



The Edmonton Society for Christian Education

2023 Annual General Meeting Package

AGM: May 29, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Edmonton Christian High School - Library
14304 109 Ave

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2023 AGM Agenda

7:30 PM	Welcome and Opening	Maureen Vaags-Nyhof Jason Veenstra
7:45 PM	ESCE Business:	
	Approval of June 2, 2022 Minutes	Jason Veenstra
	Executive Director's Report	Maureen Vaags-Nyhof
	Presentation for Approval of Budget 2022-2023	Heidi Dasilva
	Election of New Board members	Brent Taylor
	Motion to Destroy the Absentee Ballots	Jason Veenstra
	Acknowledgement of board member retirees, and long term school employees and retirees	Jason Veenstra Darren Oskoboiny Karla Loberg-Walter Maureen Vaags-Nyhof
8:50 PM	Closing	Maureen Vaags-Nyhof

2022 AGM Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Zoom on June 2, 2022, at 7:30 PM

1. Welcome and Opening (Jeremy Thiessen)
 - a. It was noted that we have Quorum and can proceed
 - b. Acknowledgement that we gather on Treaty 6 land
 - c. Review of meeting procedure via Zoom
 - d. Devotions
 - i. Proverbs 29:18, James 1:5
 - ii. God's instruction, through his word, keeps us safe and allows us to enjoy this world within the safety of the boundaries he has set. We live in a world that is trying to replace God's promises and guidance with the things of this world. It is important that we pray for God's wisdom while also studying and living out God's word. This will guide us in our Christian walk and give us direction when we have to choose between what looks good, what feels good, and what is good.
2. ESCE Business
 - a. Approval of the May 31, 2021 minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the minutes from last year's AGM
 1. Moved by Alicia Worobetz and seconded by Jason Veenstra
 2. Questions - call for any questions from the attendees related to the 2021 AGM minutes
 3. The Motion was carried
 - b. Executive Directors Report (Jeremy Thiessen)
 - i. Jeremy reviewed the highlights from the executive director report linked [HERE](#) as part of the AGM package.
 - c. Presentation for approval of the 2022-2023 Budget (Jason Veenstra)
 - i. Jason reviewed the budget as presented in the AGM package (focusing on the executive summary)
 - ii. Motion to approve the ESCE proposed budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year as presented
 1. Moved by Rod Snaterse and seconded by TJ Lagestee
 2. Questions - call for any questions from the attendees related to the presented budget
 - a. One member asked about viewing the statement of financial position. Jason explained that this was not included in the AGM package but could be made available.
 - d. Election of new board members (Brent Taylor)
 - i. 3 Board Nominees:
 1. Ben Bentum

2. Heidi Dasilva
 3. Ryan Huisman
 - ii. Motion to affirm the slate of nominees presented to become members of the Board of the Edmonton Society for Christian Education
 1. Moved by Victor Mema and seconded by Laura Lagestee
 2. Questions - call for any questions from the attendees related to the nominees
 3. Motion carried for the slate of nominees
 - e. Motion to destroy the ballots
 - i. Moved by Alicia Worobetz and seconded by Rod Snaterse
 - ii. Motion is carried
 - f. Principals Report (Darren Oskoboiny)
 - i. Our school theme for the year was Great Is Thy Faithfulness. We celebrate God's faithfulness to us this year! Darren acknowledged the incredible work and dedication of the staff and the students during another year impacted by Covid. The staff have kept student learning and love for the students as a priority through ever-changing circumstances. Most of this year's learning was done in person, which was a blessing! Darren thanked the society staff, mental health therapist and pastoral care for their amazing support of students and staff. The school was able to resume some of the regular field trips, assemblies and in-person chapels this year. Plans are also in progress for end-of-year celebrations and Graduation activities.
3. Acknowledgement of Long-term employees, Retirees and Retiring board members
- a. Long-term service employees
 - i. 5 years: Alvin Evangelista, Emily Green, Jennifer Knol, Aurelie Krikke, Christy Nap-VanLaar, Erica Risselada, Brooke Schaitel, Beth Skepple, Jessica VanDoesburg, Tanya Van Niejenhuis
 - ii. 10 years: Suzanne Hogendoorn
 - iii. 15 years: Tim Epp, Heather Greene, Megan Tolhurst
 - iv. 20 years: Helen Lobert, Brady Van Ry, Julie Rosenberger
 - v. 25 years: Mary Van Driesum
 - vi. 30 years: Rob Hofstede, Monique Otteson
 - b. Retirees
 - i. Teresa Lindemulder (18 years)
 - ii. Linda Piers (21 years)
 - c. Retiring board members
 - i. Jeremy Thiessen, Jennifer Snaterse and Brian Trevelyan
4. Closing (Jeremy Thiessen)

