

BLESSING
and
OFFICIAL OPENING

6110 - 95 Avenue
Edmonton

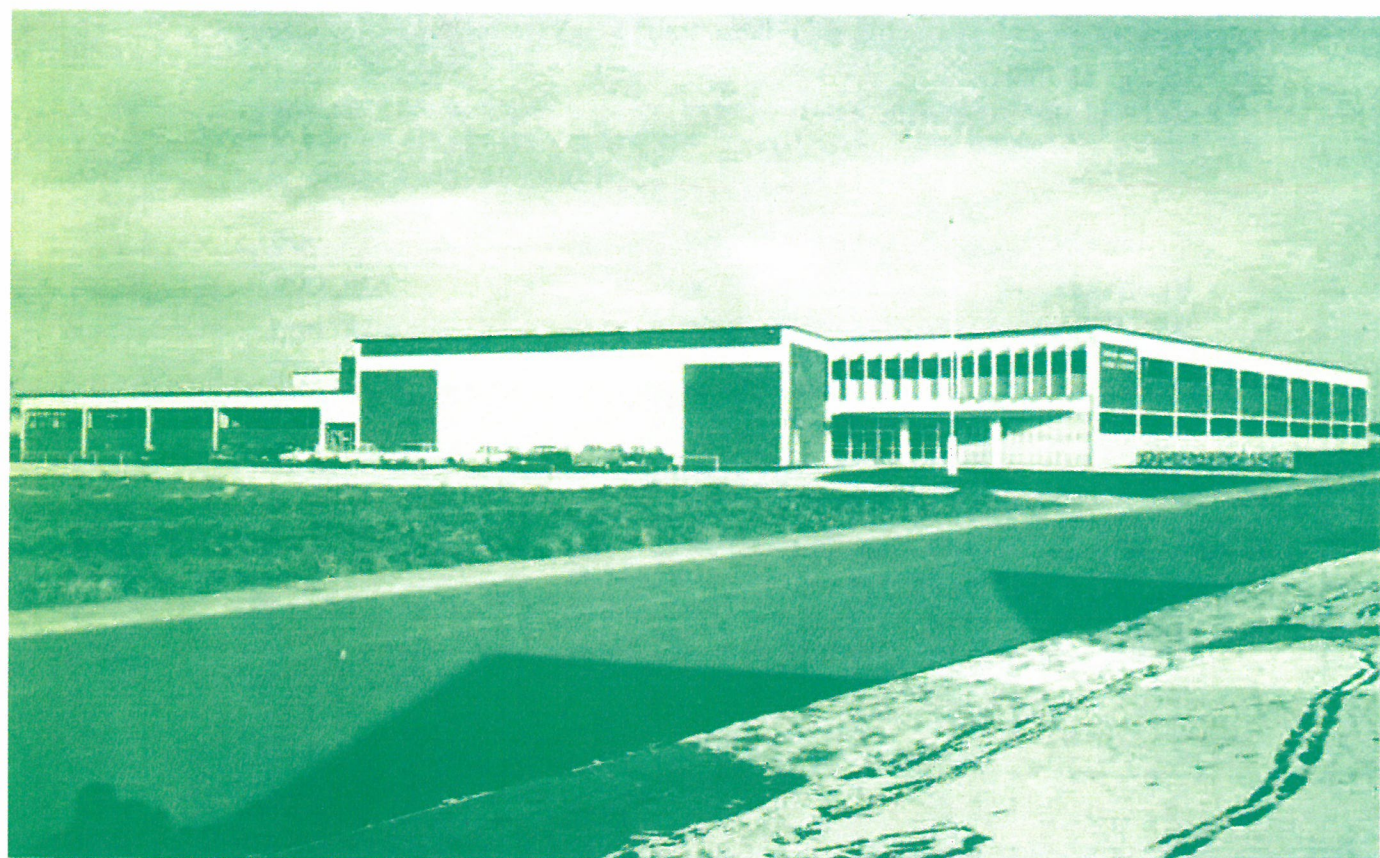
November 24, 1963

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EDMONTON SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD

Trustees

Mr. O. N. Demco	Chairman
Mr. E. D. Stack	Deputy Chairman
Dr. G. R. Boileau	Mr. J. B. Feehan
Mr. B. W. Diachuk	Dr. A. A. Gorman
Mrs. W. R. McDonald	

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AUSTIN O'BRIEN HIGH SCHOOL

Teaching Staff

Rev. Sr. Marie Lillian	Principal
Mr. J. Mazurek	Vice Principal
Rev. Sr. Marie Diane	Mr. J. F. Maguire
Rev. Sr. Marie Janice	Miss E. Meikle
Rev. Sr. Loyola	Mr. J. Patterson
Rev. F. E. Otterson	Miss V. Pavan
Miss S. Hannas	Miss S. Piri
Mr. A. P. Hiebert	Mr. A. H. Stosky

Contractors

General:	Christensen and Macdonald	\$ 775,600
Mechanical:	Canadian Comstock Co. Ltd.	220,000
Electrical:	Sunley Electric Ltd.	118,000
	Total Cost	<u>\$1,113,600</u>
	Government Grants	<u>332,000</u>
	Cost to the Board	\$ 781,600

Architects: Dupuis, Dunn, Donahue

School Board Architect: W. P. Pasternak

Design Features

Team Teaching Classrooms--one on each floor in southeast corner of the building. These are actually made up of two standard size rooms with a dividing partition between.

