

ASDS District Education Council
490 Woodward Avenue
Saint John, NB E2K 5N3

MAR 22 2019

March 17, 2019

Dear Mr. Fowler,

On behalf of the Grand Bay Home and School members, I am writing in support of the ASDS District Education Council to prioritize the new K-5 school to replace Morna Heights School, Inglewood School and Grand Bay Primary as per the Policy 409 study completed 2015-16 as your top capital priority project in 2019.

Over the past year, many parents and community members have spoken with me about their concerns for our aging substandard schools:

- indoor air quality issues
- safety and security of school grounds/student drop off areas
- appropriateness of facilities for curriculum delivery i.e. physical education/music
- inadequate space for helping students with exceptionalities i.e. resource/intervention rooms
- operational cost associated with running three separate buildings i.e. heat, maintenance, increased staff FTEs, insurance
- fire safety systems not up to current building code
- structural integrity of current buildings
- availability of instructional resources such as books and equipment (these are now fragmented across three separate geographical school locations)
- lack of playground equipment at Inglewood School

I have had the opportunity to personally tour through the three existing schools that would be under consideration for this consolidation and firmly agree with the recommendation of "Scenario 3 - New (K-5) school to replace Morna Heights School, Inglewood School and Grand Bay Primary considered feasible" as highlighted in the 2015 Ernst and Young Report. I also agree that the cost to bring these three buildings up to code would not be an effective investment of public funds.

During my tour I saw non-accessible buildings, narrow hallways, low ceilings, water-damaged walls, non-potable water, fire safety systems below code and more. Two schools, Grand Bay Primary and Inglewood School, do not have a proper gym and during a visit to Morna Heights School the gym smelled of mold. Furthermore, a full renovation of the Inglewood space would no doubt also require costly remediation work to remove hazardous materials (asbestos) as well as structural upgrades.

Based on feedback from Ernst and Young consultants, parents, community members and my own site inspection; I firmly believe a full replacement of these three buildings in this case is absolutely required. This is why, on behalf of the Grand Bay Home and School, I recommend the ASDS District Education Council prioritize the new K-5 school to replace Morna Heights School, Inglewood School and Grand Bay Primary as your top capital priority project in 2019.

Regards,



Nicole Bernier
Grand Bay Home and School President

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