



January 23, 2019

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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Opening of Elk Island Catholic Schools Central Learning Building and St. Isidore Catholic School

The EICS Central Learning Services Building, on Broadview Road, held its grand opening on Wednesday January 23rd. The event started with a video of school children talking about how they are thankful to the First Nations people who have allowed them to use the land for the new facility. The EICS Central Learning Centre brings together eight different EICS sites under one roof, including the new St. Isidore Learning Centre, which serves around 1,200 home education students.

The new facility brings all the different departments into one building, which is expected to save around \$481,000 for the 2018-19 school year. The site has a transportation yard, a mechanic bay and wash bay to work on or fix busses, a maintenance shop, an IT shop, and lots of office space and room to grow.

The building, which costs around \$531,941 per year will only cost the division around \$50,000 due to all the cost savings and additional revenues that have been created due to the departments all being housed in the same place. The plan is to operate out of this new facility for the next 40 years or more.

The project was funded by a loan from Alberta Capital Finance at a 3.24 per cent fixed rate. Funds were also raised through the sales of the EICS transportation yard, selling off the previous maintenance shop and the sale of the old Central Learning Services which brought in around \$15-million to get the project built.

The previous learning services building had been in operation for around 35 years.



NEXT MEETING

February 20, 2019

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Elk Island Catholic Schools Educational Excellence Presentation

Thérèse deChamplain-Good, Director of Educational Excellence presented to the Board of Trustees on the work that EICS Learning Services provides. Learning Services provides personnel and resources to ensure schools and staffs have the support and skills they need from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 to support student engagement, achievement, and success in a faith-focused environment. Priorities include:

Curriculum and Instruction
Indigenous Education
Instructional Leadership

To view the entire presentation, please click **here**

Superintendent's Report

Assurance Model Pilot Jurisdiction Working Group:

In May 2017, the Minister launched the Assurance Review. The Assurance Review was supported by the establishment of a provincial advisory committee to the Deputy Minister (System Excellence Advisory Committee - SEAC) and subsidiary working group (Assurance Review Working Group - ARWG). The purpose of the review was to establish a common understanding and vision with respect to assurance as well as a strategic framework to help guide more specific decisions and system improvement. SEAC made final recommendations to the Deputy Minister on June 19, 2018 and the DM has accepted all of SEAC's recommendations. The future direction and development of an Assurance Continuous Improvement Cycle will be informed by the Assurance Review.

As a next step in this process, System Assurance Branch is convening a full-day working group session with our six Assurance Model pilot jurisdictions. Elk Island Catholic Schools is one of the six pilot jurisdictions.

EXCEL Academy - Excellence in Catholic Educational Leadership

EXCEL Academy is a collaborative partnership in leadership development between St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Schools, Evergreen Catholic Schools, Elk Island Catholic Schools and Newman Theological College.

The primary goal of the EXCEL Academy is to expand, renew and grow overall leadership capacity of our organizations by enabling select teachers to explore their faith and develop their gifts and talents in the area of leadership. Participants in EXCEL complete CSA 571 and CSA 573 at Newman Theological College (NTC) over a two-year period. Upon completion of the two-year program, participants receive an EXCEL Academy Leadership Certificate and a Letter of Commendation from their Superintendent, both of which are placed on their personnel file.

Valeda House Fundraiser

In the spirit of giving, CLS hosted a fundraiser for Valeda House during the week of December 16th. After some friendly competitive bidding wars, \$976.00 was raised by way of Silent Auction items. Another \$1,025.00 in cash donations brought the grand total to \$2,001. Thank you to Paul Corrigan and Stefan Johnson for coordinating this event and to all of the generous folks who donated items for the Silent Auction