



Bishop David Motiuk

Catholic Elementary/Junior High School

**School Advisory Council &
LF Fundraising Association**

Meeting Date: September 23, 2026 @ 6pm in the Library/Teams

Present: Dwayne Vodden, Chair SAC
Larissa Chenier, Vice Chair, SAC
Jessica Gordon, Secretary SAC/LFFA
Jennifer Gallant, Volunteer Coordinator SAC
Terry Volk, Principal
John Edwards, Assistant Principal
Joe Estephan, Assistant Principal

A total of 13 people attended the meeting (9 in person and 4 virtually).

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING #1 2026-2027

I. CALLED TO ORDER – 6:05 PM

- A. Opening Prayer
- B. Treaty 6 Acknowledgement
- C. Roll Call
- D. Previous Minutes Accepted – Dwayne motioned to accept and Aman & Larissa seconded. No matters arising from the minutes.
- E. School Council Annual Report

Dwayne submitted the annual report and he stated it was fairly basic.

II. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

A. New Business:

1. Election of Officers



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Lots of nominations were made - thank you everyone for your engagement! Below are your new executives for the 2026/27 BDM Student Advisory Council:

SAC Chair - Larissa Chenier

SAC Vice Chair - Aman Rana

Secretary SAC - Jessica Gordon

Teacher Representative - Christine Santin

2. School Council Review of Bylaws – T. Volk

- Can be found on the school website

3. Submission of items for discussion at school council – T. Volk

- Not discussed. Will follow up at next meeting.

4. Division School Council Policy – T. Volk

- Can be found on school website

5. Roles of school council, principal, teachers, school board - T. Volk

- Can be found on school website

B. Items for Discussion:

1) Hot Lunch Program - T. Volk

- Hot lunch program will begin on October 2. Orders must be placed online through Healthy Hunger website. Parents can create an account and add students by name and class.
- Orders must be placed by 11:59pm the Sunday before. Late orders will not be accepted
- Volunteer spreadsheet sent out to many parents from Stam in the office. Please sign up or contact the office if you'd like to help sort and deliver hot lunches on Fridays.

2) ASCE Grant - Dwayne Vodden



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- Student council holds a ~\$2,000 balance at the division level (under the board of trustees), used for things like guest speakers.
- A \$500 annual engagement grant has been available since 2020–21 to enhance parent engagement; the 2022–23 allocation was never spent. Proposal: use the 2022–23 funds toward a council workshop / divisional initiative.
- All present at meeting in favour of donating funds for a school council workshop or divisional initiative. Dwayne will respond to division and let parents know what is decided.

C. Admin Report: - Presented by Principal Volk

1. IB/PD

Our division has launched a new series of professional development sessions related to Optimal Learning (video: What is Optimal Learning?)

At BDM, we are ahead of the curve with regard to optimal learning since the standards and practices of the IB programme align beautifully with optimal learning.

We are very excited about our IB Evaluation visit on Oct 7 – 9. We have been preparing for the last year and we welcome the opportunity to show off the good work we are doing.

Every five years, our IB programmes undergo a formal evaluation. As part of this process, a team from the International Baccalaureate (IB) visits our school to observe our programmes, speak with members of our school community, and provide feedback.

This evaluation is an important opportunity to reflect on what we are doing well and identify areas where we can continue to grow. The feedback we receive from the IB is valuable in helping us strengthen our programmes and ensure that we are providing the best possible learning experiences for our students.

This reflection is also part of our broader school education planning. Each year, we develop goals that connect with the priorities of Edmonton Catholic Schools and



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Alberta's provincial education plans. Together, these processes help us identify our strengths, set meaningful goals, and intentionally direct our efforts and resources where they can have the greatest impact.

There is so much good work happening at our school, and evaluation gives us an opportunity to celebrate that work while also looking carefully at how we can continue to grow. Ultimately, it is about always improving and ensuring that our programmes remain strong, purposeful, and responsive to the needs of our students.

2. Registrations/Staffing/Budget

We had a terrific start to the school year! We are up approximately 100 students from this time last year – as of today, we are at 952 students—we have been able to keep class size fairly reasonable and we have been able to keep our library and Makerspace available for various classes to use throughout the day, which is great for us.