Executive Director Year-End Report

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Vaags-Nyhof, Executive Director

Be Transformed

The last year has brought both tremendous blessings and significant challenges. Within that, we make room for Both/And. We can BOTH rejoice in the growth, renewal, successes, and good news, AND we can lament loss, frustrations, hurts, and adjustments. But through it all, God continues to cover Edmonton Christian Schools with His mercy and grace. He has been faithful and gracious to us, and we have witnessed His spirit moving in all three of our schools and in the lives of His children. As I got to know our community, learned, and observed, I have been inspired and encouraged by countless examples and evidence of Christian perspective (Teaching for Transformation) happening in our classrooms, schools, and our broader community. God is with us, and He makes His love and presence known daily.

Major Themes of 2023-2024

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Romans 12:2

This school year, we have embraced the theme of “Be Transformed.” Our deep hope for our students through this theme was to foster their own ongoing transformation:

- to increase understanding of how their minds are constantly renewed as they grow and learn
- to nurture the growth of their faith that expresses itself in love in and for the world
- to show them the transformational power God has as we join Him in loving what He loves.

The more sobering, unintended reality of that theme has been the unprecedented change or transformation that we have experienced in our community. In a year when the hope was to regrow, rebuild, redesign, and return to the previously underappreciated ways we get to live in community, we have experienced loss, pain, sadness, suffering, and change. We coveted and valued the prayers surrounding:

- those experiencing suffering and loss, known and unknown, including and especially the families and friends of Sid de Haan and Karen Bellous
- students who need guidance and coaching with social and emotional skills in order to show grace, build resilience, and learn strategies to self-regulate and develop healthy relationships

- new admin and staff, strengthening teams and communities in our schools, including welcoming Cely Viera, the pastoral care leader who began in February when Hilary Andermatt went on maternity leave
- continued increased illness and absence of staff and students
- shifting and new roles of the Society staff navigating an uncertain situation, resulting in a new Executive Director and a new Director of Learning
- saying farewell and thank you to a beloved principal, Darren Oskiboiny, who is retiring, and the process of finding someone new to serve and lead

As a Society, we have continued to support the mental and spiritual health of students, staff and families by providing additional resources like a full-time Mental Health Therapist (Jacqueline Boschman), Pastoral Care Leaders (Pauline Klok and Cely Viera), providing a space to talk about, pray about, or step back from some of the challenges faced.

While we are in a very different context, Sid's closing statement from last year still holds true:

"It is our Deep Hope that as our situation begins to normalize (stabilize), we will be able to regain much of what was lost or damaged during the past year and that we can do so as a grace-filled community united by our faith and the unfailing love of our Creator."

Development and Admissions

In total, our fundraising efforts have brought in an additional \$50,000 more than the previous fiscal year (\$232,000 compared to \$182,000). We are deeply grateful to God for His provision and for stirring the hearts of our community toward sacrificial generosity.

Carnival

After surveying our community, we decided to host a family carnival at the Northeast School instead of our annual golf tournament in September. The result was a successful community-building fundraiser that saw 800 people attend, \$30,000 raised, and 40 sponsors become involved. The feedback we received was so positive that we decided to make it an annual event.

Auction

The Auction is our other major community-building fundraiser. This year we are pleased to report that involvement has returned to pre-pandemic levels. We collected 200 more items and raised

\$10,000 more than last year. After expenses, we raised \$41,228. Over 900 attendees joined us for a fun-filled evening of bidding on over 600 items kindly donated by local businesses and individuals.

Subsidy Campaign

Our fall campaign highlighted the increased need for subsidies among our families and raised an incredible \$46,630. These funds will help provide subsidies to an additional 30 families that may not have been able to access Christian education otherwise.

Information Sessions

We hosted six Info Sessions for prospective families to help them decide if ECS is a good fit for their family. 118 families interested in ECS attended an info session at either the West or Northeast school from December to April.

Refugee Sponsorship Project

The Society decided to sponsor two young men from Ethiopia who are family members of a staff member at ECHS. Necessary funds were raised to submit a sponsorship application. We just received the first response from the August 2022 applications that all necessary paperwork has been received, is completed correctly, and will now be assessed to be approved or refused. This is a project that could still potentially take several years to complete. Your continued prayers are requested that the process goes well and that the two young men remain safe.

