



Bishop David Motiuk

Catholic Elementary/Junior High School

**School Advisory Council &
LF Fundraising Association**

Meeting Date: April 29, 2026 @ 6pm in the Learning Commons/Teams

Present: Dwayne Vodden, Chair, SAC
Larissa Chenier, Vice Chair, SAC (online)
Jessica Gordon, Secretary SAC/LFFA
Jenn Krawchuk, Chair, LFFA
April Bernath, Vice Chair, LFFA
Terry Volk, Principal
John Edwards, Assistant Principal
Joseph Estephan, Assistant Principal

12 people present for the meeting (9 in person and 3 virtually). Thank you to all those who attend - it's always great to see new faces :)

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING #6 2025-2026

I. CALLED TO ORDER – 6:02 PM

- A. Opening Prayer
- B. Treaty 6 Acknowledgement
- C. Roll Call
- D. Previous Minutes Accepted – Jenn K motioned to accept, and April B seconded.
- E. Matters arising from the minutes
 - Playground Drainage Issues - T. Volk
 - Drainage issues around the playground and sidewalks were brought up at our February meeting. The issue was brought to our division Facilities Services department and we were informed that because the land belongs to the City of Edmonton, any concerns need to be brought to them by calling 311. The school is not able to implement any work or repairs on the school grounds.



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Some maintenance work right around the school building is carried out by Facilities Services. For example, we have been in contact with them and they will be working on repairing some broken downspouts.

-Jessica asked if there is anything that can be done about the large amount of mud near the Kindergarten/Grades 1-3 door, and around much of the school.

Terry said she will ask Facilities about this and see if there is any

solution.

II. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

A. IB Report: Presented by Principal Volk

- No official report this meeting. Grade 5s and 9s excited for Exhibition night Thursday, April 30.
- IB Evaluation scheduled for October 2026. Our school is submitting their self study now.

B. Admin Report: Presented by Principal Volk

1. Budget Update

Schools are experiencing budget shortfalls this year. We received funds to cover the cost of teacher salary increases, but we did not receive additional dollars to cover the cost of support staff wage increases. Allocations for inclusive students were also reduced. This significantly impacts staffing and class sizes for the upcoming year.

2. Enrolment Update

With budget shortfalls, we (and most other schools) will be running larger classes next year.

Grade 2026-2027	Current	Transfer	New Enrol	Total	Classes	Class Size
Kindergarten		2	70	72	4	18.0
Grade 1	70	11	5	86	4	21.5
Grade 2	54	11		65	3	21.7



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Grade 3	73	14	1	88	4	22.0
Grade 4	74	19		93	3	31.0
Grade 5	82	24	1	107	4	26.8
Grade 6	87	10		97	3	32.3
Grade 7	98	28		126	4	31.5
Grade 8	91	3	1	95	3	31.7
Grade 9	97	4	2	103	3	34.3
Totals		126		932		

We have managed to keep classes in primary grades reasonably small, but classes in grades 4 – 9 will be larger.

This year, we welcome 126 students from other ECSD schools, most from Big Lake. We are very grateful to have them, since they are making it possible to keep primary classes small, keep core staff intact and to have a reasonable operating budget. Even with these new enrolments, we anticipate being short by approximately 4 EAs. Without these new enrolments, class sizes would still be large, including in primary grades, we would lose six teachers and we would have to cut key inclusive support including our Therapeutic Assistant for Speech and Language.

As reported at our last meeting, BDM did not receive one of the complexity teams (comprised of the 1000 teachers and EAs the province pledged in the imposed settlement with teachers). It is possible that we will receive a team in the next round (year two, 1000 more teachers and EAs), but we cannot count on that.

3. Staffing Update

With budget shortfalls, we have had to cut our media resources position and we will be reducing our office staff by .5 FTE. We are able to maintain all of our current teachers (including those who will be on leaves for next year). We are also able to keep our EAs and multi-disciplinary team intact. There are teachers in the division and throughout the province who are feeling demoralized, and some are choosing to leave the profession. We do not yet know what, if any, impact the government's expedited teaching certificates will have on classrooms.



