



Board of Trustees

# MESSENGER

*~ Notable News from the Board ~*

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favours!."*

Luke 2:14

The Advent season is upon us and as we anticipate the birth of the Messiah, we feel the same hope, joy and peace that Mary must have felt as she prepared for his arrival. At our last meeting of the 2018 school year, we prepared – as we always do – by celebrating all that is Catholic education in our District.

The Board wishes all our Edmonton Catholic Schools family abundant blessings this Christmas season and a joyful Epiphany, living and sharing the good news that Jesus Christ is born!

## **Walking Together in God's Love: Cook Counselling Connections and the St. Gerard Story**

For December, the Board welcomed a special group of people from Cook Counselling Connections to our meeting to continue the celebration of the District school year theme of "Walking Together in God's Love" and the heartwarming work that happens daily in our schools.

St. Gerard School has developed a unique collaborative support agreement with the neighbourhood treatment group home, which supports children under temporary or permanent guardianship of Alberta's Ministry of Children's Services. The partnership supports the students that attend St. Gerard and allows for continuity between their home and school, ensuring they are loved and enjoy growth and success. This school year, nine children from Connections attend St. Gerard.



The dedication of the Cook Counselling Connections staff is truly an example of Walking Together in God's Love and we celebrate the staff as an outstanding example of servant leadership!



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## *~ Notable News from the Board ~* cont'd

### **Annual School Review**

After the results and analysis of the annual school review the Board of Trustees approved the following three recommendations:

- Commencement of the formal process to consider St. Gabriel Elementary School for closure and consolidation into the St. Brendan Elementary/Junior High school site.
- The commencement of the formal process to consider St. Margaret Centre for Diverse Learners for closure and relocation to St. Gabriel Elementary School.
- A public engagement process to consider the possible amalgamation of the St. Jerome Elementary School and St. Nicholas Junior High School communities to a newly constructed K-9 school to be located on the current St. Jerome property and included on the next Capital Plan.

The motions allow for the opportunity to undergo a consultation process with the respective communities and a final decision has not been made. The first priority for this process is consulting with parents. Meetings have been scheduled for [St. Gabriel](#) parents on January 30<sup>th</sup>, [St. Margaret](#) parents on February 6<sup>th</sup> and [St. Jerome](#) and [St. Nicholas](#) parents on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

The annual school review is necessary to provide fair and equitable access to high quality programs and school building learning environments for all Edmonton Catholic students. The Board of Trustees will make a final decision at the March 19<sup>th</sup> public Board meeting.

### **Edmonton Catholic Schools Staff Faith Formation Plan 2018-2019**

The Board of Trustees was provided with a report on the Edmonton Catholic Schools Faith Formation Plan 2018-2019, which offers a multi-pronged approach that the District undertakes to provide the best possible faith formation opportunities for all staff so they may cultivate their spiritual formation.

The plan is instrumental in ensuring that our staff are provided the opportunities to engage in their ongoing faith formation, which is central to the fulfillment of Edmonton Catholic Schools' mission. The plan provides many different opportunities for staff to engage in their ongoing faith formation which included individual and large groups opportunities.

The Board of Trustees looks forward to our next opportunity to celebrate side-by-side as a Catholic community at our annual Faith Development Day on February 5, 2019.



## ~ Notable News from the Board ~ cont'd

### **Assistive Technology in Inclusive Education 2018-2019**

The Board of Trustees also heard a report on Assistive Technology, an umbrella term that includes assistive, adaptive and rehabilitative devices for persons with disabilities as well as the process used in assisting, training and implementing them. Assistive technology has the potential to transform a student's ability to learn, read and communicate and provides mediums and opportunities that otherwise wouldn't be possible.

Inclusive education is required to provide flexible and responsive ways in which to meet the needs of our students. Our Assistive Technology in Inclusive Education Strategic Plan is one of our pathways that supports and guides us in our delivery of resources and services, knowing that this too, will continue to grow and evolve – and we will continue to enjoy and embrace the learning.

Click [here](#) to view the Assistive Technology in Inclusive Education 2018-2019 strategic plan in its entirety.

*The next meeting of the Board will be held on January 29, 2019.  
This edition of The Messenger is from the December 11, 2018 meeting.*

*The Messenger: Notable News from the Board is published following the public Board meeting and is an opportunity for the ECSD Board of Trustees to communicate the accomplishments and pay tribute to the wonderful initiatives that our District undertakes.*

*If you would like to view the latest Board meeting, here is a link to the webcast:*

[https://www.ecsd.net/BoardofTrustees/Reports-and-Resources/public\\_board\\_meeting/Pages/Default.aspx](https://www.ecsd.net/BoardofTrustees/Reports-and-Resources/public_board_meeting/Pages/Default.aspx)