CRA Court Update

In October 2021, our dispute with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) regarding the receipting of Christian Program fees was heard in court. In this matter, the court ruled in December 2022 that a benefit is being received by parents/guardians and/or students in exchange for said fees. As such Christian program fees paid to ESCE will continue to be ineligible as charitable donations, and therefore tax receipts cannot be provided for such fees.

Looking Ahead to 2023-2024

Enrolment Growth

We praise God that our enrollment continues to be very strong. Our schools are full of students learning about God's story, which is exactly our purpose. We love to see our schools as close to capacity as possible but are also saddened when we must turn some families away. Unfortunately, that was the reality this year again, especially when it came to certain classes that had particularly

high demand. At the time of this report, there is space only in Grades 11 and 12 at the High School and Grades 8 and 9 at the West School. We are on track to welcome 1575 students across our three schools in September. We are encouraged to see a very strong desire for families to attend our schools and a high retention rate for those already enrolled. God has truly blessed us in this area.

Northeast Site Redevelopment Project

The Northeast Site Redevelopment Project was one of the many initiatives that faced delays due to the pandemic. However, we are grateful to Suzanne Hogendoorn, our Facilities Manager, Ryan Huisman, the Facilities Board Rep, the admin, staff, and a few parents who helped us resume the project. Plans are back underway to solve the drainage problem and redesign the entire site surrounding the school into a thriving area for outdoor learning and activity. Not only will we improve the drainage, but we will also transform our outdoor space to increase learning engagement and Formative Learning Experiences (FLEx) opportunities for the students.

Final drawings, timelines, and estimates will be ready soon for review, at which time a concrete plan to start the capital campaign and the project will be developed and implemented. We are excited about this opportunity to provide inviting, attractive, fun alternate spaces and strategies for meaningful, transformational learning for all students.

New Leadership at West and the High School

The Board Chair, Jason Veenstra, and Vice Chair, Corinne Hansen, joined me in partnering with EPSB to find a new principal to fill Darren Oskoboiny's role. We felt supported and heard as we shared our hopes and needs for a leader at ECS. EPSB values Edmonton Christian Schools and the mutually beneficial relationship we have. They want us to thrive, to continue our work, and to have leaders who support and believe in our mission and vision. The partnership agreement was honoured, allowing for us to have valuable conversations with good leadership candidates in the school division.

We were grateful to learn that Hendrik Wolmarans, our current assistant principal at West School, was appointed to be the principal at West and the High School starting in the 2023-24 school year. Hendrik has a deep knowledge of and commitment to Christian education, to our community, and to the Teaching For Transformation work that we are doing. He will lead well and love and care for our students.

New Hire, Director of Learning

We are excited to share that the Society has once again successfully hired a new Director of Learning to support and grow the Christian program across all three schools. The new Director of Learning is Anthony Middel, a familiar, reassuring face to many of our staff, having served as a valued teacher at our Northeast school for the last 8 years. He has both personal and professional experience with Christian education and Teaching for Transformation (TfT), and versatile skills from his experience as a K-9 Music and Physical Education teacher, chapel and assembly coordinator and leader, and coach.

Anthony's passion for music, athletics, outdoor education, and their harmonious integration reflects his deep hope for students to *hear* the beauty of creation and *join* in that beauty. This unique perspective fuels his innovative and creative approach in supporting teachers within our TfT and FLEx work. We eagerly look forward to our collaboration with Anthony when he joins ESCE in mid-August.

About Anthony

Anthony, a native of Lethbridge, Alberta, came to Edmonton to attend King's University. After earning his Bachelor of Arts in Music, he pursued a Bachelor of Education degree. During his studies, he had the opportunity to complete his practicum at Edmonton Christian Schools and has taught at Edmonton Christian Northeast School ever since. While teaching a variety of subjects, including Social Studies, Language Arts, Bible, and Physical Education, his passion lies in nurturing students through the art of music.



Anthony's dedication to his craft extends beyond the classroom. He has actively coordinated and led worship services at King's University, Edmonton Christian, and Fellowship Christian Reformed Church. In his leisure time, he finds joy in reading, baking bread, playing music, enjoying a delicious cup of coffee, and cherishing moments with his family in Edmonton's beautiful River Valley. His wife, Rachel, is a Junior High teacher at ECWS, and they are blessed with two children, Evelyn and Arie.

