



### **Innovative School Project Part of District Capital Plan**

The 2012 to 2015 Capital Plan for Edmonton Catholic Schools was released at a public Board meeting tonight. The plan includes an innovative partnership project, five new schools, two replacement schools and eight school modernizations.

In the first year of the three year plan, the first priority is a replacing J. H. Picard French Immersion School in south central Edmonton with a new Junior/Senior High School in partnership with the City of Edmonton. At the moment, the school is home to over 650 students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 French Immersion. The school is in serious need of extensive modernizations which exceed 75% of the cost of a replacement school, so the replacement school is the recommended option. The new replacement school would accommodate Grades 7 to 12 French Immersion programming and would be built in the new Silver Berry Community in Southeast Edmonton. As well, one of our outreach high school programs would also be part of the replacement school which will be in close proximity or linked to the Silver Berry Recreation Centre and Library in the Meadows in southeast Edmonton. The recreation centre and library are scheduled to open in 2014. Elementary students living within the J. H. Picard attendance area would be relocated to a nearby Catholic Elementary school.

“We have had a number of successful partnerships with the City of Edmonton,” said Board Chair Debbie Engel. “The St. Francis Xavier Sports Centre and a fourth year completion centre in Clareview are two examples. As a Board, we believe we need to be innovative in order to build schools where they are needed,” Engel went on to say.

In addition, of the five new schools, the Elementary/Junior High School in Windermere is new to the plan this year as southwest Edmonton continues to grow very rapidly and all schools in that area are at or above capacity. Of the major modernizations, Archbishop O’Leary High School has now been on the Capital Plan for ten years with this new plan. As well, St. Kevin/St. Brendan is slated as a replacement Elementary/Junior High in the first year of the Capital Plan. The plan is now sent to Alberta Education for possible funding.

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