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## **Fourteen New Schools are Focus of Capital Plan for 2019-2022**

The Board of Trustees approved the 2019-2022 Capital Plan at today's public Board meeting. The new plan includes 14 new schools, 13 Modernizations and one Partnership Project.

"The Edmonton Catholic School District is in serious need of new schools, said Terry Harris, Board Chair. "In the last 10 years, ECSD enrolment has risen by 31% and is the most significant growth of any Metro board in Alberta. However, as a percentage of that growth, we have received the fewest new student spaces of any Metro board in the province," Harris went on to say.

### **New Schools**

Added to the Capital Plan this year is a new high school with a capacity of 1,200 students for Heritage Valley/Heritage Valley Town Centre to meet the continuous growth in the number of high school students in southwest and southeast Edmonton. High school utilization in our District is 87% and by 2027 it will be over 100%.

The high school is one of the first four priorities on the Capital Plan and includes a new school for Windermere/Keswick (K-9) which has a current sector utilization rate of 81% which will increase to 95% by 2022. A Lewis Farms High School Academic Centre, and a K to 6 school in Lewis Farms/Secord would lessen enrolment pressure in this area of West Edmonton as the utilization is 80% and will increase to 86% by 2022. Nearby schools serving the Windermere/Keswick and Lewis Farms/Secord neighborhoods are at capacity today.

### **Major Modernizations**

The first major modernization on the District Capital Plan is listed as the fifth priority and is a modernization/replacement school for St. Alphonsus K to 9 School. This school is in one of Edmonton's inner city neighbourhoods and requires extensive structural updates. It is also listed as a possible replacement school. This is one of 13 modernizations in the 2019-2022 Capital Plan and new to the plan this year is a major modernization to Grandin School (K to 6). Grandin is the District's oldest school and first opened in 1914. The school needs major upgrades to mechanical, electrical and plumbing as well as ceilings, lighting, doors and windows.

"Enrolment projections for our District forecast an increase of 5,000 students in the next five years," said Joan Carr, Superintendent. "New schools and modernizations keep families in their community and ensures that we can support the needs of all students," added Carr.