



January 30, 2018

Ref: 199093

Frank Lento, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
Email: frank.lento@sd5.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Lento:

I am responding to a letter dated December 21, 2017, from Rob Norum, Secretary-Treasurer, regarding Isabella Dicken Elementary School in Fernie.

As you know, on June 30, 2017, the Ministry of Education's intake for the school district's Annual Five-Year Capital Plan submissions closed. Ministry staff have reviewed the submissions from all 60 school districts, including the information you provided for your District, and weighed these priorities against the capital funding available to the Ministry in order to inform our Ministry capital plan. The Ministry's plan is developed in conjunction with government's overall fiscal cycle. The Ministry normally communicates approved capital priorities in writing to each school district in March of each year.

While I appreciate there are challenges with managing older facilities, the Ministry does have programs for capital maintenance, such as the Annual Facilities Grant and the School Enhancement Program. In communities with enrolment growth, the Ministry is committed to reducing the number of portables being used for educational purposes, but must consider the needs across the province when prioritizing projects in the capital planning process. Unfortunately, I am not able to approve your request as an emergent priority; however, I encourage you to continue to ensure your annual capital plan submissions accurately represent the needs of your school district so projects may be considered in the government capital planning cycle.

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. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming".

Rob Fleming
Minister

pc: Rob Norum, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)