

Edmonton Society for Christian Education

2022 Annual General Meeting Package

AGM: June 6, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. (online - Zoom)

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2022 AGM Agenda

7:30 PM	Welcome and Opening	Jeremy Thiessen
	Introduction of Board Members	
7:35 PM	ESCE Business:	
	Approval of May 31, 2021 Minutes (attached)	Jeremy Thiessen
	Executive Director's Report	Jeremy Thiessen
	Presentation for Approval of Budget 2022-2023	Jason Veenstra
	Election of New Board members	Brent Taylor
	Motion to Destroy the Ballots	Brent Taylor
	Principal's Report	Darren Oskoboiny
	Acknowledgement of board member retirees, and long term school employees and retirees	Jeremy Thiessen
8:30 PM	Closing	Jeremy Thiessen

2021 ESCE AGM Minutes

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom on May 31, 2021, at 7:30 PM

1. **Welcome and Opening** (Jared Harmata)

- a. It was noted that we have Quorum and can proceed
- b. Acknowledgement that we gather on Treaty 6 land
- c. Review of meeting procedure via Zoom
- d. Devotions
 - i. John 10: 1-18, Psalm 23:1-6
 - ii. We are so thankful to God for shepherding us through this difficult and challenging year.

2. **ESCE Business**

a. **Approval of June 1, 2020 minutes**

- i. Motion to approve the minutes from last year's AGM
 1. Moved by Dave DeJong and seconded by Maryann Johansson
 2. The Motion was carried

b. **West School Building Report** (Sid de Haan)

- i. The West School Project is now basically complete. This new building is a wonderful gift from God that we can use to further the mission and vision of Edmonton Christian Schools. Sid expressed gratitude to all involved in this amazing project!
- ii. A dedication of the building and celebration of this project has tentatively been scheduled for early in 2022
- iii. Presentation of Video Diary of the building project

c. **Principal's Report** (Darren Oskoboiny)

- i. This year was filled with incredible challenges and many blessings. It looked different in many ways but the teachers and support staff were so incredibly dedicated to supporting students and staying connected. They worked hard to make sure the sense of community remained and academic growth took place even when the students were not in the classroom.

d. **Presentation for approval of the 2021-2022 Budget** (Jason Veenstra)

- i. Jason reviewed the budget as presented in the AGM package
- ii. Motion to approve the ESCE proposed budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year as presented
 1. Moved by Jason Veenstra and seconded by Rod and Jen Snaterse
 2. Questions
 - a. What are some of the marketing activities that are planned for the upcoming year?

- i. The new West school dedication ceremony is a significant piece of the marketing planned for next year. A budget of \$35,000 for this event is included in the presented budget.
 - b. The budget shows a negative cash flow. Are we dipping into reserves?
 - i. The negative cash flow is mainly because of the anticipated spending on the demolition of the McQueen building.
 - 3. The Motion was carried for each nominee
 - e. **2021-2022 Priorities** (Sid de Haan)
 - i. Sid reviewed the main priorities for next year as outlined in the AGM package:
 - 1. Delivery of chrisitan proگرامing
 - 2. Fostering relationships and building community
 - 3. Stewardly management of Society resources
 - f. **Election on New Board members** (Carrie Reinsma)
 - i. 3 Board Nominees:
 - 1. Christina Patterson
 - 2. Corrine Hansen
 - 3. Beneyam Zeleke
 - ii. Motion to affirm each of the nominees presented to become members of the Board of the Edmonton Society for Christian Education
 - 1. Moved by Carrie Reinsma and seconded by Vicki de Haan
 - 2. Motion carried
 - g. **Motion to Destroy the Ballots**
 - i. Moved by Denoria Gotah and seconded by Harriet Eskiw
 - ii. Motion is carried
- 3. Acknowledgement of retiring board members, long-term employees and retirees**
- a. **Long-term service employees**
 - i. **5 years:** Janine Bihum, Deb Duffet, Kathy Fiebich, Wolde Gebremedhin, Erin Gossweiler, Deanne Ruel, Hendrik Wolmarans
 - ii. **10 years:** Karen Bellous, Andrea Cote, Marie Vriend
 - iii. **15 years:** Cam Befus, Marco VanGelder
 - iv. **20 years:** Darren Kleine, Joel Kleine, Alda Knibbe, Dorothy McGillis, Linda Piers
 - v. **35 years:** Marcia Kwolick
 - b. **Retirees**
 - i. Bernice Ooms (**9 years**)
 - ii. Alda Knibbe (**20 years**)
 - c. **Farwell**
 - i. Kristyn Schalk (**13 years**)
 - ii. Krista Mulder (**6 years**)
 - 1. Darren expressed words of gratitude for all that Krista has done and all that she means to our community
 - 2. Jared welcomed Karla Loberg-Walter as the new Principal of Northeast school

- iii. Jadine Golbeck (1 year)
 - d. Retiring board members
 - i. Jared Harmata, Dave DeJong, Carrie Reinsma
- 4. Closing (Dave DeLong)

Executive Director Year-End Report

Respectfully submitted by Sid de Haan, Executive Director

We Are a People of Hope

The past several years have been challenging to say the least. The global pandemic has had profound effects on our day to day lives, and this includes significant changes to our lives together in our schools and as a school community. Despite these challenges, however, God has continued to bless Edmonton Christian Schools and we continue to see His spirit at work in all three of our schools and in the lives of His children. I have been encouraged throughout the past two years by the constant examples of the Christian program (Teaching for Transformation) taking place in our classrooms, schools, and broader community. God is with us, and He is at work advancing His Kingdom!

