



April 12, 2018

Ref: 201887

Margo Wagner, Chair
Cariboo Regional District
Email: mwagner@cariboord.ca

Dear Ms. Wagner:

Thank you for your letter dated March 15, 2018, addressed to me, and the Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance, regarding Quesnel Junior Secondary School (QJS), and the temporary move to Maple Drive Junior School. I apologize for the delay in my response.

Student safety is a top priority for the Ministry of Education and the Quesnel School District. As you know, there are maintenance requirements at QJS that are not feasible to address in the short term. The Ministry and the District have been working together closely on this issue and in November 2017, the Ministry provided \$1.7 million to the District to enable a move to Maple Drive Junior Secondary (MDJS). The District is now working on the improvements to MDJS, and I understand the move from QJS to MDJS is scheduled to occur at the beginning of the 2018/19 school year.

In addition, the Ministry has recently supported the District to prepare a business case for the replacement of QJS. A business case is required before a capital project can be considered for funding approval. The business case will be a collaborative process between the District and the Ministry with the outcome being a detailed options analysis for the replacement of QJS. The Ministry expects the District to submit a final business case to the Ministry by October 31, 2018, so government can consider the project for final funding approval.

You can read more about this project in the recent news release issued by the Quesnel School District:

<https://bcsd28.civicweb.net/document/43533/2018-03-28%20News%20Release%20SD%2028%20Moves%20to%20Next%20Stage%20.pdf?handle=8944D284BFED49AB851A143C9F42531F>

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Joel Palmer, Executive Director, Capital Management Branch, by email at Joel.Palmer@gov.bc.ca or by phone at (250) 356-2588.

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Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "F".

Rob Fleming
Minister

pc: Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance

File: 400-20

March 15, 2018

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO BOX 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Honourable Carole James
Minister of Finance
PO BOX 9048 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming and Minister James:

Re: Replacement of Quesnel Junior School

On behalf of the Cariboo Regional District Board, I thank you for responding to the emergent need of the Quesnel School District and providing 1.7 M to temporarily relocate the students of Quesnel Junior School (QJS) to Maple Drive Junior School.

The re-occupancy of Maple Drive Junior School closed in 2003 is only a temporary solution. Upon entry, the school will be overcrowded and, in many ways, sub-standard to other schools in the province. All professional consultants recommended that reoccupation should not extend past a three-year period. Therefore, we believe it is critical that a new school to replace QJS be announced without any undue delay.

QJS serves all students in the Quesnel School District. The program/systems at QJS are designed to best meet the unique needs of adolescent learners. It is our belief that students in Quesnel are achieving greater levels of academic and social-emotional success because of the programming and support offered. These elements include:

- Smaller learning communities
- Focus on core subjects with more time provided for Math and English Language Arts
- Collaboration time provided for interdisciplinary teams to plan for students
- Success-for-all philosophy that includes planning for individual student needs
- Close connections with families to support student success


Our students deserve a school facility that is healthy, offers spaces to engage in 21st century learning and supports their transition to the graduation program. The Board of Education has submitted capital Project Requests for the replacement of QJS (formally QSS) for the past 15 years.

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building communities together

We know that your government is committed to working with families and building schools that provide a safe and positive environment. The replacement of Quesnel Junior School is the only acceptable long-term solution. We ask the ministry to not delay its decision, and to provide the funding for this critical need.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margo Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Margo Wagner
Chair

cc: MLA Coralee Oakes, Cariboo North
MLA Donna Barnett, Cariboo-Chilcotin
Gloria Jackson, Chairperson, Quesnel Board of Education
City of Quesnel Mayor and Council