



490 Woodward Avenue
Saint John, New Brunswick
E2K 5N3

September 23, 2019

Hon. Dominic Cardy
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Department of Education
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Minister Cardy:

During the September 11, 2019 Anglophone South District Education Council meeting, Council unanimously agreed to write to you to communicate their concerns with chronic underfunding for ASD-S.

During this meeting, Mr. MacDonald, Director of Finance and Administration, reviewed the proposed Expenditure Plan (attached) which is forecasting a break even position for year end; however, he went on to outline key areas where ASD-S is again underfunded including teacher fte, replacement salaries, EAs, and the cost of minor repairs for our aging infrastructure. In order to accomplish this balanced budget, monies will need to be re-directed from other categories which is certainly not ideal.

We are pleased to hear that teacher staffing will be reviewed when September enrolment is finalized as we have exceeded the fte assigned. Despite the best efforts of staff and schools, the EA funding gap is at approximately 70 positions and this number will grow through the year as new students with needs move into our District. With the average age of our schools being 55 years, and the Saint John Education Centre 57 years, keeping up with necessary repairs is a definite challenge.

Considerable discussion took place during the meeting on whether to approve the expenditure plan as presented. Members felt strongly that ASD-S needed to be clear that their decision to reject the expenditure plan was not a reflection on District staff and their efforts, but instead, a message to the Department regarding the seriousness of the District's inability to provide the proper level of service to our students with the funding provided.

I would be happy to discuss these concerns at any time and/or provide you with any further information that you may require.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Fowler'.

Rob Fowler
Chair

/cmm
Attachment

Copy: John McLaughlin, Deputy Minister, EECD
Zoë Watson, Superintendent ASD-S
John MacDonald, Director Finance & Administration, ASD-S