

Partnership Proposal, Ecole Pere Kenneth Kearns Catholic School**Report Purpose**

In response to Council direction, this report provides information on the opportunity to partner with Elk Island Catholic Separate School Division.

Recommendation

THAT funding, up to a maximum amount of 2.8 million dollars, to Elk Island Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 41, to assist in the expansion of the École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School gymnasium, be approved; and that a funding agreement consistent with the terms set out in Enclosure 2 of the January 22, 2019 Recreation Parks and Culture report be approved.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Report

On December 4, 2018, Elk Island Catholic Schools presented a partnership proposal to Strathcona County in support of expanding the gymnasium for École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School as part of their upcoming modernization project (Enclosure 1). A single station gymnasium of appropriate size for a Kindergarten to Grade 4 school is currently the approved allowable size under Alberta Education's funding requirements, which limits the type and size of school and community activities.

Providing funding to assist with the expansion of the École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School gymnasium under the terms of the proposed Funding Agreement would offer many benefits to the community including:

- Improved ability to meet demand for community use that requires a regulation size gymnasium
- The estimated addition of over 1,000 hours will be available to allocate to the community
- Ability to support a wider variety of use such as tournaments and community events
- Enhanced educational opportunities including a climbing wall
- Financial efficiencies through shared spaces including a dedicated space for gymnasium equipment storage, access to fully accessible locker/change rooms with showers, flex/meeting space and an office/admission space
- Asset management and ongoing operational costs managed by Elk Island Catholic Separate Schools provide an added benefit to the County

Based on a review by Facility Services, the cost estimates are in line for the type of construction and engineering services required. As this project is part of an expansion to an existing school, there is a lower construction cost and risk to the County compared to the County undertaking a standalone project of similar scope.

To meet construction timelines, Elk Island Catholic Schools needs to finalize its design in January 2019. Construction is expected to commence in Summer 2019 with target completion 2021.

The modernization project is budgeted at \$10.4 million and is currently in the design phase. Elk Island Catholic Schools has proposed that Strathcona County contribute an additional \$2.8 million (including contingency) to enhance the gymnasium and supporting amenities. This funding would allow for a gymnasium expansion to accommodate additional community use beyond what is allowable under provincial government funding.

If approval is given by Council to proceed with this partnership project, administration will work to find an appropriate funding source either through debt or from reserves. This is not considered a capital project as the County will not have ownership of the asset. As such, this contribution is not eligible for grants.

Based on current unmet demand for gymnasium space and preliminarily results from the recent public engagement for the new Recreation and Culture Strategy, there is much evidence to support entering into a partnership agreement with Elk Island Catholic Schools. Gymnasium space is ranked as one of the top five indoor spaces the community needs more of to meet demand. There is approximately 1,600 hours of unmet space demand across various user groups including basketball, volleyball, badminton, handball and pickleball.

The space would be allocated through the existing Reciprocal Use Agreement between Strathcona County and Elk Island Catholic Schools. Strathcona County would allocate time to community groups through an allocation process and public engagement.

Built in 1967, École Père Kenneth Kearns was one of the first Catholic schools built in Sherwood Park, and is currently operated as a Catholic French Immersion School serving 230 K-4 students and 18 preschool students. École Père Kenneth Kearns has many facility deficiencies including an undersized gymnasium, which lacks much needed amenities including bleachers, change rooms and equipment storage.

Elk Island Catholic Schools and Strathcona County have a long history of working together to find synergies in service delivery that benefit the community. A recent example involves the success of the Emerald Hills Regional Park and Leisure Centre sharing a site with Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School, which has generated many benefits to the high school students and the community as a whole.

This modernization project presents a similar opportunity to capitalize on additional benefits to the community through shared resources.

Council and Committee History

12/04/2018	THAT Administration work with Elk Island Catholic Schools to provide a report by the end of the January, 2019 that will include a breakdown of costs to increase the size of the gymnasium, the budget impact to the County, information regarding control and usage of the space throughout the year, additional possible partnership and funding options that could be considered, along with a cost benefit analysis of the proposed support to the expansion of the École Père Kenneth Kearns gymnasium.
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01/23/2018 THAT Administration work with Elk Island Public Schools on a proposed joint planning and use arrangement at the new Wye School in Heritage Hills that may result in expansion of the proposed gymnasium and recreation facilities at this site, with a goal to maximizing opportunities for community use beyond regular school hours and enhancing facilities for children and youth; and
THAT Administration work with Elk Island Catholic Schools, Elk Island Public Schools, Francophone Schools, and New Horizons and any other Charter Schools, during the planning and construction of any future school facilities in the County, to maximize the opportunities for community use of the recreation facilities and spaces.

Other Impacts**Policy:** n/a**Legislative/Legal:** Partnership agreement with Elk Island Catholic Schools**Interdepartmental:** n/a**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a**Alternatives**

Wait until the new Recreation and Culture Strategy is approved and incorporate the development of gymnasium infrastructure into the implementation plan. This could involve adding to existing or proposed recreation facilities or exploring partnerships with future school retrofits or new builds.

Enclosure(s)

- 1 ONPA Architects Draft Design for the Modernization of École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School
- 2 Essential Terms of the Funding Agreement, École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School Modernization Project
- 3 Council Presentation - Funding Agreement, École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School Modernization Project