


September 25, 2019

Mr. Rob Fowler, Chair
District Education Council
Anglophone South School District
490 Woodward Avenue
Saint John, NB E2K 5N3

Dear Mr. Fowler: 

I am in receipt of your letter of September 23, 2019, as well as recent media reports indicating that the District Education Council (DEC) for the Anglophone South School District (ASD-S) declined to pass a balanced operating budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020, despite having been presented one by the Superintendent at your regular September meeting. At this time, I refer you to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's *Policy 101 – Financial Responsibilities of School Districts*, which gains its authority from the *Education Act*. In summary, the policy makes clear that all school districts are required to submit an expenditure plan by July 1 of the year in question (subsection 6.1.3) and that the district cannot incur a deficit (subsection 6.1.4.2).

This year, as has often been the case, the Department has attempted to work with your district and others rather than strictly enforce the July 1 deadline. Unfortunately, we have arrived at the point where I am hereby requesting that I receive a balanced expenditure plan from the ASD-S DEC on or before October 11, 2019. I trust the DEC will comply with this request, which I am issuing under subsection 40.3(1)(b) of the *Education Act*. The DEC's compliance with this request will avoid any further action as provided for by subsequent sections of the *Education Act*.

I am aware of the classroom composition challenges in today's schools. It is for this reason that the current and previous governments have provided significant additional teacher and Education Assistant (EA) positions and funding. In order to ensure your concerns are fully taken into account as we prepare for next year's budget, I am offering to meet with the DEC for an open discussion once your 2019-20 balanced expenditure plan is approved.

Sincerely,


Dominic Cardy
Minister

