

**Funding Proposal to Enhance  
Modernization of École Père Kenneth  
Kearns Catholic School**

Presented to Strathcona County Council

December 4, 2018

## 6.2 - ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

# Funding Proposal

### Background

Built in 1967, École Père Kenneth Kearns (EPK) was one of the first Catholic schools built in Sherwood Park. The school currently is the Catholic French Immersion school for grades K-4 in Strathcona County and serves 230 K-4 students and 18 preschool students. As a facility, EPK has many deficiencies, which resulted in EPK being on the division's capital plan for 7 years and moved up to Elk Island Catholic Schools' (EICS) number one priority 3 years ago. Deficiencies included:

- Gymnasium that is significantly undersized
- Poor circulation throughout the school
- Administration area undersized and not appropriately located
- Poor parking and parent drop off

EICS is currently in the design phase of its addition and modernization of EPK. The scope of the project, which is budgeted at \$10.4 million and is to be completed by 2021 is as follows:

- Addition of new gymnasium
- Restructure of Administration area
- Cosmetic upgrade of common areas and classrooms
- LED lighting retrofit and solar array installation
- Addition to parking lot to meet new code requirements

After consulting with school staff, leadership and its community, ONPA Architects has created the draft design as shown in Appendix A. Under Alberta Education rules, the design is limited in the total space and amenities that can be constructed. The proposed design in Appendix A has maximized all amenities and space allowable under these rules.

Construction is expected to commence in Summer 2019.

### Proposed Enhancement

Strathcona County Council has created a policy where if there are opportunities that could enhance the modernization and create benefits for both students and the community at large, that it would consider funding these enhancements. When EICS was made aware of the County of Strathcona Council's policy, EICS leadership worked with its partners and consultants to determine if any such opportunities existed.

After a thorough analysis, EICS is proposing funding of \$2,336,256 to enhance the gymnasium and supporting amenities, as laid out in Appendices B and C, to better support the school community as well as the community at large. The funding would allow for the following construction over and above what is allowable under government funding:

- Addition of 233m<sup>2</sup> gymnasium space to create a regulation sized gymnasium
- Expansion of main washroom into a change room facility to accommodate community use
- Addition of storage areas for community equipment storage
- Bleachers and scoreboard

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### **Benefits**

#### Improved Opportunities for Community Use

Currently, outside of school hours, EICS schools in Sherwood Park are at capacity with school use, reciprocal use with Strathcona County and community use. EICS regularly must turn away community rentals due to this overcapacity. As part of the scope allowed under Alberta Education's funding of the modernization, EICS can only build a small two station gym as part of the project, which limits the size of school and community activities.

As proposed, adding to this scope would allow for multiple games or activities to occur at a time, and would permit a substantial increase in the amount of after-hours capacity that the division would have for providing space for community groups.

#### Enhanced Educational Opportunities

The additional space will provide more room for physical education programming for Sherwood Park students. If more space is available for the gymnasium, EICS is currently investigating the addition of a climbing wall to the gymnasium due to the large demand for this type of amenity in physical education programming.

#### Increased ability for large community wide events

The addition of bleachers, change rooms and a scoreboard will provide another facility in the community with tournament level amenities. An additional facility with these amenities provides greater opportunities for the community to host large, multi-facility tournaments or events such as Summer or Winter Games or Provincials.

### **Timelines**

In order to meet its construction timelines, EICS needs to finalize its design by January 15, 2019.

### **Conclusion**

EICS and the County of Strathcona have a long history of working together, with a recent example including its partnership in Emerald Hills, where the High School and Aquatic Centre operate on one site. This modernization presents a unique opportunity for the community, where a school project is occurring where there is sufficient space to enhance the amenities of the school to benefit both the school community and the community at large.