While Anthony will miss his impactful role at ECNS, where he has served since 2015, he eagerly looks forward to embracing his new position as Director of Learning, collaborating with the communities across all three Edmonton Christian schools. His excitement stems from the opportunity to support Christian education at Edmonton Christian Schools and to further cultivate a lasting legacy that challenges students to play their role in God's story.

Budget 2023-2024

Statement of Operations

The Edmonton Society for Christian Education			
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Budget			
Statement of Operations			
	2023-2024 Budget	2022-2023 Forecast	2021-2022 Actuals
Student Enrolment:			
Preschool	61	68	62
K-12	1,575	1,465	1,439
1. REVENUE			
1.1 Christian Program Fees	1,985,870	1,866,123	1,791,112
1.1b Subsidy Expense	(110,000)	(130,000)	(104,152)
1.2 Preschool Fees	77,595	71,699	91,695
Capital Assessment	223,600	202,500	205,109
1.3 Transportation Fees	137,040	130,000	80,554
1.4 Facilities Lease	806,400	806,400	805,716
1.5 Memberships & Donations	200,000	160,000	159,436
1.6 Church Collections	15,000	7,500	5,674
1.7.1 Special Fundraising - Auction	40,000	40,000	34,515
1.7.2 Special Fundraising - Other	15,000	17,000	0
1.8 Miscellaneous Income	9,500	34,000	40,256
1.9 Senior High Cafeteria Revenue	25,000	25,000	29,456
1.11 Amortization of def. cap.contributions	260,374	262,000	261,560
1.12 Capital Campaign revenue	20,000	42,000	0
1.13 Capital campaign revenue deferred	(20,000)	(42,000)	0
	3,685,379	3,492,222	3,400,930

2. SCHOOL SUPPORT			
2.1 School Staff Christian Prof. Dev. and Curriculum Dev	333,891	270,000	160,587
2.2 Memberships in Christian support organizations	73,885	73,000	72,410
2.3 Preschool Expenses	78,825	70,000	180,904
2.4 Senior High Cafeteria Expenses	25,000	25,000	22,934
2.5 Other Christian Program Expenses (i.e. Grad gifts)	10,000	10,000	16,982
2.6 Christian Program Learning Resources	2,000	2,000	9,956
2.7 Furniture, Equipment, Computers under \$1500	65,000	65,000	67,233
2.8 Amortization of Furn., Equip., Comp.	133,813	137,359	150,496
	722,413	652,359	681,502
3. TRANSPORTATION			
3.1 Salaries & Benefits	0	0	0
3.2 Route costs	125,000	114,500	111,900
3.3 Field trip costs	40,000	52,000	7,030
3.4 Amortization of Buses	0	0	0
3.5 insurance	0	0	21
	165,000	166,500	118,951
4. DEVELOPMENT, ADMISSIONS, MARKETING			
4.1 Salaries & Benefits	178,442	185,039	146,184
4.2 Advertising & Promotion	30,000	30,000	22,987
4.3 Society Expenses related to development	20,000	20,000	38,118
4.4 Membership dues development	0	0	0
	228,442	235,039	207,289
5. FACILITIES			
5.1 Maintenance	178,000	457,537	164,643
5.1.1 Salaries and Benefits	139,668	145,864	115,947
5.2 Utilities	375,000	364,729	340,808
5.3 Insurance	84,065	72,828	63,077
5.4 Mortgage Interest	390,754	415,807	427,919
5.5 Amortization of Buildings & Portables	899,933	900,388	896,499
5.6 Amortization of Vehicle	9,732	9,732	9,732
5.7 Temporary Portables	0	0	0
	2,077,152	2,366,885	2,018,625

6. ADMINISTRATION			
6.1 Salaries & Benefits	303,916	204,491	267,757
6.2 Office Expenses includes equipment leasing	15,000	17,000	17,289
6.3 Insurance	2,455	2,046	9,652
6.4 Memberships & Dues (AISCA)	11,745	11,400	12,507
6.5 Professional Fees	45,000	34,073	39,929
6.6 Bank Charges, Discounts, Interest	15,000	14,500	10,875
6.7 Computer Systems Support	65,000	22,000	13,335
6.8 (Gain) Loss on sale of Equipment	0	0	0
6.9 Bad Debt	60,000	50,000	37,186
	518,116	355,510	408,530
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,711,123	3,776,293	3,434,897
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES - OPERATIONS	(25,744)	(284,071)	(33,967)

