

January 29, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045, STN Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bernier:

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to request a meeting with you, and the appropriate Ministry staff, to discuss all possible options to fund the differential between a seismic upgrade and a full replacement of Handsworth Secondary School. Handsworth was announced as a seismic project in 2013 for commencement in 2015. The Ministry of Education Capital Branch staff and School District staff are currently finalizing the Project Definition Report (PDR).

At the January 19, 2016 Public Board Meeting, the Board of Education unanimously passed the following motion:

that the Board of Education indicate its intention to advance the preferred option for the Handsworth Capital Project as a Full Replacement School Project at a capacity of 1300 students, rather than as a Seismic Upgrade Project, and;

that the Board of Education request a meeting with the Ministry of Education, at the earliest opportunity, to explore all opportunities to fund the Full Replacement School Project, including full funding provided by the Ministry of Education.

As you will recall, the Board of Education has identified multiple surplus school properties and worked diligently to dispose of properties that would no longer be required for school purposes. To date, the Board has completed the sale of three properties:

Keith Lynn Alternate Secondary	\$5,000,000	August 2014
Monteray Elementary	\$6,380,000	June 2015
Ridgeway Annex	\$5,100,000	November 2015

The sale proceeds of these properties were applied to the retirement of the \$6.2M debt owing to the Province, with the balance available to fund the differential between a seismic upgrade and full replacement of Argyle Secondary School. A parcel at Braemar Elementary is a fourth property that continues to be under a conditional sale for \$2,400,000.

Four additional surplus school properties were identified in 2012 and have been leased for periods of up to ten years. The Board may consider the renewal of the leases at the respective lease expiry dates that fall between 2020 and 2024.

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The Board of Education is now focusing its efforts on achieving a full replacement of Handsworth Secondary School. We are committed in our view that a full replacement of Handsworth Secondary School is the most educationally sound, economically viable, and energy efficient long-term solution. This is the opportunity to create a new school that addresses the educational needs, capacity, and functionality of a 21st Century Learning environment consistent with the BC Education Plan and to provide enhanced facilities and amenities for the community.

We look forward to meeting with you and your staff at the earliest opportunity to advance this important capital project in a timely manner.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christie Sacré'.

Christie Sacré
Chair

cc Ralph Sultan, MLA West Vancouver-Capilano
 Jane Thornthwaite, MLA North Vancouver-Seymour
 Naomi Yamamoto, MLA North Vancouver-Lonsdale
 Mayor Richard Walton and Council, District of North Vancouver
 Board of Education, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)
 John Lewis, Superintendent
 Georgia Allison, Secretary Treasurer