Language Laboratory--on Main Floor, south of Library. This is a fully furnished class-size laboratory.

Music Room--across corridor from Cafeteria. This is a tiered room which will permit choral and band instruction. The room has sound proof practice booths at the rear and is equipped for recording.

Chemistry and Physics Laboratories--on Second Floor behind the Gymnasium. These are arranged to permit lectures and lab facilities in the same area.

Flexibility--Note flexible utility possibilities in the Cafeteria, Multi-Purpose Room, Library, Language Lab bank. Also note the same feature in the Science area arrangement.

Expansion Possibilities--The Gymnasium-Cafeteria-Library grouping on the Main Floor and the Science area grouping on the Second Floor form the nucleus about which the classrooms are arranged. The south wing can be duplicated on the north with the idea of retaining the service areas in the centre of activity.

<u>Accommodation</u>	18 Standard Classrooms
	3 Science Rooms
	2 Shop Units
	Language Laboratory
	Typing Room
	Music Room
	Library
	Home Economics Room
	Gymnasium

Area of Site: 9.5 acres

Cost of Site: \$21,500

P R O G R A M M E
Blessing and Official Opening
Austin O'Brien High School
Sunday, November 24th, 1963, 2:00 p.m.

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O Canada

Address of Welcome Gerald Lang

Blessing of the School by Most Rev. J. H. MacDonald,
Archbishop of Edmonton

Choral Selections Sister Loyola, Conductor

You'll Never Walk Alone

It's a Grand Night for Singing

The Chairman

Mr. O. N. Demco,
Chairman Edmonton Separate School Board

Introduction of Platform Guests

Remarks: Representative of the Government
of the Province of Alberta

Presentations: Rev. Sr. Marie Lillian,
Principal, O'Brien High School
Sir Austin O'Brien

Official Opening and Address:
Most Rev. J. H. MacDonald

God Save the Queen

Public Inspection of the School
Coffee will be Served in the Cafeteria



Sir Austin O'Brien

Superintendent of
Edmonton Separate Schools

1925 - 1961

It is a pleasure to bless the new Austin O'Brien High School. The name is a credit to the Board's sense of fairness and justice as well as to the distinguished services rendered by Mr. O'Brien during his many years as superintendent. Too often such recognition is postponed till after death. There was one circumstance in this case that favored the Board, in that they were certain that none of Austin O'Brien's acquaintances would ever believe that he had anything to do with the plan to name the school in his honour.

Our Separate School System was a small institution when Mr. O'Brien came here nearly forty years ago. Men of vision in municipal and city spheres were beginning to realize that Edmonton was destined to become a large city and they were anxious to lay the best possible foundation. This meant that school problems should be among the first to receive their

attention, if our future citizens were to maintain that respect for authority which would be necessary for peace and co-operation in a city soon to be bulging with people from almost every country of the world. Many of these would be coming from countries poisoned by Nazism and Communism; others from the congested areas of Europe and Asia; all of whom would need more than ordinary training to adapt themselves to our way of life.

There were probably a thousand pupils in our Separate Schools at that time--at least I recall asking Mr. O'Brien in 1938 or 1939, some fifteen years later, what our city school enrolment was, and the answer was 2,750 in eleven schools, with 75 teachers. Today there are more than seven hundred teachers in charge of nearly 18,000 children in close to fifty-five schools, five of which are well equipped high schools, largely through the far-seeing progressive policy brought to the Board by Mr. O'Brien.

Good moral character and a thorough knowledge of the subjects to be taught were the qualifications demanded of his teachers, in the hope that these virtues would soon permeate the whole school system. He knew there would be little sense in using the legal rights accorded us by the Autonomy Act of 1905 by which our beloved province was established, permitting religious instruction in our schools, unless we had teachers whose moral life would be an example and an encouragement to the children under their care.

He also knew from experience that children are far from slow in detecting the weakness of teachers so far as knowledge of their subject is concerned. Only a few of the top students might see them, but the news would soon become public with regrettable effects upon the reputation and influence of the whole school. This need for a thorough knowledge of their subject he impressed on every teacher, taking care to do so in a manner that would never weaken the morale or the reputation of the teacher concerned.

Mr. O'Brien's sense of courtesy and fairness was largely responsible for the good relations existing at all

times between the two City School Boards. No school board can function satisfactorily without a code of discipline which can be enforced. Situations arose occasionally when this proved so irksome to the parents that they wanted to place their child in another school; but common sense was made to prevail to the ultimate benefit and satisfaction of all concerned.