Executive Summary

1. Strong demand signals highest-ever attendance at 1575
2. On track for a balanced budget for the current year
3. Staffing in place for all Society positions for next year
4. No increase in fees for the coming school year

Repairs, Maintenance, and Improvements

Budget 2023-2024 maintenance budget of \$178k includes:

- Hippo CMMS software to improve maintenance planning & execution
- Replacement trees at NE School
- Repair of rooftop heating cooling system at High school gym
- High School roof repair
- Various heating, plumbing & electrical projects

Key Figures

- Receipts - \$3.4m
- Operating costs - \$2.9m
- Mortgage payments - \$400k
- Capital projects - \$110k

Cash Receipts - \$3.4m

- Program fees of \$1.9m (58%) based on strong enrolment
- Expected lease revenue of \$806k consistent with the current year
- Donations & fundraising

Board Nominees

Nominee Name: Lindsay McDavid

Member of Society since: 2019

Nature of current association with Edmonton Christian Schools:

Two of my children are West School students currently in grades 5 and 3. My two younger boys will also be attending once they are of school age.

Previous ECS volunteer/committee/Board experience:

In 2022, I had the privilege of contributing to the success of the annual auction by volunteering my time and donating several items. Additionally, I served on the executive/elder board for three years at The River Community Church, where I gained valuable leadership experience as both a secretary and chairperson. I am eager to bring my skills and passion for community involvement to the ECS Board and contribute to the school's continued growth and success.

Areas of expertise:

As a professional environmental biologist with extensive leadership and management experience, I bring a unique skill set to the table. I'm currently on maternity leave, but my position as a project manager at an engineering and environmental company has equipped me with budget management, client management, and regulatory application expertise.

I have also served on an executive council and coordinated a girls' program through my church, GEMS, where I honed my management and leadership skills.

Additionally, I have been coaching rowing since 2003, working with students, teachers, and parents in various programs, including adult training and high school programs. My experience in developing workouts and training exercises, as well as working with diverse stakeholders, has been an integral part of my leadership development.

Areas of interest:

While I do not have a specific area of interest in serving on the board, I am open to exploring various opportunities and believe my skills are well-suited for planning and organizing. My experience in project management and leadership has equipped me with the ability to effectively manage and coordinate tasks, ensuring successful outcomes. Additionally, my personal interests

include reading, biking, going for walks with my kids, camping, and traveling. These activities have taught me the importance of adaptability, creativity, and problem-solving.

Leadership skills/experience:

I bring a wealth of leadership skills and expertise to the table, honed over years of experience in various roles. As a project manager, I have led teams of people to successfully complete projects for over 10 years. In addition, I served as the chairperson for my church's executive council for one year, where I demonstrated my organizational skills and passion for community involvement. As a rowing coach and leader of GEMS for four years, I developed insights into leading and motivating groups of diverse individuals. I possess strong observational skills, which allow me to understand the nuances of group dynamics and communication. I can also be commanding when necessary to ensure a project's success. Moreover, I am skilled in collaborating with groups and teams of individuals to achieve shared goals.

Faith Community/Participation:

My involvement in the Christian community has been a meaningful part of my life. Currently, I serve on a hospitality group at our church, where we come together to prepare freezer meals for families in need within our community. Additionally, I volunteer for various church events and attend weekly women's bible studies. Through my involvement in these activities and others, I have gained valuable skills in communication, teamwork, and compassion, which I believe will be valuable assets as a member of the ECS Board.

Why I am willing to serve as a Board member:

I am committed to the success and growth of ESCE, and I am motivated to serve as a Board nominee. My deep investment in education and the future of our community drives me to seek opportunities to contribute to the school's mission. As a parent with young children at ECS, I have a vested interest in ensuring a high-quality Christian education for my family and for all students. I believe in the school's vision and mission, and I am passionate about helping to ensure the continued success of its Christian program. By serving as a Board member, I hope to give back to the community. I am excited about the possibility of working with other dedicated individuals to make a positive impact on the future of ESCE.

Nominee Name: Mark Smeltzer

Member of Society since: 2023

Nature of current association with Edmonton Christian Schools:

I have a son in grade 1 at ECWS.

Previous ECS volunteer/committee/Board experience:

As I am relatively new to the school, I have not had as many opportunities to contribute as I would have liked. However, I have attended several parent helper events and am eager to continue making meaningful contributions in the future.

Areas of expertise:

I possess a diverse range of expertise, including a Religious Education degree from Ambrose College, a Psychology degree from Trinity Western University, and over two decades of experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Furthermore, I am an active member of various committees within my current corporation, including the Pension Committee and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee.