Major Themes of 2021-2022

The Global Pandemic: COVID-19 has continued to be the dominant factor affecting schooling in 2021-2022. Student and staff illness, cohorting of students, enhanced hygiene and sanitation protocols, heightened stress and anxiety (students, parents and staff), cancellation of “normal” activities, have all taken a heavy toll. Most of us are feeling stretched very thin, and our capacity to deal with one another with grace and kindness is perhaps not where we would like it to be.

As a Society, we have continued to support the mental and spiritual health of students, staff and families by providing additional resources like a full-time Mental Health Therapist (Jacqueline Boschman), Pastoral Care Leaders (Pauline Klok and Hillary Andermatt), and by offering free community presentations (hosted by Christian therapists) on topics like Anxiety Care in Anxious Times and How to Prepare Yourself and Your Child(ren) to Graduate and Enter Adulthood.

It is our Deep Hope that as our situation begins to normalize, we will be able to regain much of what was lost or damaged during the past two years, and that we can do so as a grace-filled community united by our faith and the unfailing love of our Creator.

West School Building Project

The West School building project wrapped up during 2021-22, including the completion of the maintenance garage, the demolition of the McQueen school building, and the (virtual) Dedication Celebration that we held this Spring. With the gradual lifting of restrictions, we have begun to see this wonderful facility being used as it was intended, and the feedback so far from both students and staff has been very positive. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project financially and helped to make it a reality.

Hiring a Director of Development and Admissions

In September 2021, Keith Piquette joined our team as the Director of Development and Admissions. Keith was formerly a pastor in the Alliance Church, and he and his family relocated from Ontario to join the ESCE team. Keith has been working hard to bring the areas of admissions and especially development into the future so that we can sustain growth and adapt to our changing world.

In admissions, Keith developed a New Family Information Session to set expectations for prospective families. Eight sessions were hosted with 140 families in attendance. Calls were made to welcome first year families and collect feedback. Our enrolment projections for September 2022 675 at North East, 550 at West, and 260 at the High School.

Keith's impact in development has been significant in his first year. Our fundraising goal was exceeded by \$72,000 this fiscal year, the in-person auction was a success, a new donor management database was implemented, and a new three-school community building fundraising event has been planned for September.

In addition to this, Keith has been busy getting to know our supporters and building relationships with community members. He is keen to keep God at the center of the work he does, and we are pleased to have him on the team.

Refugee Sponsorship Project

This year, the Society decided to sponsor two young men from Ethiopia who are family members of a staff member at ECHS. The community rallied to raise the funds necessary to submit a sponsorship application, and a sponsorship committee is working hard to prepare and submit the application. This is a project that could potentially take several years to complete. Your prayers that the process goes well and that the two young men remain safe are coveted.

CRA Court Update

In October 2021, our dispute with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) re: the receipting of Christian Program fees was heard in court. The case appeared to go well, and we are awaiting a ruling from the Judge. If we are successful (and the CRA does not appeal the ruling), parents would be able to claim a portion of their Christian Program fees and receive a tax credit. We continue to await a ruling from the court.

Looking Ahead to 2022-2023

Enrollment Growth

We praise God that our enrollment continues to be very strong. Our schools are bursting at the seams with students learning about God's story, which is exactly why we built them. We love to see our schools as close to capacity as possible, but are also saddened when we must turn some families away. Unfortunately that was the reality this year, especially when it came to certain classes that had particularly high demand. We are encouraged to see a very strong desire for families to attend our schools and a high retention rate for those already enrolled. God has truly blessed us in this area.

Northeast Site Redevelopment Project

We continue to be troubled by the issue of poor drainage at the NE site. However, our God is the great redeemer so we believe that He can turn this curse into a blessing. Plans are well underway to use the drainage problem as an opportunity to redesign the entire site surrounding the school into a thriving area for outdoor learning and activity. Not only will we improve the drainage, we will transform our outdoor space to bring enrichment to the students.

In a recent presentation by one of our teachers, the staff were taught how outdoor learning is proven to increase the engagement of students, especially those who struggle to learn in a traditional classroom environment. How amazing it will be to see students outside enjoying God's creation and worshiping the creator.

Plans are well underway, and once a final design is reached, we will begin a capital campaign to raise money for the project.

West School Roof Repair

The West School roof in the division one wing, which was the existing structure we retained during the building project, is now in need of a new roof. The age of the roof combined with the above average freeze/thaw weather conditions in the last year has impacted the integrity of the roof. The expansion team did look at the roof during the building of the west school and, at the time with the information they had, felt there was over 5 years of life left; however, that hasn't been the case. Major repairs must be completed to avoid further temporary fixes.

New Hire, Director of Learning

We are excited to share that the Society has hired a new Director of learning to support and grow the Christian Program across all three schools. The new Director of Learning is Maureen Vaags-Nyhof, a 29 year veteran educator with a wide range of experiences across K-12. Maureen was an early adopter of the Teaching for Transformation model of Christian Education and brought this to Calvin Christian School in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Maureen will join our team in mid-August, and we are excited to begin our work with her.

About Maureen

Maureen attended the University of Winnipeg where she completed her Bachelor of Education. She started working at Calvin Christian School in Winnipeg as a Grade 4 teacher and eventually became Teacher Librarian and Vice-Principal. She completed a Master of Education in Humanities and Social Sciences in 2004. In 2014 she moved with her family to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan where she has been the Student Support Teacher and Literacy Coach at Cornerstone Christian School.



Maureen loves reading and is passionate about fostering a love of reading in students; so much so that she named her first daughter Reid! She has two more daughters, Reagan and Callen. Maureen loves travelling all over the world with her husband, Paul Nyhof, and her girls, but Mexico is her favourite place to visit.

Maureen is very excited to step into the role of Director of Learning to support and further develop the established foundation of Christian Education at Edmonton Christian Schools.

