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October 16, 2024

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides
Minister of Education
228 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Honorable Pete Guthrie
Minister of Infrastructure
Alberta Infrastructure
Infrastructure Building
6950 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5V7

Dear Minister Nicolaides and Minister Guthrie:

These last three consecutive years, the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) has experienced record enrolment levels. In fact, we have welcomed approximately 18,000 additional students. This is enough students to fill about 30 schools (based on 600-student capacity). As a result, almost all of CBE's 251 schools are full; the system-wide utilization rate now stands at approximately 96 per cent.

We appreciated your joint announcement on September 18, 2024 about the School Construction Accelerator Program. We were also grateful for the conversation with Minister Nicolaides at the Alberta School Board Association (ASBA) session held September 25, 2024 to learn more about the Program.

The need for new CBE schools to serve Calgarians has never been more urgent. Considering it takes three to four years from the announcement of funding to a school opening and the continued high enrolment growth the CBE is experiencing, the timing of this new provincial program has the potential to make an important positive impact for students in Calgary.

We want to underscore with you both that the CBE currently has 13 high-priority school sites that are ready for construction. Identified in year 1 of the CBE Three-Year School Capital Plan 2025-28, these sites are:

- Cornerstone High School;
- Cornerstone Elementary School;
- Mahogany Middle School;
- Redstone Elementary School;
- Sage Hill/Kincora Middle School;
- Sage Hill Elementary School;
- Sherwood/Nolan Middle School;

- Cityscape/Redstone Middle School;
- Cornerstone Middle School;
- Walden Elementary School;
- Livingston Elementary School;
- Nolan Hill Elementary School; and
- Aspen Woods Middle School.

Construction approval of all 13 abovementioned schools this coming February 2025 is crucial for the CBE to be able to properly serve students into the not-too-distant future under these ongoing record enrolment years.

Concurrently and until such time as these 13 new schools open their doors by 2029, the Modular Classroom Program (MCP) provides the essential ability to rapidly create additional learning spaces. On September 18, we were equally pleased to see you both recognize the importance that modular classrooms must play during these exceptional times. The CBE Three-Year School Capital Plan lays out the need for well over 60 additional modular classrooms per year for the next six years to keep the system-wide utilization rate from climbing above 100 per cent. The Board of Trustees will review and approve the next submission of the MCP to you later this month, and we count upon your upcoming announcements to support school boards, like the CBE, that have seen and continue to experience the greatest enrolment pressure.

In a climate where student enrolment growth has become one of the most pressing issues faced by this province, if there is anything the CBE can do to support Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure in advancing – and more importantly *accelerating* – this work, please let us know. We are highly motivated to ensure students continue to have access to a worldclass K-12 education.

Thank you both for your ongoing support on this matter and we look forward to continue working with you in the best interest of students.

Yours sincerely,



Patricia Bolger, Chair
Board of Trustees

cc: The Honourable Danielle Smith, MLA, Premier of Alberta
Joanne Pitman, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Dany Breton, Superintendent, Facilities & Environmental Services

