

November 2017

A New Chapter in an Old Story

The West School Building Project

The Board of the Edmonton Society for Christian Education (ESCE) would like to update you regarding the West School Building Project.

Feasibility Study Results

We want to thank the cross-section of 77 parents and supporters who agreed to be interviewed regarding whether we need and are willing to pay for a major addition to our West School.

The feasibility study report is in and concludes, **first**, that the need is plainly there for a new building at West School. We have an opportunity to write a new chapter that will help our students find their role in God's story. It is our generations turn!

Second, the study concludes that our community is willing to pay for a new building. The level of commitment indicates that we should be able to raise as much as \$6.3 million for this project. That is higher than we anticipated and goes to show that the time for this project is ripe.



We have been called anew to participate, to look forward in faith and to write a new chapter in this old story!

Several questions about the project came up during the study. We have answered those questions for you on pages 2 & 4 of this newsletter.

Special Society Meeting

(Monday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m., West School)

The ESCE Board has voted, with thanksgiving to God, to approve the West School building project. In order to proceed we require and desire that our supporting community approve it as well.

For that purpose, we invite all ESCE members to a special Society meeting:

- **Monday, December 4**
- **7:30 p.m.**
- **West School main building**
- **14345 McQueen Road**



Members, parents and supporters are invited to this meeting. However, **in order to vote you must be an active member.** That means that you must:

- have signed our *Statement of Faith* and;
- either be paying program fees or have made a \$25 (single) or \$50 (family) minimum donation to ESCE in the previous 365 days.

In order to renew your membership, complete and [submit this form](#) or call us with your credit card number. **See page 3 for more details.**

Questions? Give us a call (780-476-6281) or send an email: societyoffice@edmchristian.net.

FEASIBILITY STUDY

Common Questions with Answers

The Building Project in General:

- 1. Can we be both cost effective and environmentally sensitive with the project?**
We have spoken at length with the architects about this. There have been discussions around building and getting a LEED silver stamp.
- 2. What will you do with the McQueen building?**
We will tear down the McQueen building to make way for more green space.
- 3. Has a general contractor been hired?**
No. Requests for proposals will go out in July or August, 2018 for a construction manager. Tenders for subcontractors will go out in January 2019.
- 4. Can people in the school community place tenders and participate in the building?**
Yes, absolutely.
- 5. What will the \$1.5 million for junior high upgrades cover and how long will it last?**
The junior high wing has potential for the long term. We are considering new windows and HVAC, redoing the outside of the building to match the new building, and renovating classrooms so that they are flexible learning spaces and meet the needs of preschool to grade 3 students.
- 6. What is the timeline for the rest of the project?**
 - December 4: community votes on the building project
 - 2018: fundraising campaign
 - January, 2019: development of the final detailed budget (tender period)
 - May, 2019: construction begins
 - September, 2020: new building opens to students and staff
- 7. Are we still partnering with a church in this new building?**
A mutual decision has recently been made to no longer partner with the Anglican church. That means we will need to raise or borrow more money.

Building Details:

- 8. What will happen to the current playground?**
It will be put in storage for now. We will then ask parents and staff what a new outdoor learning environment could look like which would include the present equipment.
- 9. Will there be an elevator in the new school?**
Yes
- 10. Will the kitchen be upgraded?**
We are open to upgrading the kitchen. A junior high home economics option could also work well in the present high school room
- 11. Is there a floater classroom in the K-3 area since we have three grade 1 classes this year?**
Our research indicates that the West school will likely remain at two classes per grade for the future. There are times however, that "the pig will have to go through the python". A floater classroom is a good idea to consider.

Parking and Drop off/Pick up:

- 12. Will there be more parking?**
Yes. We plan to provide a significant number of visitor and student spaces.
- 13. How will drop off and pick up work for both buses and parents?**
We are planning a bus lane which fits 6 buses. Parents would drop students off on the sidewalk. Controlled access from the sidewalk to the school would ensure student safety.