Budget 2022-2023: Statement of Operations

The Edmonton Society for Christian Education			
Budget 2022-2023			
Statement of Operations			
	BUDGET 2022-2023	2021-2022 Forecast	2020-2021 Actuals
Student Enrolment:			
Kindergarten to Grade 12	1,450	1,440	1,479
Preschool	80	75	85
1. REVENUE			
1.1 Christian Program Fees	1,866,123	1,765,020	1,791,719
1.1b Subsidy Expense	(110,000)	(105,000)	(115,637)
1.2 Preschool Fees	98,880	92,700	49,709
Capital Assessment	211,313	200,000	63,840
1.3 Transportation Fees	143,634	76,872	54,658
1.4 Facilities Lease	806,400	805,716	805,716
1.5 Memberships & Donations	200,000	165,000	25,080
1.6 Church Collections	15,000	7,500	6,831
1.7.1 Special Fundraising - Auction	40,000	30,000	21,843
1.7.2 Special Fundraising	15,000	0	0
1.8 Miscellaneous Income	7,600	34,000	58,862
1.9 Senior High Cafeteria Revenue	25,000	25,000	15,872
1.11 Amortization of def. cap.contributions	260,374	290,000	201,491
1.12 Capital Campaign	520,000	30,000	1,354,816
1.13 Capital campaign contributions deferred	(520,000)	(30,000)	(1,289,216)
	3,579,324	3,386,808	3,045,584

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2. SCHOOL SUPPORT			
2.1 School Staff Christian Prof. Dev. and Curriculum Dev	355,409	205,000	177,981
2.2 Memberships in Christian support organizations	80,600	79,200	71,030
2.3 Preschool Expenses	75,000	72,000	63,607
2.4 Senior High Cafeteria Expenses	25,000	22,000	13,645
2.5 Other Christian Program Expenses (i.e. Grad gifts)	10,000	8,000	8,367
2.6 Christian Program Learning Resources	2,000	15,000	1,451
2.7 Furniture, Equipment, Computers under \$1500	62,000	30,000	20,213
2.8 Amortization of Furn., Equip., Comp.	147,720	158,000	143,504
	757,729	589,200	499,798
3. TRANSPORTATION			
3.2 insurance for first 7 months 2019-2020	0	0	400
3.7 Amortization of Buses	0	0	2,568
3.1 route costs	114,029	114,500	107,742
3.2 field trip costs	52,000	8,000	0
	166,029	122,500	110,710
4. DEVELOPMENT, ADMISSIONS, MARKETING			
4.1 Salaries & Benefits	134,832	140,000	133,237
4.2 Advertising & Promotion	30,000	40,000	20,715
4.3 Society Expenses related to development	20,000	40,000	10,401
	184,832	220,000	164,353

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5. FACILITIES			
5.1 Maintenance	457,537	475,000	144,921
5.1.1 Salaries and Benefits	128,193	120,000	125,260
5.2 Utilities	400,000	350,000	300,242
5.3 Insurance	75,000	70,000	59,670
5.4 Mortgage Interest	415,807	432,000	306,978
5.5 Amortization of Buildings & Portables	893,092	850,000	718,708
5.6 Amortization of Vehicle	9,732	9,732	8,433
5.7 Temporary Portables	0	0	65,600
	2,379,361	2,306,732	1,729,812
6. ADMINISTRATION			
6.1 Salaries & Benefits	270,416	268,000	289,163
6.2 Office Expenses includes equipment leasing	15,000	17,000	46,518
6.3 Insurance	2,050	7,000	11,421
6.4 Memberships & Dues	11,745	11,400	11,399
6.5 Professional Fees	30,000	26,000	47,831
6.6 Bank Charges, Discounts, Interest	15,000	14,500	12,318
6.7 Computer Systems Support	60,000	22,000	16,196
6.8 (Gain) Loss on sale of Equipment	0	98,713	95
6.9 Bad Debt	50,000	50,000	49,375
	454,211	514,613	484,316
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,942,162	3,753,045	2,988,989
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES - OPERATIONS	(362,839)	(366,237)	56,595

The Edmonton Society for Christian Education
BUDGET 2022-2023
Statement of Cash Flows

	BUDGET 2022- 2023	2021-2022 Forecast	2020-2021 Actuals
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(362,839)	(366,237)	56,595
Items not affecting cash:			
Amortization of property and equipment	1,050,544	1,116,445	873,308
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(260,374)	(290,000)	(201,491)
Changes in non-cash working capital balances	0	(150,000)	(2,062,686)
Cash flow from operating activities	427,332	310,208	(1,334,274)
Purchase of property and equipment	(90,000)	(160,000)	(462,757)
Proceeds on disposal of property and equipment	0	0	17,881
West School building project	0	(13,000)	(4,066,892)
Cash flow used by investing activities	(90,000)	(173,000)	(4,511,768)
Proceeds from mortgages and bank loan	0	0	5,142,891
Repayment of mortgages and bank loan	(426,000)	(726,000)	(63,840)
Capital contributions from donors	30,000	48,000	1,289,216
Funds transferred to capital maintenance reserve	(200,000)	0	0
Cash flow from financing activities	(596,000)	(678,000)	6,368,267
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	(258,669)	(540,792)	522,225
Cash - beginning of period	344,754	885,546	363,321
Cash - end of period	86,086	344,754	885,546

Budget 2022-2023 - Executive Summary

1. Strong demand signals highest-ever attendance at over 1,490
2. First-ever Director of Learning in place for 2022-2023
3. Roof repair required for West elementary school
4. Establishment of capital maintenance reserve fund