His relations with the Provincial Department of Education were also pleasant, even though he continually demanded the same measure of justice for both the Separate and the Public Schools. This, after many years, was finally granted. I trust I shall be pardoned for relating an incident which reveals both the respect in which he was held by the Department and his loyalty towards our Separate Schools. It happened that there was an important vacancy in the Department for which he was considered the best man available, with a substantial increase in salary and a higher retirement allowance than our schools could afford. After some discussion and serious consideration of the pros and cons, he finally decided to remain with us, a decision which I feel sure he has never regretted. This is merely one example of the many things done by Mr. O'Brien for which we are deeply grateful, and the fact that all was done without any unpleasant repercussions is no small tribute either to the officials or to himself.

It will be my constant prayer that these and the many other facts which could be told from Sir Austin's long association with the cause of Catholic education in Edmonton will always prove a source of perennial inspiration to both teachers and pupils in this beautiful school.

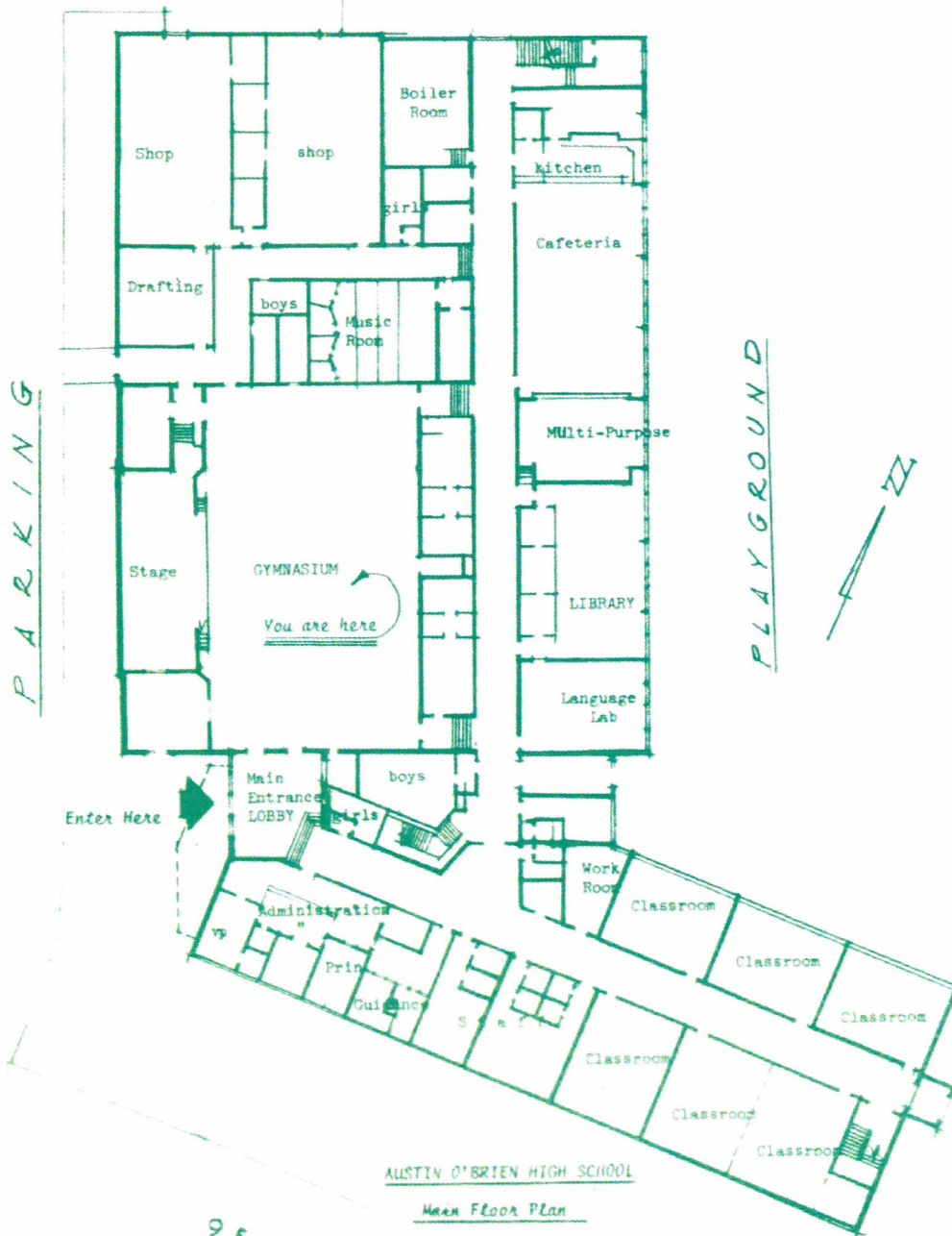
Sincerely in the Lord,

J. H. MacDonald
Archbishop of Edmonton.



Most Rev. J.H. MacDonald
Archbishop of Edmonton

AUSTIN O'BRIEN ROAD



AUSTIN O'BRIEN HIGH SCHOOL

Main Floor Plan

95th AVENUE