



*For release: March 19, 2019*

## **Five New Schools Urgently Needed in First Year of Capital Plan**

This afternoon the Board of Trustees approved the 2020 – 2023 District Capital Plan which includes 15 capital projects and one partnership. The first three priorities in year one are identical to the priorities in the last Capital Plan:

- new K-9 School in Windermere/Keswick (southwest),
- new K-6 school in Lewis Farms/Secord (McClung/Meadowlark), and
- new high school (10-12) in Heritage Valley/Heritage Valley Town Centre (southwest)

### **Southwest**

Southwest Edmonton is the fastest growing planning sector with 22 new neighbourhoods in the early stages of residential development. Projections indicate that the southwest planning sector will reach its capacity by September of 2019.

### **McClung/Meadowlark**

This planning sector has 17 communities and a total of 3,432 ECSD (Edmonton Catholic School District) students in this area. Bishop David Motiuk K-9 school is in this sector and projections indicate that it will be at 156% utilization by 2029.

“We are now in desperate need for additional high school spaces to accommodate future students,” added Thibert, Board Chair. “Over 1,180 Grade 10 to 12 ECSD students live in northwest Edmonton with no high school in their sector and in southwest Edmonton the majority of ECSD high schools are well over 100% capacity,” added Thibert.

A new high school for Castle Downs/Dunluce is the fourth priority in year one of the plan. The need is crucial as there is no high school in this sector and a new high school would ease the enrolment pressure at Archbishop O’Leary High School which is currently at a utilization rate of 104%.

The fifth priority in year one of the 2020-2023 Capital Plan is a partnership proposal with the City of Edmonton. A high school academic centre would be connected to the Lewis Farms Recreation Complex in Lewis Farms/Rosenthal and mirrors the successful partnership with ECSD and the City of Edmonton in Clareview where the enrolment of Cardinal Collins High School Academic Centre has exceeded projections.

“The partnership proposal for Lewis Farms/Rosenthal demonstrates a shared fiscal responsibility with the City of Edmonton while providing young adults with flexible high school programming,” said Joan Carr, Superintendent, Edmonton Catholic Schools. “The focus will be on FNMI (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) and ELL (English Language Learners) programming,” added Carr.

The last priority in year one of the Capital Plan is a replacement school for St. Alphonsus Elementary/Junior High and is one of six replacement/modernization schools listed in the three-year plan. The other schools listed are St. Francis of Assisi Elementary, Austin O’Brien High School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Elementary/Junior High, St. Vincent Elementary and a replacement school following the amalgamation of St. Jerome Elementary and St. Nicholas Junior High – the St. Jerome/St. Nicholas capital project is pending further consultation. A replacement school is recommended when the cost of a modernization is 75% or more of potential new school construction.

The 2020-2023 Capital Plan will now be sent to Alberta Education for review and possible future funding.