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME			MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME		
Class	Total	Class Avg	Class	Total	Class Avg
Kindergarten	77	19	Grade Six	96	24
Grade One	85	21	Grade Seven	128	32
Grade Two	67	22	Grade Eight	96	33
Grade Three	92	23	Grade Nine	107	27
Grade Four	99	33	Total MYP	426	
Grade Five	107	27			
Total PYP	527		Total Enrolment	954	

In terms of staffing, with additional students from the Big Lakes communities, we have added approximately 100 students and increased staff from 61 to 77.



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MEET THE STAFF			
ATA Certificated Staff		Support Staff	
Teachers	44*	Clerical Support	2.5
Instructional Coach	2	Media Resources	1
IB Coordinators	2	Educational Assistants	15.5
Chaplain	1	Therapeutic Assistant – Behavior	4
Assistant Principals	2	Emotional Behavioral Specialist	1
Principal	1	Family School Liaison Social Worker	1
		Therapeutic Assistant – Speech &	1
		Custodial	4
Total ATA Staff	47	Total Support Staff	30
Total Staff	77		

3. School Budget

In our building, we receive 6,082,540.00 through allocations (Basic Grant, Inclusive Ed, ELL etc), which is up from last year due to increased enrolment. Over the summer, we received word that we would be given one additional EA through government complexity funding, which we were very grateful for.

When school started, we quickly realized that one EA was not going to be enough, since our inclusive profile became much more complicated and complex as a result of new enrolments. Our operating budget for this year will be bare bones, since we used everything we could, along with accumulated surplus funds, to purchase an additional 3 EAs.

We are very grateful to the division, though, since we presented information about increased complexity at our site and they came up with complexity funding so that we will be able to hire one additional teacher.

4. Complexity Classroom



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With the complexity funding we will receive (the funding becomes available once we hire a teacher), we are planning to create a complexity classroom for students in Grades 1–4, where the need for targeted instruction is greatest. Students will receive targeted instruction in core academics, with a particular focus on literacy and numeracy, while continuing to be part of their regular homeroom and joining their classmates for subjects such as physed, music, art, and other learning experiences.

We believe this will benefit all students, as it will allow more students to receive the targeted instruction and support they need. Our complexity classroom teacher will be Christine Baehr, who has a background in special education and has worked in similar classroom settings in the past.

5. Extracurricular Activities

Following last year's job action, many teachers were feeling discouraged and unappreciated, and we were concerned about the potential impact on staff participation in extracurricular activities. I am happy to report that our extracurricular program remains strong and continues to provide students with a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom.

Staff members continue to generously volunteer their time; however, many are also being more intentional about maintaining a healthy work-life balance and are choosing to support activities that align with their interests and passions.

As a result, some activities offered in previous years will not be available this year. These include Safety Patrollers, Junior High Badminton, the Junior High Cross Country Running Club, the PYP After-School Coding Club, Elementary Science Olympics, and the Winter Walk.

Despite these changes, we are incredibly grateful to our teachers for the many volunteer hours they dedicate to enriching student life through extracurricular opportunities. We look forward to sharing a full list of this year's offerings in the October newsletter.



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6. Parent Access to the Building

We are very happy to welcome our parent volunteers and we are so grateful for all they do for us. Parents simply sign in at the office.

7. Emergency Preparedness Plans

Fire Drills, Shelter in Place, Lockdowns – we are required to have six fire drills and six lockdown practices over the course of the year. We tend to do fire drills in Fall and Spring and lockdowns are spread over the entire year. Sometimes, we pull the fire alarm during lockdowns, just to make sure that students know what NOT to do during a lockdown. We have had one fire drills already. We'll have a second one soon. We usually practice lockdowns when the weather is cooler.

8. Assurance Dashboard

The School Plan for Continuous Growth is now simply called the School Education Plan.

To see the Division Plan and our own School Plan, you just have to go to our website, click on School Information, and then click on About and School Assurance Dashboard.

Goal: Students will experience the Catholic faith as a living presence, woven into learning, relationships, and daily experiences across all aspects of school life.

Goal: Students are nurtured with a whole-child approach, shaped by our Catholic identity, that fosters emotional, physical, spiritual, and moral development.

Goal: Students understand what they are learning and why, receive timely feedback, and reflect on their progress.

Goal: Students feel known, challenged, and supported. Learning is joyful and meaningful, with varied approaches that honour different needs and spark curiosity.

Goal: Teachers co-create learning experiences where students set goals, reflect on progress, and persevere through challenge, with encouragement and timely support.