Student Enrolment

- Projecting record enrollment at ~1,485 students for Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Represents growth of 3% from this year and reflects strong demand for Christian education
- Elementary & junior high classes are effectively at maximum capacity (675 students at NE; 550 - West)
- High school enrolment is estimated at 260 total (grade 10 is at 97 students; our target is 100 Grade 10s)
- Students enrolment for this and last year were 1,442 & 1,439, respectively
- Christian program fees for the upcoming school year include a 5.0% rate increase

Repairs, Maintenance, and Improvements

Budget 2022-2023 includes \$300k for repairing the west section of the pre-existing West building:

- Covers the classrooms for Kindergarten to Grade 3
- Major repairs must be completed to avoid further temporary fixes

In addition to roof repair, maintenance budget of \$458k includes:

- Implementation of Hippo CMMS software to improve maintenance planning & execution
- Replacement of exterior doors at NE Junior High School
- Grounds maintenance for playground at West school
- Flooring improvements including High School gym
- Various heating, plumbing & electrical projects

Capital Maintenance Reserve Fund

- Budget 2022-2023 includes the initial established of a capital maintenance reserve account
- Initial funding of \$200k represents 6% of overall cash receipts
- Building Committee responsible for approving critical maintenance spending
- Fund is seen as critical given maintenance problems experienced over the past two years
 - Allows Society to properly resolve issues rather than temporary patch-work solutions
 - If unused in 2022-2023; will address again in Budget 2023-2024

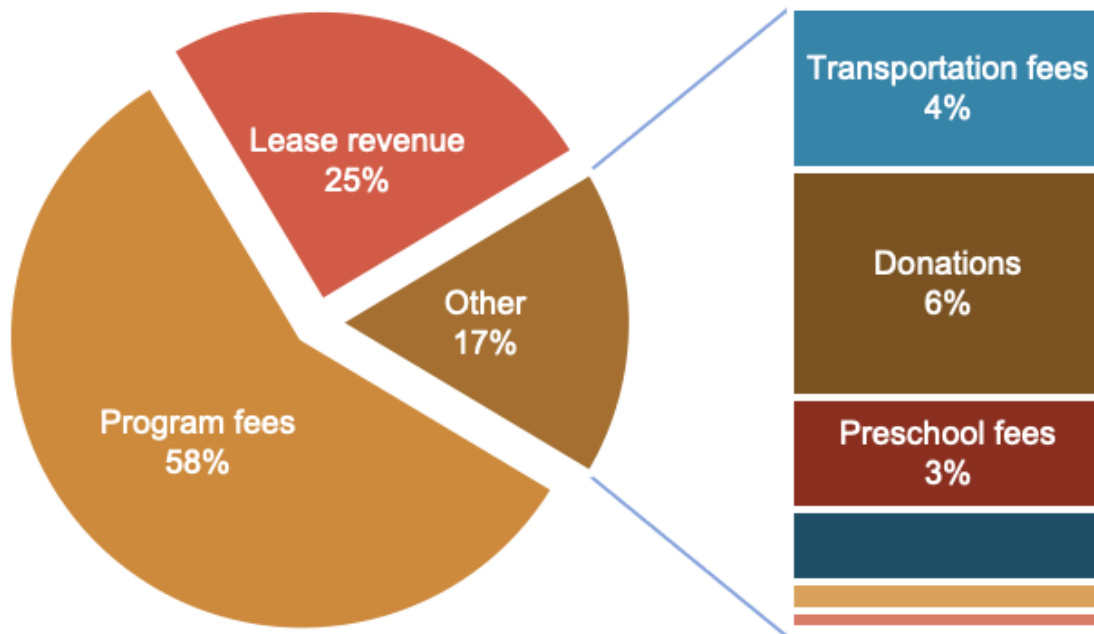
- Potentially targeting a balance in the \$500k range

Key Figures

- Receipts - \$3.3m
- Operating costs - \$2.9m
- Mortgage payments - \$426k
- Capital projects - \$90k

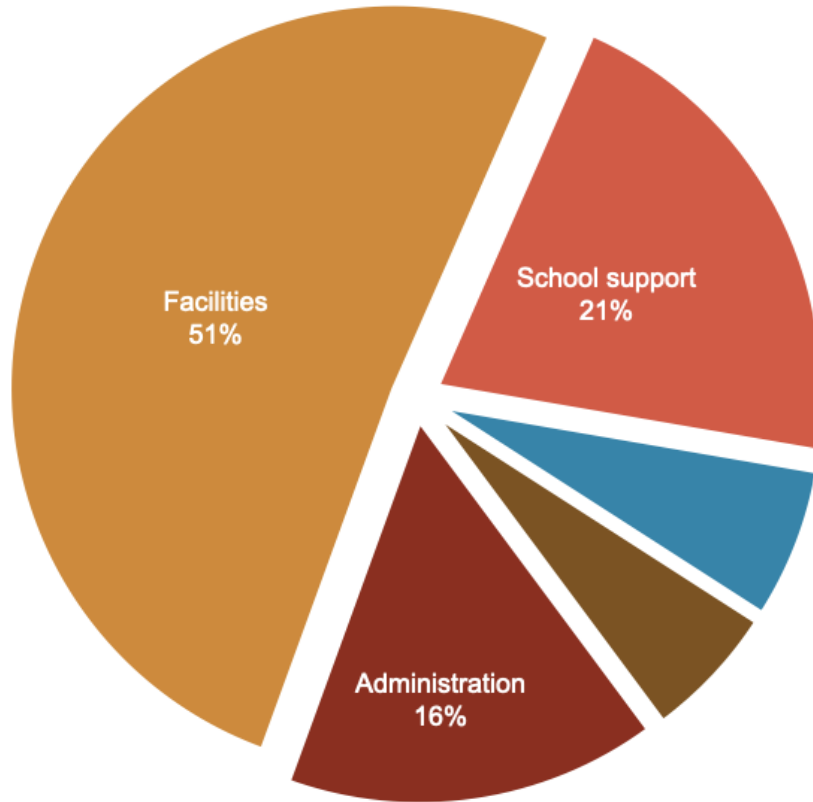
Cash Receipts - \$3.3m

- Program fees of \$1.8m (58%) based on strong enrolment and a 5% rate increase
 - Rate increase based on bottom-up approach to fund the 2022-2023 plan
- Expected lease revenue of \$806k consistent with current year
- Donations & fundraising budgeted to continue to recover lows in 2020/2021