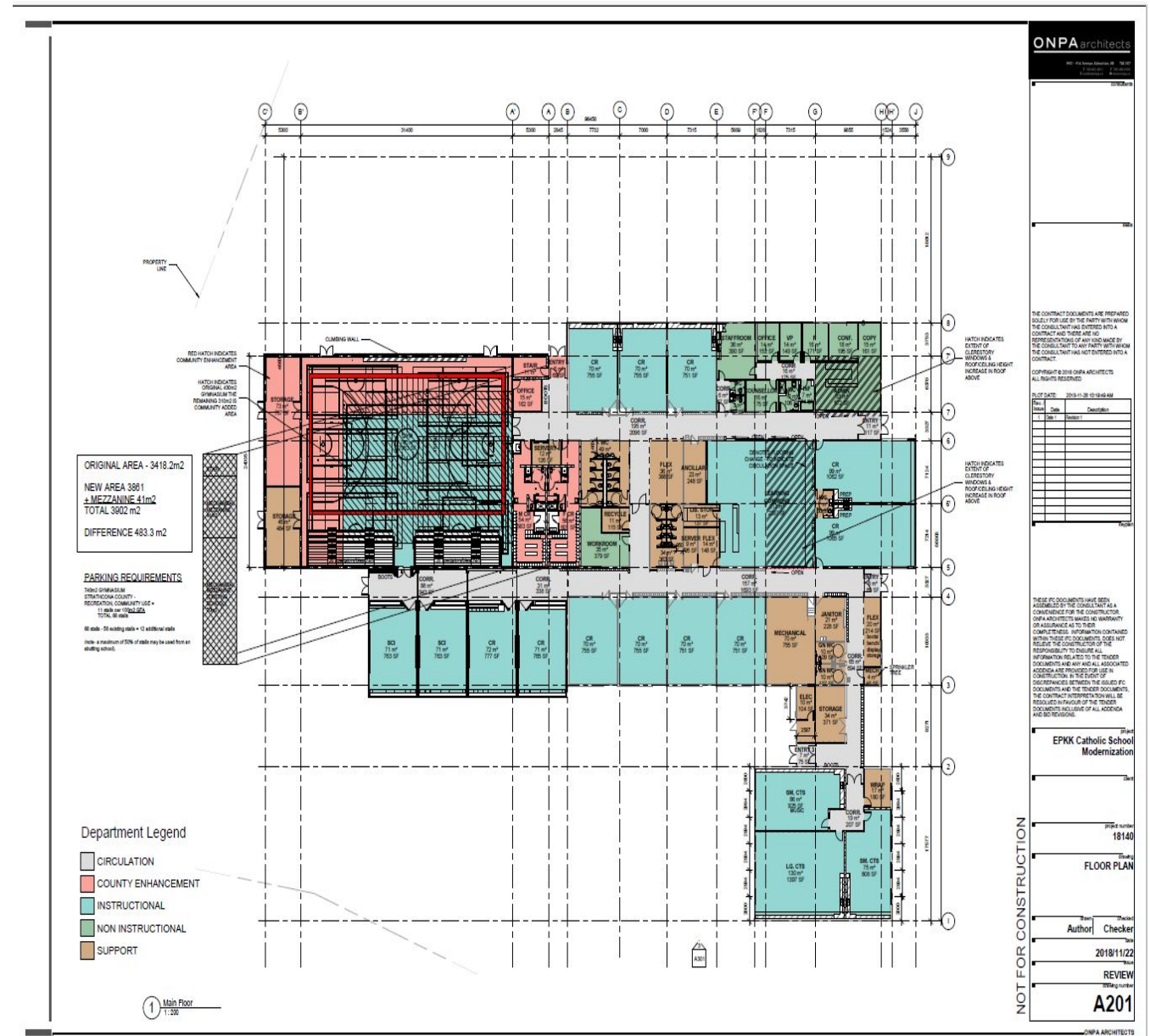
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## Appendix A: Design under current scope



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## Appendix B: Design with enhancements



\*Note: The area shared in Red represents space that would be enhanced by County funding.



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**Appendix C: Visualization of expanded gymnasium**

