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October 30, 2024

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides

Minister of Education

228 Legislature Building

10800 – 97 Avenue

Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Nicolaides,

The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) is seeking Ministerial approval to increase the school capacity of the future elementary schools in the communities of Cornerstone, Livingston and Mahogany and middle schools in the communities of Mahogany, Sage Hill, Cityscape and Saddle Ridge contained in the 2025-28 Three Year School Capital Plan.

The Calgary Board of Education's (CBE) School enrolment reports for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 have highlighted that the CBE saw an increase to its overall enrolment of 13,000 students in two years. At the end of September 2024 enrolment had increased a further 4,158 students from September 2023 to reach a total of 142,402 students. Currently 87 of CBE's schools are operating at or above 100% utilization. Thirty-four schools are being overflowed, the majority of which are on the outer edges of the CBE boundary, to other schools closer to the city centre.

The CBE has carefully reviewed projections for the communities of Cornerstone, Mahogany, Redstone, Sage Hill, Cityscape, Livingston and Saddle Ridge and determined that the capacity requests will need to be revised to serve the anticipated students as close to home as possible and avoid overflowing students after schools are built. In particular, the revised plan seeks to ease pressure on middle schools by both increasing these schools' capacities and changing grade configurations to move more students into elementary schools. The 2024-2034 Ten Year Student Accommodation and Facilities Strategy identified the need for an additional 7,700 middle school student spaces in this timeframe.

The following school sizes and grade configuration changes are being requested. Increasing these school sizes will create an additional 2,500 student spaces above what was originally requested.

Table 1: Summary of Requested and Revised School Capacities and Configurations

Capital Plan 2025-28 priority*, year		School	Request ed Capacity	Request ed Config.	Revis e d Capacit y	Revis e d Config.
C-2	Yr. 1	Cornerstone Elementary	600	K-4	900	K-5
C-3	Yr. 1	Mahogany Middle	900	5-9	1200	7-9
C-5	Yr. 1	Redstone Elementary	600	K-4	900	K-5
C-6	Yr.1	Sage Hill /Kincora Middle	900	5-9	1000	6-9
C-9	Yr. 1	Cityscape /Redstone Middle	900	5-9	1200	6-9
C-10	Yr. 1	Cornerstone Middle	900	5-9	1200	6-9
C-12	Yr. 1	Livingston Elementary	600	K-4	900	K-6
C-15	Yr. 2	Saddle Ridge Middle	900	5-9	1200	unchan ged
C-16	Yr. 2	Mahogany Elementary	600	K-4	900	K-5
Total capacity			6,900		9,400	
Grade configuration change only						
C-7	Yr. 1	Sage Hill Elementary	600	K-4	600	K-5
C-18	Yr. 3	Cityscape Elementary	600	K-4	600	K-5

*Priority C-4 was approved in March 2024 and was not considered as part of this analysis. While the priority reference number did not change, all reference to priorities C-5 and beyond are bumped up one position as a result.

Tables 2 through 6 show the analysis of utilization rates given current requests and what the utilization rates would be with the grade configuration and capacity changes, according to CBE projections. Schools were analyzed by looking at the middle schools and their feeders concurrently to be able to adjust the balance in enrolment between schools.

Table 2: Projected Utilization Rates, 1 Year and 5 Years After Opening Cornerstone Elementary and Cornerstone Middle Schools with Requested and Revised Capacities and Grade Configurations

School	Cornerstone Elementary	Cornerstone Middle
Current Requests		
K-4 spaces	600	
5-9 spaces		900
Utilization at 1 year after opening	206%	154%
Utilization at 5 years after opening	218%	235%
Revised Request: Grade configuration change and capacity		



increase		
K-5 spaces	900	
6-9 spaces		1200
Utilization at 1 year after opening	174%	92%
Utilization at 5 years after opening	196%	147%

*Assumes that 87% of CBE Cornerstone students attend the regular program; assumes all grades attending (i.e. no phasing in of grades).

*Assumes that the Cornerstone Elementary opens in the 2028-29 school year and the Cornerstone Middle opens in the 2029-30 school year.

Table 3: Projected Utilization Rates, 1 Year and 5 Years After Opening Redstone and Cityscape Elementary and Middle Schools with Requested and Revised Capacities and Grade Configurations

School	Redstone Elementary	Cityscape Elementary	Cityscape/Redstone Middle
Current Requests			
K-4 spaces	600	600	
5-9 spaces			900
Utilization at 1 year after opening	99%	65%	131%
Utilization at 5 years after opening	116%	74%	174%
Revised Request: Grade configuration change and capacity increase			
K-5 spaces	900	600	
6-9 spaces			1200
Utilization at 1 year after opening	82%	80%	79%
Utilization at 5 years after opening	97%	93%	107%

* Assumes that 93% of CBE Redstone elementary students attend the regular program, 88% of CBE Cityscape elementary students attend the regular program, and 91% of CBE Cityscape/Redstone Middle/Junior students attend the regular program; assumes all grades attending (i.e. no phasing in of grades).

*Assumes that the Redstone Elementary opens in the 2027-28 school year, the Cityscape/Redstone Middle opens in the 2029-30 school year, and the Cityscape Elementary opens in the 2030-31 school year.

