

Edmonton Catholic Schools

What We Heard

| RUNDLE HEIGHTS CONSOLIDATION | ENGAGEMENT | June 2023 |



Background

In May and June 2023, ECSD engaged with the families and staff of St. Bernadette, St. Jerome, and St. Nicholas Catholic Schools to continue the conversation about the consolidation of the three schools located in the Beverly-Clareview/Highlands-Norwood neighbourhoods. ECSD last spoke with the school communities about this project in the Spring of 2022, and at that time, ECSD had committed to keeping families apprised of any developments.

In March, as part of the Alberta Education's Budget 2023, the Rundle Heights consolidation project received Design funding. This was an important step in the approval process and demonstrated a commitment from the Alberta Government. The project remains a top priority in [ECSD's Three-Year 2024-2027 Capital Plan](#) (page 20) and will see the consolidation of St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School, St. Jerome Catholic Elementary School, and St. Nicholas Catholic Junior High School into one new K-9 school. The new school will be built on the same site where St. Jerome Catholic Elementary School is currently located. ECSD anticipates full funding for construction in early 2024.

ECSD believes all students should have equitable access to high quality and vibrant learning environments and is excited about the opportunity of reinvesting in these communities.

Engagement Objectives

ECSD is committed to successful public participation, which includes sharing information and letting stakeholder voices be heard, with the commitment that stakeholder feedback will be considered before a final decision is made. Each opinion, idea, and voice are valued through this process.

The objective of the Rundle Heights Consolidation public participation process was:

- Families and staff of St. Bernadette, St. Jerome, and St. Nicholas Schools provide input on programming and facility design to be used by ECSD and Alberta Infrastructure in designing the school.
- Engagement is solutions-focused, and stakeholders have an opportunity to be heard and provide meaningful input.
- Stakeholders feel that they have been seen, heard, and understood.

Engagement Process

In May and June 2023, the Rundle Heights Consolidation engagement process utilized two engagement techniques in the public participation process. They were:

1. A presentation and facilitated feedback session on programming and facility design with the families of St. Bernadette, St. Jerome, and St. Nicholas at an in-person engagement evening held on May 30, 2023, at St. Jerome Catholic Elementary School.
2. A presentation and facilitated feedback session on programming and facility design with the staff at each of the schools.
 - a. On June 1, 2023, at St. Nicholas Catholic Junior High School.
 - b. On June 7, 2023, at St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School.

c. On June 8, 2023, at St. Jerome Catholic Elementary School

3. A survey, which was open from June 5, 2023, to June 23, 2023.

The feedback gathered from the engagement sessions and the survey will be used to inform Facilities and Alberta Infrastructure on the programming and facility design suggestions for the new K-9 school in Rundle Heights.

Engagement Results

A summary of the conversations held at the family engagement session on May 30, 2023, and each of the staff engagement sessions over the following week is below.

Question 1:

Participants were shown a slide that had all the clubs currently offered at each of the three schools. They were then asked what clubs they would like to see at the new school. The following is a list of what they said, in no particular order:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| • art club * | • games club | • photography club |
| • arts & craft | • garden club * | • yearbook club |
| • Braided Journeys club | • Gathering Circle * | • prayer circle |
| • chess * | • girls' club | • reading club |
| • choir | • home making | • recycle club |
| • coding * | • homework/tutoring club | • robotics |
| • cooking | • jazz band | • running club * |
| • crafting club | • karaoke/singing space | • science club |
| • dance | • Lego club * | • soccer leadership |
| • design studies | • literacy game club | • social justice |
| • digital design club | • math club * | • spirit team |
| • drama club | • mental health club | • student leadership* |
| • drumming | • mindfulness club | • study/homework club |
| • EDIAR * | • multi-cultural club (explore diff. cultures around the world) | • track |
| • exercise club | | • walking club |
| • FISH | | |
| • fitness club | | |

Please note that a * indicates a club that is currently offered at any of the three schools.

Question 2:

Participants were shown a slide that had all the teams currently offered at each of the three schools. They were then asked what teams they would like to see at the new school. The following is a list of what they said, in no particular order:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • Badminton * | • cheer | • elementary volleyball |
| • basketball * | • cross country * | • flag football |
| • bocce | • curling | • golf |
| • bowling | • dance team | |

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| • handball team | • rugby | • sportfit |
| • ninja team | • running | • swim team |
| • outdoor team | • running room | • Track & Field * |
| • boating/kayaking | • games* | • triathlon |
| • pickle ball | • slo-pitch | • volleyball * |
| • rock climbing | • soccer * | |

Please note that a * indicates a team that is currently offered at any of the three schools.

