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Division Budget Approved for 2021-2022

The Board of Trustees of Edmonton Catholic Schools has approved an operating budget of \$512.2 million for the 2021-2022 school year. The Division is forecasting total revenues of \$513.2 million. The modest \$1 million operating surplus is mainly due to the sale of properties tied to the Walking Together Towards a Glorious Future initiative. Without these sales, the Division would have a budgeted operating deficit of approximately \$5 million. The Division's 2021-22 Budget also includes a \$3.5 million drawdown of its Accumulated Surplus from Operations. These funds will be used to provide additional Specialized Learning Supports to our students.

Examples of Division efficiencies:

- Moving 100 Voices Pre-Kindergarten programs into four strategically chosen hubs.
- Improving utilization of existing space, including the elimination of costly leases.
- Consolidating programs such as 4th and 5th year high school programs by moving them to St. Joseph Catholic High School.

"Edmonton Catholic Schools has worked diligently to increase funding to the classroom through improvements in the delivery of administration, operations and maintenance," said Board Chair Sandra Palazzo.

A total of 78.8% of this budget will support student instruction, while system administration expenses are 2.7%, which is lower than the 3.15% cap established by Alberta Education. This is Edmonton Catholic Schools' second budget that is based on Alberta Education's new funding model that was first announced in February 2020.

"With enrolment expected to bounce back, we are appreciative Alberta Education has kept operational funding stable and not decreased our funding with respect to the lower enrolments caused by the pandemic," said Palazzo.

"With the COVID-19 cost savings, relief funding from the Federal Government, and the restructuring of departments, we have realized cost savings for this school year. And while we have a surplus, we are expecting the \$29.3 million of Bridge Funding from the Government of Alberta to come to an end next year. Our surplus will be used to mitigate the financial impact of losing that funding," said Chief Superintendent Robert Martin.

The approved 2021-2022 Budget will be sent to Alberta Education and, subject to Ministerial approval of the \$3.5 million drawdowns of Accumulated Surplus from Operations, will come into effect on September 1, 2021.