



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5
S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

December 21, 2017

Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
1020 Hillside Ave
Victoria, BC V8T 2A3

Dear Hon. Minister Fleming:

RE: Isabella Dicken Elementary School – Fernie, BC

The Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) at the In-Camera Board meeting on December 12, 2017 passed the following motion:

M/S that the Board accept Stantec's draft Long Range Facility Plan of December 2017 and advise the Ministry of Education that Isabella Dicken Elementary School is an emerging priority for replacement at this time and further that Stantec update the PIRs (Project Identification Report) for Isabella Dicken Elementary and Mount Baker Secondary along with draft PIRs for Amy Woodland Elementary, Frank J. Mitchell Elementary, and Jaffray Elementary Jr. Secondary.

The École Isabella Dicken Elementary School has significant issues related to both required capacity and the condition of the school. Over the next 15 years, enrolment is projected to double the operational capacity of the school. Currently, École Isabella Dicken Elementary has 6 modular portables, 5 of which are used as classrooms. This delta between enrolment and capacity cannot be effectively managed through modular solutions, and additional capacity in Fernie is required. Additionally, the school is in poor condition. It likely requires immediate and significant upgrades to address major system and infrastructure deficiencies. As described, there may be an opportunity to realign the grade configuration to a K–5, and 6–12 model. However, the realignment does not address the overarching issue that additional capacity must be developed in Fernie. Therefore, it is not recommended that realigning grade configurations be executed.

We are requesting that Isabella Dicken Elementary School in Fernie, BC be given an emergent priority status in the current Capital Plan deliberations.

On behalf of the SD5 Board of Education,

Robert G. Norum, Secretary Treasurer

cc: SD5 Board of Education
Lynn Hauptman, Superintendent
Ryan Spillett, Director
Rachelle Ray, Regional Director
Damien Crowell, Planning Officer