Areas of interest:

My areas of interest are multifaceted and include a passion for Christian Apologetics, a love for various water sports, and spending time with my family.

Leadership skills/experience:

Drawing from my extensive experience and expertise, I have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills throughout my career. A notable example is the Christian Apologetics class that I spearheaded and led at West Edmonton Christian Assembly for a decade. This involved intensive research, weekly presentations, and the facilitation of engaging discussions on a wide range of topics, including Arguments for God's Existence, Arguments for the Resurrection of Christ, and a comprehensive examination of competing worldviews, such as atheism, Islam, JW theology, Mormonism, and more. As the class progressed, I also invited various attendees to lead sessions and contribute to the learning process. This experience motivated me to attend several Apologetics and Christian Philosophy conferences in the United States, where I was able to engage with some of the most accomplished Christian Apologists in the world, further enhancing my leadership skills and knowledge.

Faith Community/Participation:

Currently, my family is attending North Pointe Community Church.

Why I am willing to serve as a Board member:

It would be an honour for me to serve on the ESCE board and help further the mission and values of ECS. My interest is to ensure that the ECS's values and pillars are advanced within the school system. Serving on the board enables me to ensure that these foundational principles continue to be championed within the school system and that every student has the opportunity to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Christian worldview. I believe that Christianity represents the most logical and compelling worldview when compared to any other alternative, and I am eager to help convey this message to students, parents, and the broader community.

Nominee Name: Neil Roberts

Member of Society since: 2023

Nature of current association with Edmonton Christian School:

My present affiliation with Edmonton Christian School entails my three daughters' enrollment in Grades 3, 4, and 6 at Edmonton Christian Northeast School. In the past, I have actively supported my wife Melissa in her endeavours, specifically with the planning of the highly successful 2022 carnival fundraiser and the hot lunch program at ECNS. More recently, I have expressed my interest in launching an after-school running club at ECNS, and I am currently awaiting a response from the school administration regarding teacher sponsorship to facilitate this program.

Previous ECS volunteer/committee/Board experience:

While my previous experience volunteering with Edmonton Christian School is limited, I have actively participated in attending parent council meetings and provided support to my wife as she dedicated her time and energy to assist with organizing the successful 2022 ECS carnival.

Areas of expertise:

My areas of expertise are centred around building maintenance and contractor management. With over fifteen years of experience as a journeyman carpenter, I have spent the last nine years serving in the maintenance department at Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools. Additionally, I have had the privilege of contributing to the successful facilitation of three new playground builds in collaboration with the City of St. Albert and the school's parent councils. I hold certification as a Canadian Certified Playground Inspector and am responsible for overseeing the maintenance and repair of playground equipment across multiple locations, including St. Albert, Morinville, and Legal, for Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools.

Areas of interest:

My areas of interest are focused on providing my three daughters with the best possible opportunities to grow into godly young women. As a firm believer in the importance of physical fitness, I am passionate about creating opportunities for children to develop and use the physical talents that God has bestowed upon them. In addition to this, I enjoy serving others and performing the often overlooked, blue-collar tasks that are required to support my church, friends, and those in need.

Leadership skills/experience:

My leadership skills are grounded in the principles of servant leadership, as I prioritize supporting and encouraging others and setting an example through my actions. Whenever I have been entrusted with leadership responsibilities, whether in a professional, church, or community setting, my goal has been to embody the values of Christ in my approach. In my professional life, I have been called upon to lead the maintenance department on several occasions when the facilities manager was unavailable. Within my church community, I have previously served on the board of deacons, where I was able to utilize my leadership skills to make a positive impact. Additionally, I have enjoyed coaching a group of 7-8-year-old soccer players in the community, where I have been able to provide guidance and encouragement to the young athletes.

Faith Community/Participation:

My family and I have been active members of the Capilano Christian Assembly in Edmonton for the past two decades. At our church, we contribute to the community by serving on a janitorial team and volunteering for various ministries throughout the year. In the past, I had the honour of serving on the deacon's board at CCA for two years, from 2017-2019, before taking a break to pursue further post-secondary education. Our faith community holds a special place in our hearts, and we consider it a privilege to be able to give back through our involvement in church activities and programs.