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D. Calendar Of Events: Presented by Mr. Estephan & Mr. Edwards

September 2026

- September 2 - First Day of Classes (Grades 1-9)
- September 7 - Labour Day Holiday (No Classes)
- September 10 - School Opening Liturgy
- September 10 - Meet the Staff & Curriculum Evening
- September 15-16 - Staff attended a two-day New to IB Professional Learning Session at Lumen Christi, supporting continued growth in IB programming and instructional practice.
- September 17 - Professional Development Day focused on preparations for the upcoming IB Programme Evaluation Visit (October 7-9), including programme reflection, documentation review, and schoolwide readiness.
- September 18 - School Picture Day
- September 23 - School Council Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- September 29 - Orange Shirt Day
- September 29 - Truth and Reconciliation Liturgy.
- September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No Classes)

September Athletics Update

Volleyball season is now underway, with tryouts taking place for both our Senior Boys' and Senior Girls' Volleyball Teams. We are excited to see strong student interest and participation as teams begin to take shape for the fall season.

We are also pleased to announce that Ms. McCormack has volunteered her time to lead a Volleyball Development Program, focused on supporting students' growth, skill development, and enjoyment of the sport. These sessions take place every Friday after school and are intended as developmental practices rather than competitive games.

A special thank you to Ms. Seibel and Ms. Jahner for coaching the Senior Girls' Volleyball Team, and to Ms. Spelliscy and Ms. Boras for coaching the Senior Boys' Volleyball Team. We are grateful for the commitment of these staff members who generously volunteer their time to provide meaningful extracurricular opportunities for our students.

October 2026

- October 5-9 - READ IN Week
- Oct 5 – World Teachers' Day
- October 7-9 - IB Programme Evaluation Visit
- October 9 - Thanksgiving Liturgy
- October 12 - Thanksgiving Day (No Classes)



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- Oct 13 – Following a “Monday” schedule
- October 16 - BDM MYP Faith Day: Confident Witnesses Rooted in Joy
-Our School Faith Day, themed “Confident Witnesses Rooted in Joy,” provides students in Grades 6-9 with a conference-style learning experience through a variety of engaging faith-based sessions. We are blessed to welcome Archbishop Hero and other invited guests who will present to our students to deepen their faith, reflect on their values, and grow as confident witnesses of Christ in their everyday lives.
- October 17-23 - Catholic Education Week
- October 19 - Provincial Referendum Voting Day - No School
- October 23 - School Picture Retake Day
- October 30 - Halloween - Fun Activities

III. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM by Larissa.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Library/Teams online.

LEWIS FARMS (LF) FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION MEETING 2025-2026

I. CALLED TO ORDER – 7:05 PM

II. Business of the Meeting

A. Election of Officers

- Both April Burnath and Jenn Krawchuk are stepping down from their positions as Chair and Vice Chair. Richard not present but put his name forward to continue as Treasurer.
- New Chair: Jenn Gallant
- New Vice Chair: Jess Gordon
- Secretary: Jess Gordon
- Treasurer: Richard Carr (co-treasurer Dan Chenier)
- Casino Organizer: Dwayne Vodden

B. Casino



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- Tentative casino date for this year December 19 and 20
- Proceeds from all organizations volunteering at casinos within a quarter are pooled and split among them; with a mid-December casino date, expect distribution around April.
- Previous Casino funds still need to be spent. Motion by Larissa, seconded by Dan, to approve up to \$67,000 for smart boards — passed unanimously. Context: Epson/smart boards run ~\$4K each (2 for \$7K); 3 already installed, 3 more needed plus 13 more; 3 boards have died, other will likely need to be replaced soon; 40 classrooms total. Elementary: 12–13 at ~\$3,500. Fund balance estimated at ~\$74–76K.
- Other items discussed: climbing wall (~\$30K), track & field pinnies (already ordered as per Principal Volk), a couple thousand for the special needs classroom. Classroom libraries, bike racks and teacher wish-list items were all items provided in the previous school year from the casino funds.

C. Additional items discussed

- Other fundraising: pop-up canteen was a success; sleigh rides ordered. School councils can donate to "the foundation."
- Burgers for every child on the first day of school were paid from student fees.
- Shrove Tuesday pancakes: discussed whether the casino funds could be used towards supplying pancakes for all students; unsure at this time if casino funds can be used for student lunch program, will have to look into this further.

III. Adjournment – 7:26PM

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Library/Teams online following the SAC meeting.

Congratulations to our newly elected SAC and LFFA committees! Thank you for volunteering your time and efforts. A big thank you to our past committee members for all your hard work and dedication over the years. A shout out to all parents who attend school council meetings either in person or online- we value your input :)