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4. Hours of Operation 2026-2027

All schools in Alberta have to offer 950 hours of instruction, 475 for kindergarten, over the course of the school year. Our hours of operation are dictated in large part by shared bussing. We share busses with St. Josephine Bakhita, and they are the early school. This is better for our neighbours, since a later start for us means they can leave for work on time, but it does mean dismissing a little later as well. Hours for next year have been finalized, with start time at 8:43 and dismissal at 3:20 for grades 1 – 9..

Kindergarten hours are :

Kindergarten (No instruction on Thursdays)	
Half Day AM	8:38 AM – 11:41 AM
Half Day PM	12:17 – 3:20 PM

This year, kindergarten teachers have elected to offer full day field trips instead of bringing students in on some Thursdays throughout the year.

Updated 2026–2027 School Year Calendar

Edmonton Catholic Schools has updated the 2026–2027 Division school year calendar. While the total number of instructional and operational days remains the same, a few dates have changed.

For most ECSD students, the first day of school will be Wednesday, September 2, 2026. There will be no classes for all ECSD students on Monday, October 19, 2026, as the province conducts a scheduled referendum and Elections Alberta has requested that schools not be in session that day.

View and download the calendars at ecsd.net/calendar.

5. Volunteer Recognition

Principal Volk took a moment to recognize the people who make so many of our students’ experiences beyond the classroom possible.

Many of the activities our students enjoy at school, including sports teams, drama productions, band, and a wide range of clubs, happen because teachers,



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staff members, parents and many other community members generously volunteer their time. These opportunities are not part of the regular school day, yet they are an important part of student learning and growth. They often give their evenings and weekends so that students can try new things, build confidence, develop relationships, and feel connected to their school community.

Edmonton Catholic Schools is grateful to the teachers, support staff, parents and community members who volunteer in many ways, whether organizing, supervising, coaching, directing, conducting, or refereeing. Their commitment makes a meaningful difference in students' lives.

You may have noticed a new poster in our school that highlights and celebrates this generosity. It is a visible reminder of the gratitude we hold for those who give their time to support students.

As a school community, it is important that we continue to show our respect and appreciation for those who give their time outside regular work hours. Working together, we can ensure these opportunities remain positive, valued, and sustainable for everyone involved.

C. Calendar of Events: Presented by Assistant Principal Joseph Estephan

• April

1) During the month of April, we have had several field trip opportunities for students to explore and engage in curriculum outside of the school walls.

-Gr9 Citadel performance – Wizard of Oz

-Gr2 Citadel performance – Wizard of Oz

-PYP Choir to Garneau-McDougall United Church

-Gathering Circle students (Gr 1-6) went to Sacred Heart

-Band students continue to perform and learn the art of music

-St. Vincent elementary school performance

-Gr 7 Drumheller field trip for Science

-Gr 3 Fitset Ninja

2) Sports going on right now are Badminton and Flag Football



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3) Edmonton Oilers and Team Spirit Days throughout the playoffs.

4) Play Club continues to be a success. It runs Tuesdays and Thursdays for the Spring (8:10-40am), for select students in Grades 1-5. It's unstructured, adult-supported time where students engage in cooperative games and free play to build social skills, friendships, and confidence. It has been a positive experience for the school by promoting inclusion, improving student self-regulation, and supporting positive behavior during unstructured times. Testimonies from both parents and teachers have been very positive!

April 16 - PD Day

April 20 – Gr 1 immunizations

April 22 – Administrative Professionals Day

April 23 – Grace for the Heart and Soul. On this afternoon schools carried out our site-based activities on faith formation. Things like promoting knowledge of the faith and moral formation. Our focus was on “Empowering Catholic School Staff with Magisterium AI”. This session equips all Catholic school staff with practical knowledge of Magisterium AI (www.magisterium.com), a Catholic-specific AI assistant grounded in authoritative Church documents.

