



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

June 25th, 2018

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
1020 Hillside Ave
Victoria, BC V8T 2A3

Dear Hon. Minister Fleming:

RE: Request for Funding for Needed Repairs to MBSS Drama & Music Rooms

School District 5 (SD5) Board of Education brought forward and carried the following motion:

M/S that the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education to petition for the \$382,250 estimated cost for repairs to the Mount Baker Secondary School Drama and Music rooms and bring to the May 8, 2018 Board meeting.

Our Board has been advocating for the replacement of Mount Baker Secondary School (MBSS) since 2008. MBSS, located in Cranbrook, is almost 70 years old and is the largest school in the East and West Kootenay.

The Key City Theatre (KCT) is attached to MBSS and shares structural framework, plumbing and HVAC (and deficiencies) with the school and provides considerable opportunity to our students. Studies and audits of the past 20 years identify major deficiencies in structure, fabric, operation, function, code, compliance and accessibility as identified in the most recent, detailed and comprehensive report of required structural, mechanical and electrical upgrades. WSP Architects completed the most recent and comprehensive study in 2017, with cost estimates updated on April 17, 2018.

The dangerous lack of structural integrity to the joint School and Theatre roof has made “temporary” repairs by the District over the past decade a necessity. Recently, increasingly inclement winters and the subsequent increased snowfall experienced in our region has caused additional stress to the roof, further

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compromising the roof's structural integrity. Consequently, additional supervision and upkeep by our maintenance staff to ensure the safety of our students has become yet another cost increase to our District.

Recently, the Key City Theatre Society (KCTS) Board was awarded a grant for \$487,015 from the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) to assist in the approximately \$800,000 upgrade required to provide lasting access to a safe, fully functional, live performance space. The City of Cranbrook has contributed \$150,000, SD5 has invested \$150,000 and Area C of the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) has contributed \$10,000 toward this project.

Despite the fact that KCT and the MBSS music and drama rooms share structural framework, including roof trusses etc., the Columbia Basin Trust grant can *only* be used to address the KCT structural deficiencies, given that the school is ultimately the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.

There is an opportunity for significant cost and timesaving for the District if the structural deficiencies of the MBSS music and drama rooms are completed in concurrence with the KCT repairs. However, after sixteen (16) years of underfunding of the education system in BC, the District is hard-pressed to find the monies required for these additional upgrades –especially in light of the costs associated with Fernie's Isabella Dicken Elementary School (IDES)'s ever-increasing enrolment needs and the six portables the District has had to refurbish and resource to accommodate the huge student increase.

It is for these reasons that the SD5 Board is requesting that the **Ministry of Education provide our District with a Capital Grant of \$382,250** –the estimated cost (enclosed) required in order to extend the KCT structural repairs to the MBSS Drama and Music rooms.

Over the past decade, our Board has worked hard to advocate for the replacement of MBSS without result.

Our region contributes significantly to BC's economy. According to Urban Futures, Regions & Resources: The Foundations of British Columbia's Economic Base report, based on information from the last Long Form Census, it was noted that "The Kootenays more than pulled its per capita weight in terms of export earnings with a total of \$33,712 export value generated per person". This is more than double the provincial average.

While we are still advocating for a *full school replacement*, we hope you will see the practicality of funding repairs of the faulty trusses in the MBSS music and drama room while the Key City Theater is upgrading its own structural integrity.

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We hope you will consider seriously our request for this one-time capital funding. We look forward to receiving a reply shortly so that our MBSS roofing repairs can be integrated into the KCT construction planning and timelines.

Sincerely,



Frank Lento, Board Chair

Cc*: John Horgan, Premier, BC New Democratic Party
Andrew Weaver, Leader, Green Party
Mike De Jong, House Leader, Liberal Party
Mary Polak and Dan Davies, Education Critics, BC Liberal Party
Tom Shypitka, MLA Kootenay East BC
Lee Pratt, Mayor, City of Cranbrook
Rob Gay, Area C Director, Chair of the RDEK
Gordon Swan, President, BCSTA
BCSTA for distribution to member Boards of Education
Glen Hansman, President BC Teachers' Federation
Jen Mezei, President, BCCPAC
Shelley Balfour & Chris Kielpinski, CFTA Co-Chairs
Tara McKee, DPAC Chair
Aaron Thorn, President, SD5 Administrators' Association
Board of Directors, Columbia Institute
Catherine Shaw, FACE BC Vancouver
Black Press
Black Rock News
Cranbrook Daily Townsman
Drive 102.9/B104 Radio
Elk Valley Herald
e-know Online News
Fernie Free Press
Kootenay Advertiser
Summit 107 Radio

*This correspondence is public and transparent. Please feel free to share and/or respond with comment.

Ta/encls: 1

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Updated Construction Cost Estimate - Structural
Class C Construction Cost Estimate

April 17, 2018
School District No 5

KEY CITY THEATRE / MOUNT BAKER SS		June 2017	2018
Item		Estimate Cost	Estimate Cost
Key City Theatre			4% increase
SR1	Lumber Grading / Species Identification of Trusses and Purlins	\$4,347	\$4,500
SR2	Lateral Load Investigation	\$13,041	\$14,000
SR3	Upgrade Existing Theatre Roof Trusses	\$198,685	\$207,000
SR5	Upgrade Existing Theatre Roof Purlins	\$112,518	\$117,000
SR6	Upgrade Existing Office Wing Roof Joists in Snow Drift Area	\$62,866	\$65,000
SR7	Upgrade Existing Lobby/Foyer Roof Beams in Snow Drift Area	\$78,268	\$81,000
SR8	Upgrade Existing Actor's Wing Roof Trusses	\$37,564	\$39,000
	Asbestos Abatement (To be determined)	\$0	\$0
Fees	WSP Structural	\$24,920	\$40,250
Fees	MQN Architectural	\$3,080	\$4,900
Fees	Building Permit Fees (Estimated)	\$0	\$4,000
Other	Contingency	\$98,850	\$103,000
Taxes	GST	\$31,707	\$34,000
		\$665,845.95	\$713,650
MBSS			
SR1	Lumber Grading / Species Identification of Trusses and Purlins	\$1,863	\$1,900
SR2	Lateral Load Investigation	\$5,589	\$6,000
SR4	Upgrade Existing Music Room Trusses	\$72,396	\$75,000
SR5	Upgrade Music Room Roof Purlins	\$48,222	\$50,000
SR9	Upgrade Existing Drama Room Roof Joists in Snow Drift Area	\$128,128	\$133,000
	Asbestos Abatement (To be determined) - Ceilings and Attic - 113m2	\$0	\$25,000
Fees	WSP Structural	\$10,680	\$17,250
Fees	MQN Architectural	\$1,320	\$2,100
Fees	Building Permit Fees (Estimated)	\$0	\$2,000
Other	Contingency	\$50,122	\$52,000
Taxes	GST	\$15,916.00	\$18,000
		\$334,236.00	\$382,250
		Total:	\$1,096,000

Notes: Applied 4% increase to 2017 cost estimate.

Assumes competitive bidding (and consulting fees increased due to split in overall project).