Cash Operating Costs - \$2.9m

- Cash facility costs of \$1.5m (51%) relates to operating and maintenance costs as well as interest costs on the mortgage (\$415k)
- Budget for school support includes Director of Learning position



Development, Admissions, Marketing - 6%
Transportation - 6%

Cash Operating Costs - \$2.9m

		2022- 2023B	2021- 2022F ¹	▲		2021- 2022B ¹
Facilities	Maintenance	\$458	\$475	\$17	23B - roof repair; 22F – McQueen demo	\$529
	Utilities & other	603	540	(63)	Expected increases in utilities	325
	Interest	415	432	17	Decrease due to principal paydown	436
School support	Prof. dev.	355	205	(150)	Budget includes Director of Learning role	280
	Memberships	180	154	(26)	Consistent with pre-COVID levels	171
	Preschool	75	72	(3)	Consistent with current year	72
Development & marketing		185	220	35	Decrease due to focus in 2021/22	237
Transportation & field trips		166	123	(43)	Continued recovery in field trips	172
Administrative costs		454	416	(38)	Includes cost of living increase on July 1	400
		\$2,891	\$2,637	(\$254)		\$2,622

figures in schedule are reflected in thousands of dollars

Note 1 – Maintenance costs in 2021-2022 include demolition & removal of McQueen building

Summarized Cash Flow

	2022- 2023B	2021- 2022F ¹	▲		2021- 2022B ¹
Receipts	\$3,319	3,097	+\$222	Enrolment and 5.0% rate increases	\$2,911
Operating costs	(2,891)	(2,637)	-254	Inflation & Director of Learning	(2,621)
Working capital	-	(150)	-150	Timing of supplier payments	-
Capital costs	(90)	(160)	+83	Various modest capital project in 2022/23	(215)
Mortgage payments	(426)	(726)	+300	Standard payment schedule in 2022/23	(606)
Capital reserve account	(200)	-	-200	Establishment of new fund	-
Capital contributions	30	48	-18	Conservative target (hoping to exceed)	232
Change in cash	(\$259)	(\$541)	+283		(\$299)

figures in schedule are reflected in thousands of dollars

Board Nominees

Nominee Name:
Ryan Huisman
Member of Society since:
2006
Nature of current association with Edmonton Christian School:
I currently have children in grades 6 & 8 at ECNS and grade 10 at ECHS and one who graduated from ECHS in 2019. My wife Lisa taught at ECNS from 1996-2001 and I attended ECNS and ECHS as a student. My father attended Central Christian School in the early days of ECS.
Previous ECS volunteer/committee/Board experience:
None
Areas of expertise:
I am a graduate of the civil engineering department at the University of Alberta and have managed construction projects of various sizes in both industrial and commercial construction both as a general contractor and as an owner's representative. I currently work for a real estate management company and I am responsible for capital and development projects for office, retail and light industrial buildings.
Areas of interest:
My background and area of interest is in construction projects and technology, and as such I am also interested in ensuring that processes and procedures are in place to ensure that the flow of information is in place and makes logical sense.
Leadership skills/experience:
I lead the technical team at Steele Heights Baptist Church and am Director of Project and Development Services for Canderel. I have also coached several of my kids soccer teams.
Faith Community/Participation:

Our family attends Steele Height Baptist Church and I am a member of the capital campaign team and just completed \$800k of work in the building where I managed most of the projects. I also lead the tech team where I am responsible to schedule and train volunteers as well as ensure the equipment is operating properly. COVID-19 brought many challenges to church services and fortunately we had much of the required hardware in place but many additional pieces of equipment were required to livestream the services including bringing fibre optic into the building.

Why I am willing to serve as Board member:

I am willing to serve as a Board member of ECS as an act of worship to my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I will do my best to preserve Christian education for my kids and for the generations to come, just like my parents and grandparents did for me.

Nominee Name:
Ben Bentum
Member of Society since:
2018
Nature of current association with Edmonton Christian School:
I have a child at Edmonton Christian Northeast School and another one starting in the fall.
Previous ECS volunteer/committee/Board experience:
When I first moved to Edmonton, almost 20 years ago, I helped coach the High School senior boys soccer team for several years. I served on the Board of Governors at The King's University from 2013 to 2016. I have served on numerous church committees over the years.
Areas of expertise:
My areas of expertise are relational in nature. I am a Psychologist, with training in active listening, summarizing, communication and human behaviour.
Areas of interest:
I have a particular interest in cultivating deep community and building capacity for encountering authentic life as human beings in relationship with ourselves, one another, creation, and God.
Leadership skills/experience:

I was first given opportunities to lead while playing on sports teams. The skills I learned there have been helpful in other leadership situations such as starting my own business, serving on committees, and leading workshops and retreats. I enjoy challenging and improving myself, understanding the situation and goals precisely, communicating clearly, and encouraging the efforts and strengths of others.

Faith Community/Participation:

I am a member of my local church and serve through participation in committees for our church area. Recently, I led an interactive group on grieving in my church community.