Why I am willing to serve as a Board member:

I am eager to serve as a member of the ECS Board because I wholeheartedly believe in the transformative power of Christ-centred education. I am committed to utilizing my skills and experience to serve the board in any capacity needed, with the ultimate goal of providing my children and others in the ECS system with the opportunity to know Christ and follow him. As someone who recognizes that there is always room for growth and improvement, I am passionate about contributing to the Society's efforts to support, direct, and encourage Edmonton Christian Schools in fulfilling its mission. I am honoured to have the opportunity to give back to the community through my service on the board and to make a positive impact on the lives of ECS students, staff, and families.

Principals Report

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	EDMONTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
<p>VISION: Enhancing pathways for student success</p> <p>MISSION: Our commitment to high-quality public education serves the community and empowers each student to live a life of dignity, fulfillment, empathy and possibility</p> <p>CORNERSTONE VALUES: Accountability, Collaboration, Equity and Integrity</p>	<p>VISION: Accepting Christ's invitation to live for renewal</p> <p>MISSION: Responding to God's grace, Edmonton Christian School challenges students, through Christ-centered education, to actively play their role in God's story.</p>

Throughlines: At ECS, we challenge every student to be a:

Community Builder	Creation Enjoyer
God Worshiper	Order Discoverer
Justice Seeker	Earth Keeper
Servant Worker	Idolatry Discerner
Beauty Creator	Image Reflector

School Theme: Be Transformed

Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Supporting verses:

Col 3:12 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

2 Thes. 1:11 - With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every

deed prompted by faith. 12 We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Deep Hope:

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 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 uncertain times. What we do have as Christians is hope. We have the opportunity 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.

Farewells and Graduations:

As we plan for our end-of-year celebrations and graduation activities, we are currently planning to celebrate important events. Our school communities are looking forward to celebrating the transitions and accomplishments of our students with Kindergarten grads, grade 9 farewells and our high school commencement ceremony and graduation banquet.

Registration & Enrollment:

The registration deadline was April 14. Current numbers for each school (as of April 24):

- **West School** - 575 (this year 550) students, two classes at each grade level from K-9. There was a random selection process conducted for Kindergarten with 27 applicants for the 18 remaining spaces available after all siblings were automatically accepted. West School is full and closed for new registration from Kindergarten to grade 7, with only a couple of spaces available in grades 8 & 9.
- **Northeast School** - 708 (690 this year) students and is currently full and closed for new registration at all grade levels. Northeast was able to accept all registrants up until the April 14 deadline.
- **High School** - 291 students (this year 258), with 3 classes at each grade level and is currently full and closed for new registrations in grade 10.

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)

On the afternoon of Friday, April 28, 2023, teachers from all three schools gathered together at ECNE to celebrate the work we have done around Teaching for Transformation this year. The focus was on how their FLEx ideas materialized and what they have learned to further grow the formational experiences for our students next year. Teachers are all in different places along this journey of creating formational learning experiences, and it was recognized that not everyone has been able to implement a TFT FLEx plan this year. This celebration was about our Deep Hope to transform our students through meaningful engagement in curriculum and real experiences. The ongoing process is messy and complex work that does not look the same in each classroom nor follow the same timeline. This PD Day was also about growing from whatever point teachers are at and looking forward to building something that will be meaningful to their classroom context in the future. We celebrated progress, ideas, beginnings, changes in direction, growth, learning, new understandings, and completions; all of our commitments to try something.

School Events Update and Highlights:

West - Culture Week January 16-20

West school held the first (planning to be an annual event) multicultural week learning and celebration, which included daily themes such as: bringing an artifact about your family to share with your class, reading around the world, learning about different cultures; Dress-up Day - students can wear clothes that remind them of their cultural or family heritage; Class Potluck Lunch inviting parents to send in food to be shared and sampled by the class as a whole from their culture or loved family recipes and a French Carnival where students in every grade were able to learn about some French culture & traditions. Daily devotions for this week included worship music from around the world.

High School - Black History Month:

February was Black History Month, and the high school recognized this through assemblies, announcements and class activities - learning about and celebrating the lives, histories and

accomplishments of Black Albertans and Canadians and the incredible impact they have made. Northeast recognized this through literature and the addition of several visual biographies of Black Albertans and Canadians, as well as a wide variety of class activities.

West - Grade 8 Winter Camp:

Prior to the pandemic, this was an annual event at West school (weather permitting), and on February 27 to March 1, almost all of the grade 8 students from West bravely ventured out to spend time in God's incredible creation. Students were at a new camp just outside Calahoo AB and spent two days and nights (in tents) putting previously learned camping and survival skills into practice, team building, gaining leadership skills and learning about their own personal resiliency when faced with challenging situations and weather conditions.