Table 4: Projected Utilization Rates, 1 Year and 5 Years After Opening Mahogany Elementary #2 and Middle School with Requested and Revised Capacities and Grade Configurations

School	Existing Mahogany School and Mahogany Elementary #2	Mahogany Middle
Current Request		
5-9 spaces (new)		900
K-4 spaces (new)	600	



K-5 spaces (Existing Mahogany Elementary)	690	
Total spaces in the community	1290	900
Utilization at 1 year after opening	79%	132%
Utilization at 5 years after opening	86%	170%
Revised Request: Grade configuration change and capacity increase		
6-9 spaces (new)		1200
K-5 spaces (new)	900	
K-5 spaces (existing Mahogany Elementary)	690	
Total spaces in the community	1590	1200
Utilization at 1 year after opening	84%	80%
Utilization at 5 years after opening	96%	100%

*Assumes that 80% of CBE Mahogany students attend the regular program; assumes all grades attending (i.e. no phasing in of grades).

*Assumes that the Mahogany Elementary #2 and Mahogany Middle # 2 open in the 2029-30 school year.

*Total spaces in the community include the capacity of existing Mahogany Elementary School, the capacity of the Mahogany Elementary # 2 and the capacity of the new Mahogany Middle School.

Table 5: Projected Utilization Rates, 1 Year and 5 Years After Opening Sage Hill and Kincora Elementary and Middle Schools with Requested and Revised Capacities and Grade Configurations

School	Sage Hill Elementary	Kincora Elementary	Sage Hill/Kincora Middle
Current Request			
K-4 spaces	600	600 (not a current request)	
5-9 spaces			900
Utilization at 1 year after opening	117%	46%	134%
Utilization at 5 years after opening	105%	36%	131%
Revised Request: Grade configuration change and capacity increase			
K-5	600	600	
6-9 spaces			1000
Utilization at 1 year after opening	145%	55%	101%
Utilization at 5 years after opening	142%	43%	99%
After Kincora elementary is built¹			



K-5	600	600	
6-9 spaces			1000
Utilization at 1 year after opening	79%	79%	101%
Utilization at 5 years after opening	86%	86%	99%

* Assumes that 87% of CBE Sage Hill/Kincora elementary students attend the regular program and 91% of CBE Sage Hill/Kincora Middle/Junior students attend the regular program; assumes all grades attending (i.e. no phasing in of grades).

*Assumes that the Sage Hill Elementary and the Kincora Elementary open in the 2028-29 school year, and the Sage Hill/Kincora Middle opens in the 2029-30 school year.

¹ Assumes elementary students are evenly split between schools.

Table 6: Projected School Utilization Rates, 1 Year and 5 Years After Opening Livingston elementary school, with Requested and Revised Capacities

School	Livingston Elementary
Current Request	
K-4 spaces	600
Utilization at 1 year after opening	152%
Utilization at 5 years after opening	178%
Revised Request: Grade configuration change and capacity increase	
K-6 spaces	900
Utilization at 1 year after opening	149%
Utilization at 5 years after opening	182%

On Oct 29, 2024, the CBE Board of Trustees passed the following motions:

- *THAT the Board of Trustees approves an increase in the school capacities and grade configurations of 9 schools contained in the 2025-28 Three Year School Capital Plan in the communities of Redstone, Cornerstone, Mahogany, Livingston, Saddle Ridge, Cityscape, and Sage Hill; and*
- *THAT the Board authorizes the Chair to correspond with the Minister of Education pertaining to this change request, as provided in Attachments I and II to this report.*



In alignment with the above, the CBE hereby requests Ministerial approval to increase the capacity of the future elementary and middle schools as outlined in Table 1 of this letter.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P Bolger', is centered on the page.

Patricia Bolger, Chair
Board of Trustees

cc Joanne Pitman, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Dany Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services





ALBERTA
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

AR 127947

February 18, 2025

Patricia Bolger
Chair, Board of Trustees
Calgary Board of Education
1221 8 St SW
Calgary AB T2R 0L4

Dear Ms. Bolger:

Thank you for your letter regarding the revisions to your Three-Year School Capital Plan 2025-2028. I welcome the opportunity to respond.

I recognize that enrolment growth has surpassed expectations in the metro regions of our province, and I realize the challenges boards face in managing the demand for additional student spaces. I understand that these factors have resulted in your request for increased capacity for several proposed projects submitted in your 2025-28 Capital Plan.

Thank you for advising me of the capacity and grade configuration changes to your Capital Plan. Government's capital plan submissions from all ministries, including Education's capital requests, are currently being reviewed by Treasury Board and Finance for potential inclusion in Budget 2025. Should a Calgary Board of Education project identified in your incoming letter receive a capital approval in Budget 2025, Education department staff will work with your division, Alberta Infrastructure, and Treasury Board and Finance on the additional costs associated with the capacity increase, as part of the School Construction Accelerator Program.

The new Grade 5-9 Saddle Ridge Middle School project has already received planning funding approval. Once the project is ready to move to design, please work with Alberta Education staff, as well as staff within Alberta Infrastructure, to confirm the final capacity of the school that will be recommended to Treasury Board and Finance for design funding. Please continue to update Education on any changes to the scope of the Saddle Ridge Middle School project that arise during planning.

Should you have any further questions regarding this approval, please contact Allison Matichuk, Stakeholder Relations Manager, at allison.matichuk@gov.ab.ca or 780-643-1453 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

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Ms. Patricia Bolger
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Ms. Bolger, thank you for your continued advocacy of your students. I wish you success with these important projects.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Demetrios" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nicolaides".

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education