April 27 – OHS Audit

Each year, the health and safety program at Edmonton Catholic Schools is audited by an external auditor. This audit is key in determining strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement in our health and safety program. Overall, the auditor was very impressed with our site. Big Thank you goes out to Mr. Estephan for leading this audit!

April 29 - English as an Additional Language (EAL) support for teachers on April 29, which included a EAL Consultant visit and elbow-to-elbow support. IB Approaches to learning review and reflection

April 30 – Gr 5 Exhibition and Gr 9 Community Project IB Gallery Walk. These projects represent a culmination of students' learning journeys in the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) for Grade 5 and the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) for Grade 9, showcasing their how they researched real-world issues, took action, and reflected on their growth as IB learners through displays and presentations. On Friday, May 1 Mrs. Panizzon and Mrs. Olivieri are taking select students to Lumen Christi to showcase their projects with other IB schools and guests.

-The 30th is also Leadership Appreciation Day



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- **May**

May the 4 – Star Wars Theme Day

May 5 – Red Dress Day - a day of remembrance and awareness for **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people**. Red dresses are displayed as a powerful visual symbol representing those who are absent and to call attention to ongoing injustice and violence.

May 6 – Amii Residency – which stands for Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute funded by the government of Canada. They are coming to our school to set-up stations about Artificial Intelligence and lead students in engaging learning activities.

May 11 – Gr 8 Band in Red Deer for a music festival – performing and watching other bands. They will also be judged on their musical band performance.

May 12 Junior High Spring Concert 7pm at Meadows Baptist Church (6BC & 7-9 Band students)

May 13 – Gr 9 retreat to Providence Renewal Centre - In support of the Religious Studies curriculum, students will have the opportunity to spend a day building Christian community; exploring and experiencing a variety of prayer forms; and engaging in activities that lead to reflection upon faith and life.

May 14 – Gr 6&9 practice Language Arts writing PAT

May 15-18 May long weekend

May 19 – Gr6 Immunizations

May 19 – Gr 9 Band in Red Deer for a music festival – performing and watching other bands. They will also be judged on their musical band performance.

May 21 – Gr 9 Language Arts PAT (Part A) Writing

May 22 – Gr 6 Language Arts PAT (Part A) Writing

-Pentecost celebration in the PM (Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus' disciples)

May 27 – Track n Field Day (Gr 7-9), with May 29 being Zone qualifiers



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Parent Questions/Comments during meeting

Larissa witnessed 2 young children (Kindergarten and Grade 2) riding their bikes to school with no helmets or parent supervision. Terry will add to the May newsletter to remind parents that helmets are a requirement and to please walk bikes on school grounds.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:36pm by Dwayne Vodden. Foluso O. motioned to accept and 2nd by Tabatha C.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Learning Commons/Teams online.

LEWIS FARMS (LF) FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATION MEETING 2025-2026

I. CALLED TO ORDER – 6:37PM

II. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING - Presented by J. Krawchuk

- The Casino Fund balance is \$76,000.
- There have been a few requests and all have been approved:
 1. 22 students will be going to “We Rock the Spectrum” gym (\$620)
 2. Flag football equipment (\$330)
 3. Grade 7 Field trip to Drumheller (\$5318.25)
- Jenn K asked the question “Are there any other requests or things we can spend the casino money on?”. A few suggestions were Year End Barbecue, Track and field day, replacing Epsom Boards, bike racks, West Meadows rentals... any other ideas?
- Terry will have Jaime help her find invoices and they will submit to LFFA
- Next Casino will likely be near Christmas time...stay tuned!

III. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm by Jenn Krawchuk.



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Next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, immediately following the SAC meeting, in the Learning Commons/Teams online.