Construction Period:

- 14. Where will the students from the main campus learn during construction?**
We are planning for grades P-3 in the McQueen building, 4-6 in the junior high wing, portables for 7-8 and grade 9 in the high school. *(continued on page 4)*

Only active members of ESCE may vote at ESCE meetings, although everyone is invited to observe.

Active members:

- have signed the *Statement of Faith*
- have either paid Program Fees or made a donation during the previous year (i.e. since December 4, 2016)

How to renew your membership:

- complete and [submit the online form](#); or
- [print the paper form](#) and mail or deliver it with your donation to the Society office; or
- call us with your credit card number: 780-476-6281

Inactive members:

- have signed the *Statement of Faith*
- have not paid fees or made a donation during the previous year (i.e. since December 4, 2016)

How to become a new member:

- sign the [Statement of Faith](#) and;
- make a donation or pay program fees
- send signed form with donation to the Society office: 14304 109 avenue.

Call us at 780-476-6281 if you are unsure whether you are a member.

****Remember, parents are not automatically members; they must also sign the *Statement of Faith*. You can do so at the meeting.**

SPECIAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Edmonton Society for Christian Education

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

7:30 p.m.

WEST SCHOOL main building
14345 McQueen Road

All parents and members invited!**

*** see above for details about voting*

Motion to be voted on: that the ESCE proceeds with the West School Building Project at a cost not to exceed \$16 million and based on the concept approved by the ESCE Board. Construction will commence only when a minimum of \$3.5 million in donations is raised or pledged (with a goal of \$4 million) and the remainder, up to a maximum of \$12 million, is ensured by financing.

15. How will we maintain safety for students during construction?

We will separate the construction site from students. There will be some inconveniences but we will mitigate those as best we can.

Financial Details:

16. How much is left on the Northeast mortgage?

About \$2 million remains in the Northeast mortgage. This mortgage should be paid off by the time the West building is completed in 2020.

17. How much did the Northeast School cost to build in 2005?

\$9 million

18. Can the school apply for any grants?

Most of the grant money that is offered by the government for projects like this comes from lottery funds. Our policy is that we do not apply for lottery money.

19. How confident are you with the \$15.5M estimate?

We are confident about the number but it will become clearer when we complete the schematic plan and design development. The number comes from the architect's estimate as well as an opinion from a construction company.

20. If we don't raise enough money, what then?

We would need to reduce the scope of the project.

21. How much money has been committed to the project to date?

We have spent \$67,000, mostly on architectural fees and survey costs.

Program Fees:

22. Are there plans to increase tuition?

No. However, it is hard to predict what our expenses will be in the future. We need to consider the possibility of higher interest rates which can quickly raise costs significantly.

23. Will the per family Capital Assessment of \$245 per year continue?

Yes. We need to finish the Northeast School mortgage and then the new mortgage will begin.

Capital Campaign

24. How does the capital campaign work?

Staff and volunteers will visit with potential donors throughout 2018 to answer questions and ask for support. All parents and supporters will be asked to contribute via visit, phone or email.

Enrolment:

25. Will we have enough classrooms for our growing enrolment at West School?

Enrolment at West has remained steady for about 15 years except for a 10% increase in the last 5 years. We expect that West school will remain at two classes per grade over the long-term. There are periods, however, of surging or declining enrolment and it is important to plan for those moments. We will handle enrolment as it happens.

Supporting Community:

26. When will Society members vote to proceed with the project?

On Monday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the main West building.

27. Who can vote?

Active members of ESCE can vote. An active member is anyone who signs the Statement of Faith and either pays program fees or makes an annual minimum donation of \$25.

More questions? Check out the [FAQ on our website:](http://www.edmchristian.org)

(www.edmchristian.org)

Ideas, concerns? Submit them [using this online form](#). We will respond within 3 school days.