Why I am willing to serve as Board member:

I am willing to serve as a board member because healthy relationships and community are important to me. I have skills and passions for community building and I want to help bring a healthy capacity for relationships in the places where my children will spend much of their childhood years learning to live in the world.

Nominee Name:
Heidi Dasilva
Member of Society since:
2016
Nature of current association with Edmonton Christian School:
Member of the ESCE Finance and Audit Committee
Previous ECS volunteer/committee/Board experience:
Current Treasurer for the George Spady Society and The Friends of the George Spady Society. Current coordinator for Fellowship Group at West End CRC (term will be completed September 2022)
Areas of expertise:
Financial Reporting
Areas of interest:
Financial Reporting and budgeting for the Society
Leadership skills/experience:
Manager at Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP Treasurer role at GSS
Faith Community/Participation:
Fellowship Group Coordinator at West End CRC Various other small roles/participation in community/church events.
Why I am willing to serve as Board member:
I am interested in where/what the Society is doing as I have two small children who will be

entering the school in the next 3-5 years.

As well I am an alumni and a member of the McQueen community so I am also interested in the schools from this perspective.

I think I could be a helpful board member through my professional experience and designation as a CPA. I am familiar with other NPOs and Societies from an auditor's perspective, so it is interesting to have been "on the other side" in my role on the FAC and I would like to expand this into a board position.

Principals Report for June 2022 Society AGM

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	EDMONTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
<p>VISION: Success, one student at a time</p> <p>MISSION: We inspire student success through high quality learning opportunities, supported by meaningfully engaged students, families, staff and community.</p> <p>CORNERSTONE VALUES: <i>Accountability, Collaboration, Equity and Integrity</i></p>	<p>VISION: Accepting Christ's invitation to live for renewal</p> <p>MISSION: Responding to God's grace, Edmonton Christian School challenges students, through Christ-centered education, to actively play their role in God's story.</p>

THROUGHLINES At ECS we challenge every student to be a:	
Community Builder God Worshiper Justice Seeker Servant Worker Beauty Creator	Creation Enjoyer Order Discoverer Earth Keeper Idolatry Discerner Image Reflector

School Theme: Great is Thy Faithfulness

Ps 119: 90

Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

Lam. 3: 22-23

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Additional Supporting Verses:

Ps 145: 4

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

Ps 145: 13

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

Learning in the Time of COVID - Together at a Distance

Successes

We are grateful that things have gone smoothly as we transitioned back to an entire year of in person learning and our students and staff had the opportunity to be in community. This school year parents had the opportunity to choose either on-line or in person at the start of the year and again at the halfway point. The vast majority of our families chose in-person learning for their children this year.

We have appreciated the trust that families have placed in us and our communities' adherence to our protocols. Communication has been key to mitigating risk in our schools and we are grateful for the partnership that we have with our families in keeping our community safe.

Challenges

This school year continued to challenge us as we dealt with the 4th and the highly transmissible Omicron 5th waves. All of our schools had protocols that had to be implemented and additionally we also faced our own unique situations where real-time decisions had to be quickly made in each school community. All of our decisions were made in light of our number one priority - keeping students in person at school with their usual teachers and support staff. Often when staff members were away due to illness, there were no supply personnel available to come and cover, particularly support staff and custodians. Our staff teams deserve an incredible amount of thanks and appreciation for how they always put the needs of our students first and did whatever it took to ensure learning continued.

Our community is very involved in supporting our schools and our families are used to having more access to our buildings. For most of the school year parents and volunteers did not have the usual opportunities to come help in their children's classrooms, attend assemblies and connect with staff. This spring, restrictions eased and some normalcy returned with events like assemblies and field

trips being permitted. Our deep hope is that the next school year will include our usual school events and activities.

Farewells and Graduations

As we plan for our end of year celebrations and Graduation activities we are currently planning to celebrate important events. Our school communities are looking forward to celebrating the transitions and accomplishments of our students with Kindergarten grads, grade 9 farewells and our high school commencement ceremony and banquet.

Deep Hope

As Administrators, Our DEEP HOPE for our staff was that they have time, space and support to reflect on and collaborate with colleagues with the primary goal of inviting, nurturing and empowering students to play their part within God's unfolding story of redemption. This Deep Hope has become even more meaningful as we consider the important work we are doing during this uncertain time. What we do have as Christians, is hope. We have an opportunity now to be hopeful, to learn from our experiences, to bring the best part of the past forward and be more present in the future. To play our role in God's story in ways that we have not considered before. In ways that show love to each other and serve the world. This is our hope for our community.

Registration & Enrollment

- West School - 556 students, two classes planned at each grade level K to 9
- Northeast School - 682 students; three classes (or 2+ a combined class) grades K-7, two classes at grades 8 & 9
- High School - 261 students

Professional Development

Admin teams from all campuses attended PCCE's WayFinder: Leadership Training and Development Program May 5&6

Teaching staff at all 3 campuses are continuing their collective work on Teaching for Transformation (TfT) core practices:

Core Practice #1 - Storyline

Core Practice #2 - Biblical Throughlines

Core Practice #3 - Real Work, Real Problems, Real Audience through Formational Learning Experiences (FLEX)

Teaching for Transformation & FLEX Activities

Grade 4 is making classroom garden boxes out of recycled wood crates. We are using the construction room with help from our high school construction class & teacher. This combines our waste in God's world and plant growth/change units.

Division 2 has participated in 2 division-wide flex projects. One project we did was called Love Bomb, where each grade (4,5,6) wrote a note of encouragement and blessing for a class in division 1 and 3 as well as office staff members. Then one morning we put treats on each person's desk and a note on the board for them to read together. The other project was called Restoration Trees where the grade 4 students made 4 trees from recycled materials gathered from division 2 classrooms. Then prayers were put on the trees and they were used to have restorative conversations to resolve recess or classroom conflicts between students. The trees were also used as a space where students could go to have a quiet moment with God to ask for peace or strength for the day.

