



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

October 26, 2022

Ministry of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

ATTENTION: HON. JENNIFER WHITESIDE

Dear Minister Whiteside:

RE: THE CASE FOR INCREASED SCHOOL LIFE CYCLE FUNDING

The Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) at the regular public meeting on October 11, 2022, passed the following motion:

THAT the Board send a letter supporting the concerns raised by the BCSTA in their letter to Minister Whiteside of August 29, 2022, regarding an increase in school life-cycle funding.

The Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) (the “District”) echoes the comments from the report prepared by the BC School Trustees Association Capital Working Group’s: “The Case for Increased school Life Cycle Funding”, which refers to the work which must be completed over the “life” of a building to ensure it remains in peak operating condition. The report highlights the impacts of time to our facilities and the resulting increased costs for maintenance, which is evident in our facilities, with one example being Mount Baker Secondary School, in its seventh decade.

There are critical and mandatory maintenance projects in this school that must be completed as soon as possible. These projects are going to cost the District millions of dollars. Based on the current funding models for our minor capital and maintenance programs requests (i.e. Annual Facility Grant, Carbon Neutral Capital Program, and School Enhancement Program) this means that the band-aid approach for this one school will continue to rob our other schools of much needed maintenance and repairs. The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff are our number one priority and these capital project funding shortfalls must be addressed immediately.

We appreciate the necessity of seismic upgrades to the facilities in British Columbia to ensure we mitigate injury and damage for future events, but the Province needs to address the aging infrastructure in all of the Education sector before it is too late. The districts which fall outside of seismic areas have continued to maintain a minimum level based on the Facility Condition Index (FCI) which is considered barely acceptable to operate schools.

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Krista Damstrom
• Chris Johns • Kathryn Kitt • Doug McPhee • Wendy Turner • Patricia Whalen



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The learning environment for the students and the health and safety of our employees are integral to: improving educational outcomes for all students; developing the Educated Citizen; and, ensuring there is continuous improvement to the educational outcomes for all students.

For too long, the focus has been on fitting kids into spaces. It is about time we start building spaces for students and their learning needs and their stages of development.

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) requires immediate attention for funding of new schools.

With respect,

Frank Lento
SD5 Trustee, City of Fernie
Board Chair
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
Email: frank.lento@sd5.bc.ca

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