Question 3:

Participants were shown a slide that had all the ECSD programs currently offered at each of the three schools. They were then asked what programming they would like to see at the new school. The following is a list of what they said, in no order:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Braided Journeys | • Gymnastics |
| • Cosmetology | • K&E |
| • Enhanced Academic Programming | • Rec Academy |
| • Elementary Newcomers program | • Science academy * |
| • Fine Arts Academy * | • Soccer academy * |
| • French/Spanish program | • STEAM |
| • Golf Academy | • Win-Jr |

Please note that a * indicates a team that is currently offered at any of the three schools.

Question 4:

Participants were shown a slide that had all the options currently offered at St. Nicholas for junior high. They were then asked what junior high options they would like to see at the new school. The following is a list of what they said, in no order:

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • art * | • digital music * | • musical theatre |
| • auto mechanics | • drama * | • outdoor education |
| • baking * | • drumming/percussion ensemble | • photography |
| • band * | • environment/conservervation | • pottery |
| • basic life skills | • film studies * | • rec leadership * |
| • business | • financial literacy | • resume prep |
| • choir | • fitness | • robotics & coding * |
| • communication tech * | • foods * | • sewing * |
| • community services/social justice * | • French | • soccer leadership * |
| • construction | • horticulture/gardening | • sports performance * |
| • cosmetology | • jazz band | • transition to 10 program * |
| • dance | • life skills | • weight room |
| • design studies * | • math minds * | • work experience |

Please note that a * indicates an option that is currently offered at St. Nicholas Catholic Junior High School.

Question 5:

This question was asked of the staff at each of the staff engagement sessions. Staff were asked what characteristics of the community we should be aware of and take into consideration when building this new school. The feedback provided is below:

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|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three gyms needed • animal room • art room • basketball court • Big parking lot • Breakfast kitchen/servery • built-in storage area (concerts etc.) • Bus drop off zone • bus lane drive through • Bus/Transporter Compound • change rooms in the gym • chapel • chapel space inside library • clothing hub • safety/crime in the area (big exterior windows will be broken) • coaches' room • completed playground for opening day • construction class/room • department offices • dome soccer field • drama/stage or room to show performances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra parking because of lots of support staff • extra storage space • fitness room • FNMI outdoor space • food hub • foods lab w/ gas stoves • garden area • Gate in Parking lot • hooks for elementary • kiss and go for drop off • large science storage room with access to hallway for all teachers • large staffroom with room for couches and lots of tables • larger parking lot • library • lockers for JH • lots of parking • lots of staff bathrooms • lots of usb charging ports • low income- fees for academy/options • lunch space for Jr high | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting places for students outside of common area • meeting rooms • mental health • minimal interior windows • more storage in each classroom • Multiple sensory rooms • multi-use gym/soccer indoor space • no classrooms with interior windows to hallway • no garage door for classrooms (noisy) • no glass gym • office space for the MDT teams • one-way windows • outdoor basketball court • outdoor cameras • outdoor garden (enclosed so no stealing) with a hosebib nearby • outdoor lighting • outdoor teaching space • parking • PE/Soccer Office • phys-ed office |
|---|--|---|

- playground on the field for elementary
- safe bus/transporter compound
- Safety and security considerations for the area
- Science lab w/ gas hookup
- Science lab with at least 7 stations with water/electrical
- science lab with drawers instead of all cupboards
- sensory rooms
- Serveries for meal programs
- Serveries/space for snack/meal prep
- shared PLC spaces for common subjects
- small offices for large mental health support team for one-on-one meetings
- solar panels
- soundproof garage doors (between classes)
- soundproof walls
- staff parking lot with cameras
- student safety
- teacher collaborations spaces
- teepee in a courtyard
- tennis court
- track loop
- traffic considerations for the area
- training room
- turf soccer field
- Two large gyms
- well lighted parking lot

Question 6

Finally, question six asked participants to respond to the question using Mentimeter as a tool. They were asked “How important is it to you to have the school, fields, and grounds finished for opening day?”.

The total responses received, from the parent engagement and staff engagements, were as follows:

Importance of Having School, Grounds, and Playgrounds Completed on Opening Day