This year **Division 1** made a thank you banner with notes and treats for the nurses at the Royal Alexandra hospital for Valentines Day. They also organized a food drive for the food bank. We are planning on doing some type of used book sale near the end of this school year.

Grade 2 are collaborating on a creation care FLEX with our bug unit coming up later this spring.

Grade 1 at Christmas sang songs for and with the seniors at McQueen Place virtually, using Google Meet. All of our unit studies are done through a TFT framework. For example, when we learn about groups, we start with God creating Eve because it was not good for man to be alone. God created us to live in groups. We also acknowledge that because of sin in the world, we sometimes experience difficulty in groups. We need to learn to solve problems in groups and to be a positive member of a group. We spend all year learning to be community builders. At Christmas we learned about various traditions and talked about why people have traditions. We learned how each of the popular Christmas traditions helps us to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As we study seasonal changes, we talk about how God has created the world in a masterful way and is caring for his creation through the changing seasons. When we learn about the history of Alberta, we talk about how God has cared for the needs of people in the past and continues to do so in the future. Students reflected on big and small changes that they have experienced in their own lives, and how

God had been faithful to them through all the changes. Next we will study the needs of living things and how living things are interdependent, and again spend time marveling at how God has created the world in such an amazing way.

Grade 1 Learn to love...love to learn project: I have videos on Seesaw that capture our outdoor learning experiences this year. We have been doing these afternoons all year to foster teamwork (learn to love), love for God's world and to foster a love for learning. FLEX: fall teacher convention: students came up with a service project at home and completed it and we reflected on our work at school. Earth Day: cleaning up trash

High School English grade 12: Teaching Othello -- I told my students that while it may seem like the ultimate anti-community building play, it actually is a perfect example of a Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration story. It starts out with things as they should be in a perfect world -- no racial or age or gender divide -- then things fall apart with terrible consequences by the insidious effects of lies and gossip and misplaced trust. But there is redemption and the hope of restoration: Shakespeare says that only mercy, grace and forgiveness can heal the hurts and provide hope going forward.

High School English grade 10: TFT - lesson reflections on the key understandings for each class / assignments and perspectives for a new novel. Flex - a student-led refugee educational powerpoint, parent letter, student council presentations, and class to class presentations preparing for a 5 day campaign for raising funds.

High School Band: We started a project focusing on the power of music with individuals suffering from memory loss. We discussed that during the last few years of people feeling isolated from their regular communities (especially seniors that we know), we can use our music to encourage and bring joy to others. Students interviewed seniors in their lives to find out their favorite songs and then researched the history behind the song and the musician. Our next step of the project is to learn the songs that were selected and provide a recording of our class performing them, as a gift to the person that was interviewed. The majority of the songs selected were classic hymns such as "Great is Thy Faithfulness," "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art," and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

High School Comtech 10/20/30- have the opportunity to create signage (scripture/practical signage for school) - real need/broader audience etc.

High School Religious Ethics: recently did research projects on a question they chose about the Bible that interested them based on McDowell's 77 Frequently Asked Questions about the Bible and were encouraged to interview pastors/youth leaders/family members as part of their research over Spring Break and ask them their question. They presented their research and findings in small groups. This helps them not let their doubts be dead ends and actually utilize networks to walk through tough faith questions/gain confidence in their apologetics. One student did video interviews with pastors from his church.

High School World Religions: This class always does faith interviews, where they interview someone who is older/mature in their faith about their testimony and challenges they have faced. Sometimes this is the first time students have discussed their parents' or grandparent's faith in this way and they often have valuable learning and reflection acknowledging they had no idea of the depth, challenges or rationale of the person's faith.

High School Math 10C - Trigonometry clinometer lab in which students created posters to share their process and results (Beauty Creating). Math 20-1 - Quadratics "Whodunnit" activity in which students used their developing skills to solve a mystery (Order Discovering). Math 20-2 - Statistics in Edmonton (annual homelessness survey) activity in which students analyzed, reflected on and brainstormed solutions to our current situation (Justice Seeking). We talk about Order Discovering almost every day as that is what we're primarily doing in math. I also exclaim the beauty of the big, juicy multi-step questions we tackle together. To stand back at the end of a full page, solve and examine the beauty of the patterns, processes and eventual result. Ahhh math!

High School Foods 20/30 has blessed the Parkland Tri-Region pay it forward organization with cookie bouquets and a CALM class wrote personalized notes for each one. These were gifted out with a warm meal to the homeless living out in the bush west of our city. Many of them were touched that someone thought of them for Valentine's day and to write a note was special as they haven't received anything personalized in years. This group of students also made 170 hand cut and decorated sunflower cookies for the art show at Northeast School as part of their fundraiser for relief efforts in the Ukraine. Many students used their spares this week to ensure they were completed and looked professional.

Grade 1 - In February for 100's Day we collected soup cans to use for our counting, sorting and graphing and then brought them to the food bank; In December we collected chocolate bars, rice krispy squares, hot chocolate and candy canes. We made about 150 treat bags and wrote Christmas cards for all of them and brought them to the Mustard Seed/Mosaic Center; In December we made penguin Christmas cards for the community; In April, with Gr 2/3 & 2S we collected \$500 worth of

underwear for the Mustard Seed/Mosaic Center which was auctioned off at the ESCE Auction; In April we wrote letters to support people in our community who needed a bit of cheering up.

Grade 5 - In Grade 5 we have been working with mind maps (webs using images and key words/phrases) and using them as a tool to connect our faith to our learning. Students were challenged to show what they know about a particular science unit and use their knowledge to help them understand our God, the Creator. They were asked to answer this overarching question using their mind map: "When we study _____, what can we learn about God?"