West - Graticrews:

Four times during the school year, students at West gather for an assembly called Grati-crews (cross-grade groupings of students from each grade, Kindergarten through Grade 9). The purpose of doing this is to community building around Christian Themes relating to our Througlines.

High School - Multicultural Week April 17-21

The high school held a multicultural week of learning and celebration, which included daily themes such as cultural worship music, interactive class challenges and games to facilitate learning about different cultures; Dress-up Day - students wore clothes that represented their cultural or family heritage; school-wide potluck lunch. Classes also gathered around the outdoor flagpole to pray together.

Northeast - Multicultural Day April 6

Our junior high students and staff started mid march planning this annual event. Students assembled in the auditorium for their initial meetings to identify and connect with others who would be showcasing the country their family originated from. Students identified the food, artifacts, and traditions that they would be bringing. The event was attended by all JH students, parents, staff, as well as admin. Tickets were sold at the door so participants could try foods from each table. Delicious!

High School - Student Course Selection April 17 to 24

Grades 9, 10 & 11 students met in person with either Assistant Principal Mr. Epp or Curriculum Coordinator Mrs. Befus to begin/review their three-year high school academic plans and to choose courses for the next school year. Once this has been completed, the high school can begin the scheduling process for the 2023-2024 school year.

High School - Grade 12 Passion Project Evening, May 4

Our grade 12 students attended an evening celebration on May 4, where they shared their passion projects with each other, staff, parents and community members. These projects celebrated how they are playing their role in God's story, using their gifts and talents to enrich the lives of others in our community. Here is an [overview](#) of this project.

Northeast & West - Grade 9 Frontier Lodge Trip in June

This overnight trip is part of the Grade 9 Outdoor Education course. From it, we hope the students grow in their appreciation for God's creation and grow in their desire to be good stewards of that creation. The trip will also give them a chance to experience a variety of recreational wilderness activities that they may carry into their adult lives.

Northeast - Grade 8 Spring Camp at Elk Island National Park in June

Our grade 8 students will be given the valuable experience of camping and enjoying Elk Island National Park to foster an appreciation for the outdoors, including the importance of conservation of wilderness. As Creation Enjoyers and Earth Keepers, students look forward to hiking, games, sports, and general outdoor skill building activities.

Northeast - Grade 7 Spring Camp at Nakamun in June

This overnight trip allows students opportunities to grow in community and experience God's creation as they participate in a variety of recreational and group activities at Camp Nakamun. Students will be challenged to work together on outdoor activities that support Faith Formation, Health, and Physical Activity and Wellness learner outcomes.

Restorative Practices:

The Society has supported ECS teachers in being trained in Restorative Practice over the past many years. Not only has it informed and guided our discipline practices at ECS we have used the philosophy to create community. Here are some of the many ways circles are used to create positive relationships and maintain a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning and student safety:

- Classroom circles
 - Checking in, out
 - Developing class norms (co-creating expectations for a safe and welcoming space and classroom community)
 - Conflict resolution - identifying harmful behaviours, seeking forgiveness, moving towards healing and healthy boundaries

- Identifying lagging skills and maladaptive behaviour
- using circles to be proactive; building, repairing, and strengthening relationships/interactions and solving problems

2023-2024 Staff Recognition

5 Years

Boschman, Jacqueline
Knol, Aly
Smid, Bruce
Skepple, Beth
Vande Kraats, Margaret
Wolthuis, Rachel
Worobetz, Alicia

10 Years

Bakker, Jayna
Kleine, Amanda
Lobb, Richard
Nieuwenhout, Leona
Yu, Jon

15 Years

Johansson, MaryAnn
Lopez, Amalia

20 Years

Smid, Lisa

30 Years

Krol, Helen

Retirees

Oskoboiny, Darren (8 years)
Yu, Jon (10 years)

Absentee Ballot

In regard to the votes that will take place at the Society Meeting on May 29, 2023, I vote:

*** Motion:** To accept the 2023-2024 budget as presented.

Please circle one.

in favour

opposed

abstain

*** Election of Board members:** To affirm the slate of nominees as put forward by the Board.

Please circle one.

in favour

opposed

abstain

Full Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Return this ballot to the Society office by 4:00 p.m. on May 29, 2023.

Scan and email:
societyoffice@edmchristian.org

Mail or drop off:
Edmonton Society for Christian Education
14304 - 109 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5N 1H6