

January 11, 2018

Elk Island Catholic Trustees Supports Parent Choice in Kindergarten Programming ***Trustees move to preserve flexibility in Kindergarten programming***

*Sherwood Park...*At the January 10, 2018 Elk Island Catholic School (EICS) public board meeting, the EICS Board of Trustees decided to continue to allow flexibility in the Early Childhood Services (ECS) kindergarten programs being offered throughout the division. The EICS Board also has directed school administration to ensure that parent registration requests are utilized in determining which type of ECS kindergarten programs are offered.

After cancelling kindergarten noon-hour bus service in Sherwood Park for the 2018-2019 school year due to being financially unsustainable, the EICS Board conducted a comprehensive engagement process with our communities to determine what parents, staff and communities were looking for in terms of kindergarten programming in their community. In the survey, which received over 200 responses, the EICS Board was presented with the following data:

- 62% of respondents say child care is a consideration in kindergarten programming.
- 39% of respondents utilize bussing for their kindergarten student
- 88% of respondents indicated flexibility is important.

On Monday, January 15, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. online registration will open for the 2018/19 school year for kindergarten. When registering for kindergarten, parents will be prompted to provide their preferences for their child's program, including:

- either half-day morning or afternoon with no noon bussing
- full day, Progressive or Kinder-plus if it is offered at their school

Principals will utilize this data, while considering room and resources at their school, to determine what programs will be offered. EICS offers flexibility in its innovative programs in a faith-based environment, including preschool programs in the majority of its early learning schools and is encouraging parents to register early at www.eics.ab.ca

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EICS, part of Alberta's publicly funded education system, is committed to developing educational opportunities in the context of Gospel values. EICS is dedicated to providing quality, faith-based learning environments to students of any background and faith, where their skills are nurtured and celebrated by dedicated, caring staff.

For more information or to request an interview, please contact:

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