and we know face to face contact is important in building strong communities. I have spoken with several teachers who truly miss being with the kids. It is quite hard for many of them. I have also talked to many families who are feeling quite stressed as they experience distance learning along with having parents working from home. I pray that the silver linings that some have experienced, the simpler life, building new family traditions, enjoying being outside etc., are all things that we can hold on to and perhaps keep even when we get through this.

On a personal note, I want to say that I cannot think of a better job to have than to work at Edmonton Christian Schools. After 31 years at ECS and 41 years working in Christian education, I am going to retire at the end of this school year. It has been an amazing ride. The friends that I made, the people that I worked with, and the support of the whole school community over the years has been overwhelming. For all of that, I want to thank you. It has been great being a part of a growing, vibrant school community that continually takes leaps of faith to grow a school, to serve a community that works to be inclusive of differences including different church denominations, and that especially wants to honour the name of Jesus in all that it does. I have always been thankful that my own children graduated from ECS and now I can watch some of my grandchildren grow and mature at the school. My prayer will always be that ECS will be a place where God is honoured, where students will be challenged to use their gifts to serve others, and where everyone feels welcomed in authentic Christian community.

Principals Report For ESCE AGM June 1, 2020

Vision: Accepting Christ's Invitation to Live for Renewal

Mission: Responding to God's grace, Edmonton Christian Schools challenge students, through Christ-centred education, to actively play their role in God's story.

Theme: play your role in God's story...

Enrollment & Registration Update:

- Northeast School = 670
- West Total = 571
- High School Total = 267

Professional Development Update:

Teaching staff at all 3 campuses are continuing their collective work on Teaching for Transformation (TfT) core practices:

Core Practice #1 - Storyline

Core Practice #2 - Biblical Throughlines

Core Practice #3 - Real Work, Real Problems, Real Audience through Formational Learning Experiences (FLEx)

Implementation of Deep Hopes and Storylines into our school learning environments took place during the 2018/2019 school year. This school year sees an emphasis on Core Practice #3. These three core practices are directly linked to our mission & vision and are reshaping the TfT practices of our staff.

To support our growth in this, Clint Schenk from Northeast, in consultation with Hendrik Wolmarans and Tim Epp, have developed a year long PD plan. Clint has been active in our schools, leading staff meetings and professional development sessions. At Northeast, Clint led a half-day PD with staff in August and he has been out this fall for two further staff meetings at each campus. The staff from West and High School were further supported by Clint at the November 29, 2019 PD day and all three staff groups continued this work on the February 18, 2020 PD day.

Core Practice #3 - Real Work, Real Problems, Real Audience through FLEx:

- Allows us to actively live our 10 Throughlines and we intend that formational learning experiences will turn a Throughline into a “do” line and “who” line.
- Activities are directly connected to the provincial curriculum and to at least one Throughline.
- Are focused on inquiry by using a driving question that is meaningful and relevant.
- Allows us to change the student’s audience (not just doing something for the teacher).
- Supports student voice and choice - evident in both planning and implementing the FLEx activity.
- Is flexible, not a one size fits all approach to learning.
- Includes a student reflection activity - what did a student learn through their experience? What did a student learn about themselves?

Examples of FLEx activities:

1. Personal Service and/or personal service involving others
2. Myth busting/Informing - providing others with accurate information
3. Advocacy, students using their voice to support the “voiceless”
4. Encouragement to the work others are currently doing
5. Sharing products that are created or skills which were learned
6. Service to our own community
7. Broader community service/Global service
8. Fundraising/providing goods

Learning in the Time of COVID - Together at a Distance

As you are all aware our school year was interrupted by a global pandemic. Our province’s response to this played out in real time when school principals were informed on the evening of Sunday, March 15, that students would not be able to attend school the following day. This was a shock to our school community and our teachers arrived on Monday to grieve this loss together and start to consider how to transition to on-line learning. Our school division suspended instruction for that week to give teachers time to plan, learn and prepare for the new reality of teaching on-line.

As teachers, parents, and students, we began in September, expressing our Deep Hopes for what this school year would bring, none of us anticipated the huge challenges that this year would bring. As this current reality has impacted all of us in profound ways, some of them extremely challenging, it has also provided us with an opportunity to be reflective, connect with each other and really consider what matters most at Edmonton Christian Schools. As staff members, this has meant that we have been able to take some opportunities to grow and adapt, opportunities that we haven't always had the time and space for. There has been a lot of learning as we have settled into the world of distance and online learning. As we start to reflect on lessons learned there are many things that our teachers will take from this experience as we look forward.

Our teachers became learners in a big way. The most important part of the "new normal" was ensuring that we were maintaining relationships with students and their families. We felt fortunate to be able to build strong foundations with our students while they were still in the school building and use that trust to engage students while modeling our own learning. Our grade level teams, been able to collaborate in a way that they have not have not been able to before. They are in each other's classrooms every single day. Learning from each other about technology, lesson planning, assessment, and how to best support our students. Every member of our staff comes with strengths and gifts and we have been given the opportunity to learn from each other.

As Administrators, Our DEEP HOPE for our staff was that they have time, space and support to reflect on and collaborate with colleagues with the primary goal purpose of inviting, nurturing and empowering students to play their part within God's unfolding story of redemption.

This Deep Hope has become even more meaningful as we consider the important work we are doing during this uncertain time. What we do have as Christians, is hope. We have an opportunity now to be hopeful, to learn from our experiences, to bring the best part of the past forward and be more present in the future. To play our role in God's story in ways that we have not considered before. In ways that show love to each other and serve the world. This is our hope for our community.

2019-2020 Staff Recognition

5 years:
Gebremedhin, Wolde
Klok, Pauline
Middel, Anthony
Middel, Rachel
Mulder, Krista
Nelson, Michelle
Oskoboiny, Darren
Vriend, Marianne
Wallace, Andrew
10 Years:
Befus, Liz
Lauber (Knibbe), Megan
Reynolds, Rachel
VanGelder, Lisa
15 Years:
Huculak, Cyndi
25 Years:
Herrera, Lijia
30 Years:
Piers, Brian
RETIRING:
Buisman, Peter - 31 years
Gurnett, Greg - 40 years
Junk, Elaine - 29 years
Stikma, Marcia - 19 years



ABSENTEE BALLOT

In regard to the votes that will take place at the Society Meeting on June 1, 2020,

I vote:

Motion - To approve an increase in the West School construction budget to \$16.6M

Yes **No**

Motion - To accept the 2020-2021 budget as presented: **Yes** **No**

Election of Board members. 3 are needed. Please indicate your choices:

Harriet Eskiw Yes No

Brent Taylor Yes No

Jason Veenstra Yes No

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____

(Please print)

SIGNATURE: _____

Please return this ballot to the Society office by 4:00 p.m. June 1, 2020