We did not write the throughlines on the mind maps, but we talked about how their responses about God were related to the throughlines posted on the bulletin board.

Grade 9 - Earlier this year, we developed writing skills (addressing specific audiences with form/word choice) by writing letters in the 'Write for Rights' campaign (Amnesty International). Students were doing the work of justice-seeking and community building by writing these letters of appeal to governments to promote human rights for individuals around the world.

Just a few months ago now, Gr. 9s ran a week of 'sweet treat sales' in order to raise money to support the Society's refugee sponsorship (as you know they raised thousands for this cause). This came on the heels of our unit in social studies about Canada's immigration and refugee protection act. After learning about the objectives of the act, as well as the process refugees endure to flee difficult situations to come to Canada, they felt compelled to help out with these 2 individuals so closely connected to our community. This wasn't a 'true' FLEx project, as it was very after the fact, but it was another case of justice-seeking and community-building in practice.

We're in the midst of this in Gr. 9 social studies: they're currently learning about the stories that the market/mixed economies tell. As a part of this, the students are running small mini-corporations that sell concessions and other retail goods to the Jr. High students. They could each invest up to \$20 in their business to get it off the ground. They'll sell for 2 more weeks before calculating their investment growth and total profits. Once done, we will discuss the stories that we live out with our money with the question, 'Whose wealth is it anyway?' Then the students will investigate the work and effects of Kiva (an international micro-loan company); they'll be challenged to consider how their profits could be used to invest in REAL people, with REAL needs, that will make REAL impact (and they get a REAL return on their investment). Some choose to...some don't. The real idea is for them to consider how they view their 'stuff' and what are the 'stories' our lives tell with the use of our wealth.

Over the years, I've had students make literally hundreds of micro-loans to fund the livelihoods of real people...just using their relatively measly profits from a business project.

Language Arts 9 - We spend a couple of weeks researching and understanding the Canadian residential school system through the story of Chanie Wenjack, as told in the Secret Path graphic novel and soundtrack. After learning some of the history (truth), students attempt to imagine a Canada going through and achieving reconciliation. In their project, they need to convey the need to understand the truth of what has occurred (and the ongoing effects) and the difficult task of working for reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians.

Social Studies 9 - In the development of their business venture, students need to provide a clear explanation of their business ethics, the foundational principles that their business is built on. Students also need to choose a local charity to support and what percentage of their profits will go to their chosen charity. While they are learning about how a business' ethics and values can influence consumers, they are also analyzing how to use their financial success to impact their local community.

Grade 1 - Part of our storyline in Grade 1 is that each child will know that they are a child of God, that He loves all of us, and that we are invited to play a part of His Great Story! As we explored the color wheel this year, we wondered if we could find all these colors outside. Out we went to explore and enjoy creation. Students reflected that of course all the colors were outside; God made them in the first place! In PE the students did weekly nature walks enjoying God's creation and thinking of ways to take care of it. We also explored ways in which we could be community builders and servant workers in our families during our Belonging unit. Students thought about how to help and serve others and discussed different ways they could do this at home. Back in class we discussed the things we had tried. During class discussions we began to understand that God intended this from the beginning and that sin has changed this BUT with the Holy Spirit's help every day, we can make a change as we continue to reflect God's Image. One of our FLEX projects in Grade 1 was making Christmas cards for Seniors in nursing homes. After talking about our families and how thankful we were for God to put us in one, it came up that some people don't get to live with their families and may be lonely. Students put a great deal of work into creating cards with art and writing in their best printing to share the message of Christmas and joy. It was very thrilling to see students' enthusiasm for writing as they realized that writing is not just a skill we need to practice at school, but a powerful tool that can be used for God's glory.

Restorative Practices

The Society has supported ECS teachers in being trained in Restorative Practice over the past many years. Not only has it informed and guided our discipline practices at ECS we have used the philosophy to create community. Here are some of the many ways circles are used to creative

positive relationships and maintain a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning and student safety:

- Classroom circles
 - Checking-in, -out
 - Developing class norms (co-creating expectations for a safe and welcoming space and classroom community)
 - Conflict resolution - identifying harmful behaviours, seeking forgiveness, moving towards healing and healthy boundaries
 - Identifying lagging skills and maladaptive behavior
 - using circles to be proactive; building, repairing, and strengthening relationships/interactions and solving problems

2022-2023 Staff Recognition

5 Years

Evangelista, Alvin
Green, Emily
Knol, Jennifer
Krikke, Aurelie
Nap-VanLaar, Christy
Risselada, Erica
Schaitel, Brooke
Skepple, Beth
VanDoesburg, Jessica
Van Niejenhuis, Tanya

10 Years

Hogendoorn, Suzanne

15 Years

Epp, Tim
Greene, Heather
Tolhurst, Megan

20 Years

Lobert, Helen
Van Ry, Brady
Rosenberger, Julie

25 Years

van Driesum, Mary

30 Years

Hofstede, Rob
Otteson, Monique

Retirees

Lindemulder, Teresa (18 years)
Piers, Linda (21 years)

ABSENTEE BALLOT

In regard to the votes that will take place at the Society Meeting on June 6, 2022, I vote:

*** Motion:** To accept the 2022-2023 budget as presented.

Please circle one.

in favour

opposed

abstain

*** Election of Board members:** To accept the slate of nominees as put forward by the Board

Please circle one.

in favour

opposed

abstain

Full Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Return this ballot to the Society office by 4:00 p.m. June 6, 2022

Scan and email: societyoffice@edmchristian.org

Mail or drop off:

Edmonton Society for Christian Education

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