



News Release

Board of Trustees Approves Consultation Process for Program Relocation of Three Schools

At the regular board meeting tonight, the Board of Trustees approved the consultation process for the consideration of closure of St. Jerome School (K-6), St. Patrick School (K-6) and Our Lady of Peace School (K-6).

As part of its annual Small Schools Review, the district looks at all schools in the district if their enrolment is less than 226 students. The City of Edmonton growth projections and neighborhood development plans are also taken into consideration to determine the overall impact on the future enrolment of the school. Enrolment at St. Jerome is currently at 120; St. Patrick at 155 students in regular programs and Our Lady of Peace currently has 160 students.

“This is one of the most difficult decisions we face as a Board,” said Charlie Koester, Edmonton Catholic Schools Board Chairperson. “It’s important for the public to realize that the consultation process is authentic. Our approval to start the consultation process does not necessarily mean a school will close. In the past, the outcome of the consultation process has resulted in a school remaining open.”

Superintendent Dale Ripley went on to say, “The yearly review of smaller schools is part of the district policies and ultimately ensures a responsible deployment of facility resources throughout the district. We know, however, that it is hard for any school community to embrace the thought of their school closing. That is why our process is so thorough.”

The consultation process for St. Jerome, St. Patrick and Our Lady of Peace begins later this month. Parents of children at these schools plus parents from the schools identified to relocate these programs will be invited to attend a public forum in their respective communities.

Final recommendations will be given to the Board of Trustees at their public meeting, Monday, April 28th. Any school closure would be effective June 30, 2003.

- 30 -

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