



Board Chair

Patricia Bolger Wards 6 & 7

Vice-Chair

Nancy Close Wards 11 & 13

Trustees

Board of Trustees Wards 1 & 2

Laura Hack Wards 3 & 4

Marilyn Dennis Wards 5 & 10

Susan Vukadinovic Wards 8 & 9

Charlene May Wards 12 & 14

October 01, 2025

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

Dear Minister Nicolaides,

The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) is seeking Ministerial approval to amend Year 1 of the CBE's 2026-2029 Three-Year School Capital Plan to add a Replacement School project on the site of the former Kensington School. This purpose-built school will support students with neurodiverse learning needs.

As of June 2025, there were over 7000 elementary students identified with a Specific Learning Disability (SLD) or an Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in CBE classrooms. CBE's share of students with neurodiverse learning needs has increased at a faster rate than the provincial average. The goal of this replacement school is to house a unique setting program. It would provide students with neurodiverse learning needs access to targeted instruction and supports within a smaller, structured environment. Currently, there are no CBE facilities with spaces designed and equipped to serve this urgent need.

It is important to note that an additional \$5M in annual operating funds would be necessary for CBE to offer this program. This additional funding is required to provide the necessary supports for students including staffing, operations and maintenance, and transportation.

Moreover, if the additional annual funding is secured for the 2027-28 school year, the CBE could temporarily accommodate a reduced-capacity program within an existing facility while the replacement school is being constructed.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Bolger, Chair
Board of Trustees
t | 403-817-7927
pjbolger@cbe.ab.ca

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



ALBERTA

Education
and Childcare

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary Bow*

AR 134808

October 28, 2025

Ms. Patricia Bolger
Board Chair
Calgary Board of Education
1221 - 8 Street SW
Calgary AB T2R 0L4

Dear Ms. Bolger:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent amendment to the Calgary Board of Education's 2026–29 capital plan to include a replacement school project designed to support students with neurodiverse learning needs. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I recognize the importance of addressing the needs of neurodivergent students, and I commend the Calgary Board of Education on its efforts to provide a specialized learning environment for the growing number of students identified as having specific learning disabilities or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Thank you for providing additional information regarding annual operating fund requirements for this proposed school to cover necessary staffing, maintenance, and transportation costs. I appreciate the school authority's commitment to inclusive education and its proactive approach to addressing the growing need for specialized learning supports.

I am pleased to accept the amendment to your division's capital plan to include a replacement school project on the site of the former Kensington School. This project will be reviewed and considered as part of capital plan preparations for Budget 2026.

If you have questions, please contact Allison Matichuk, Stakeholder Relations Manager, at allison.matichuk@gov.ab.ca or 780-690-2317 (toll free by first dialing 310-0000).

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Demetrios Nicolaidis', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education and Childcare