

SAC Meeting
St. Edmund's Elementary Junior High School
April 20, 2021

Call To Order: 6:02 p.m. April 20, 2021

Opening Prayer: Rosy Moore

Roll Call: Rosy Moore, Adrienne Luong, Tara Killam, Laura Manucci, Terry Harris, Fernando Runco, Christina McLachlan, Katherine Stewart, Brittney Ward, Perry Chahal, Shauna Shore, Pam Irwin, Rob Irwin, Susan Freitas-Neil.

Presentation from Trustee Harris:

- Discussed superintendent Joan Carr loss last year and after nationwide search we welcome Chief Robert Martin who has always been well respected within the division.
- Provincial decisions for the funding model to change last year has had quite an impact on the Edmonton Catholic School Board. We lost a total of 860 students because of the changes. But we were able to obtain bridge funding in the sum of \$30 million for the division to assist with the transition over the next two years.
- Covid of course impacted us and we had to learn on the go as this had never happened before. We were able to offer in person and online learning. In class students have had to pivot temporarily to online learning as well. Experienced positive covid cases in virtually all ECS by at least one case since September.
- Undergoing a curriculum review province wide. ECSD has not announced their decision as of yet and are taking a thorough review and may be able to commence a pilot by early May.
- The board has taken the side to consolidate the administration that has been spread out throughout the city and sell off those properties and consolidate all administration into one office. This consolidation will save money.
- A lot of the work is happening behind the scenes determining what to do under the various Covid scenarios and having two approaches to delivering online or in school options. 28% of students decided online throughout the division. Initially there were 4 pivot points throughout the year but then we had to reconsider that option as it would impact learning experience as well as many administration complications created by pivoting. We were required to have all students return to online in the winter and now again pivoting back to online due to the third wave. We just don't want to be in a position where we are caught short even though the schools have had a very low rate of transmission and have very high standards for the covid procedures in place. The Federal government provided \$16.8 million for ECSD for PPE but unfortunately it will cost between \$25 and \$30 million; the shortfall will need to be funded from our reserves. The provincial government has been helping by providing some PPE. Parents must ensure the pre-screens are being taken daily to minimize transmission.
- We have a number of capital projects underway. The new school Divine Mercy opened in the southeast. Beginning work on Keswick school on the southside. Approval was granted for the new high school in Heritage Valley and we are currently finishing the

design phase. Further advancing, modernization and expansion of the Holy Trinity High School. Finalized the major modernization of St. Edmund's. A replacement school project started construction in the northeast for Ben Calf Robe. Advancing consideration of the NW elementary/Jr. high school(Oxford) replacement school. We received construction funding for the Castledowns - Dunluce Highschool.

Questions and Answers with Trustee Harris:

- The location for the new highschool has been selected and will be on 112th street near YMCA.
- The new division budget will of course lead to changes. We now have a religion department. There are a lot of challenges due to budget changes. We have carved out book end programs and will receive \$30 million over two years to help transition into the new budget. In 2 years our budget will be \$30 million less. We need to determine what is the most important place for money to be spent and have decided that transitioning the administration to one central office is a great way to save a considerable amount of money (aprox \$1 million/year).
- The division puts a lot of emphasis on training up the next generation of principals. The division has 96 schools and a lot of retirements that happen. We are always going to have changes and we must always keep the pipeline of talent going forward. It is extremely important for the division to develop the pipeline for future generations.
- High school changes for SKILLS program for the trades and Skills competition for Jr. and Sn. High. Careers the next generation and RAP program. Significant attention to those programs.
- We have access to mental health resources and the division has a comprehensive mental health strategic plan that is updated regularly and provides significant resources. We have a robust strategic plan in that area. See more information on the ECSD website.
- The covid numbers are fairly high in K-6. At what point do you determine whether younger kids go online as well. The model being followed is similar to what happened in the first and second waves. Understanding that children are not as susceptible to contacting Covid but the division is looking at the curve but we look at whether we are able to staff the students. If we are unable to teach and have insufficient sub support for the teachers off isolating. Is this putting the division in a position to be unable to staff the students. The general census is if we have enough resources to support the learning process in school, we will continue to do so as we have found it is more practical to support older kids online as opposed to the younger children. It is harder to teach the younger children online.
- Who makes the decisions to go online - the ministry or school board. Is there a medical advisory board who helps to decide. The administration measures in high schools, junior high, and elementary at this point, the cases have been seen in the junior high and high schools coupled with the ease of transitioning for the children of this age group to transition to online. Also the elementary school kids will also affect the community if they are moved to online as a parent will need to stay home from work to support younger children. To go to a scenario 3 for all students, there must be a very high bar, Mr. Harris

currently is unsure what the threshold is for the elementary to move to online again. There are a lot of children who would be supported at home but a lot of students who would not be supported adequately at home. Mr. Harris will consult with other administrators respecting the k-6 threshold. Our school is unique as it is K-9 and ½ going online but ½ not.

