



News Release

Second community engagement session takes place with RDCRS and Kentwood residents about St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School

For immediate release – May 21, 2021

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools (RDCRS) held their second community engagement session regarding the construction of a new middle school in Kentwood, St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School, on Thursday evening for neighbourhood residents.

“Our second community engagement session was a great opportunity for Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools to continue our collaborative efforts and conversation with residents in the Kentwood neighbourhood. These collaborative conversations have informed our decision-making, supporting the progress and development of the new school,” said Board Chair, Kim Pasula at Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the community meeting was held virtually via Zoom with 25 attendees ranging from RDCRS’ Board of Trustees, Superintendent of Schools, members of the St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School Design Team, Group2 Architecture, and Clark Builders, as well as Kentwood-area residents.

The intent of the engagement session was to provide a forum for community feedback with the overall design of the school, with the second session focusing primarily on the site layout.

Attendees were given a project overview to-date, information regarding the allocation of the school site, new progressions and updates about the new middle school, a design review and an opportunity for those in attendance to voice any questions regarding the construction of the new school.

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“To date, geotechnical testing has been completed and the results were used in optimizing the site layout. A traffic assessment will be completed in the coming weeks as part of the development permit process with a focus on student, staff and community safety”, said Superintendent, Kathleen Finnigan, at Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

Construction is expected to start in the Fall of 2021, with the school opening in September 2023.

“As we continue to move further along in the design process of St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School, we look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts and receiving input and feedback from community members”, said Pasula.

A third community engagement session is tentatively scheduled for September.

For additional information and updates regarding St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School, please visit <https://www.stlorenzoschool.ca/>.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,360 students in 20 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds, as well as an at-home learning program. It also supports the learning of over 1095 students in a Traditional Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings.

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