- Why can't teachers get vaccinated early and can they get time off to go and get the vaccine? The request has been made to have the school based staff obtain vaccines earlier. He will now make the steps to addressing to providing teachers and school administrators the opportunity to take time off if required to get their vaccine.

Motion: To approve minutes from the March 17, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve by Tara Killam second by Pam Irwin, motion approved.

Financial Report: Adrienne Luong

- General Account: \$12,208.28
- Casino Account: \$79,848.66

Principals Report: Fernando Runco

- **Mission and Vision Statement** process update: Staff went through 3-week development to create a new mission and vision statement as the current one is now outdated. Teachers reviewed research, engaged in collaborative activities, and explored past, present and future of St. Edmund. Votes were conducted and are currently being tallied up. Next the ECSD Design team will create a visual and we will unveil the new Mission and Vision Statement to the SAC in May.
- **Public Speaking** will of course be changed due to Covid and is currently occurring in individual classes. The best speech in each group will be receiving a prize in recognition of risk-taking and concise communication. The language arts department thanks everyone in advance for embracing these changes and we look forward to another year of exciting speeches.
- **Theme Days** so far this year we have had many theme days and we thank Ms. Ward, her students, and this school committee for bringing cheer and uplifting our school during this unique time with the pandemic. The various theme days included: Sunglasses Day, PJ Day, Tye Dye Day, and Fandom Day.
- **Staff rock paper scissors competition** has been underway. In the end one staff member will win a mystery prize and we will continue the competition even with 7-9 moving to online.
- **Intentions for Next Year.** Parents can choose online and if so, this will look different for next year as the child will not belong to the school. Parents have only one opportunity to return to in-class in February 2022. As of April 20, 2021 the number of kids enrolled in St. Ed's for next year is 762 students, not including online students. We are looking at returning students first and will be looking at the requests to transfer to St. Eds afterwards.

- **Parking and Traffic Safety Update:** We have worked with the City of Edmonton for the past 3 years to improve traffic safety. Now there is a one way street in front of the school and a two way stop sign has been implemented, no parking signs along the Eagles Landing -Parent Turn Around. Due to traffic backing up along the Eagles Landing Parent Drop Off, they will change those no stopping signs to loading zones so that parents can park there and not congest the Eagles Landing. They added a bump out and a larger cross walk sign to make it more visible and added Pole Markers so that parents do not block the crosswalk at the front of the school. Further they will also look to add a 3 way stop in place of the two way stop. At the north end of the school, they will complete their assessment and hopefully change that to an All Way Stop. The changes made to date have alleviated congestion and made the area safer for our students.
- **Playground Update:** A lot of work went into the initial proposal to see if it would be accepted for submission which included SAC Advisory Documents, Certificate of Incorporation, SAC Executive List, SAC Financial Reports, Principal Letter of support, ECSD Letter of support, Trustee Letter of support. The playground proposal did get accepted for the next stage and we are still awaiting to see if it will be approved. A response from the Community Foundations of Canada and Infrastructure Canada was received indicating that due to the influx of proposals the deadline has been extended to Mid-May so we have not received a final answer for funding.
- **Pivot to Online Learning (grade 7-12)** Thursday April 22 to May 6 for temporarily pivoting to online learning. Will be following the same class schedule and expectations will be the same as will attendance for all classes. Junior High option classes will continue and academies will continue and attendance will be taken for every block. Our school has been prepared for this moment.
- **Student Questions re: covid impact and how they feel:** *How do you feel welcomed at St. Edmund? What are some examples of belonging and caring at St. Edmund? What are examples of students respecting and helping each other at St. Edmund? What makes you proud of being a student at St. Edmund?* The words the children responded to most often were shared with the SAC.

IB Report: Laura Manucci & Brittney Ward

PYP: Laura Manucci:

- Just transition back to school.
- Really enjoyed the exhibition and was really impressed by the project turnout.
- We will be getting ready for the upcoming evaluation which happens every 5 years to ensure we are reaching the requirements to be considered an IB school and making sure we adhere to all the requirements. In preparation we will be reflecting and preparing for this upcoming evaluation. We anticipate there will be improvements to be made, which always comes from reflecting.

MYP: Brittney Ward

- Again preparing for evaluation by self-reflection.
- Currently in the process of preparing MYP certificates. Determining which students are going to receive the full certificate and which kids will receive the partial one.
- Personal project update: 11 or 12 students will be transitioning into MAC to continue MYP for the full 5 years.
- Really impressed by the projects and the work the students are doing.
- Shared Social Justice in leadership classes and put into a wordell.

New Business:

- None

Motion: Meeting adjourned by Rosy Moore at 7:36; Motion to adjourn made by Pam Irwin and second by Susan-Freitas-Neil. Motion was approved.

**Society Meeting
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New Business- Proposals:

- Susan Freitas-Neil: Provided an update on the ice-cream from DQ for all staff and students.

Next Meeting: Wednesday May 19, 2021 at 6:00 to be held virtually

Motion: Meeting adjourned by at 7:50; Motion to adjourn made by Rob Irwin and second by Adrienne Luong. Motion was approved.