



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

## S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

October 28, 2020

Mike Roberts, Chief Executive Officer,  
British Columbia School Trustees Association  
4th floor - 1580 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6J 5K9

*Mike, sorry this letter has been sitting on the docket for some time, hopefully there may be a worthwhile thought or two for your consideration.*

Dear ~~Mike Roberts~~: *Mike*

RE: School Site Land Acquisition Issues and Solutions Discussion Paper of July 2019

We recognize the need to acquire designated school sites and to generate increased revenue to make that possible throughout the province. Please give our thoughts consideration as the issue is pursued.

Following a recent and comprehensive proposal by a consultant on School Site Acquisition (SSA) charges for School District 5 (SD5), Southeast Kootenay, we have numerous apprehensions regarding the current regulations.

While it may be appropriate for an urban school district with a geographical boundary encompassing an urban municipality to apply SSA charges, in a rural district such as SD5, with four (4) of the five (5) local governments having designated and acquired future school sites, there is no fairness or appetite by Trustees to establish SSA charges.

It was estimated in the proposal that the five local governments would generate 1,680 eligible development units over the next ten (10) years. The current market value of a school site in the community that has no site designated is \$3.5 million (2030 market value). At the current \$1,000 cap, this would only generate 48% of the site cost today.

School Districts implementing SSA charges become the scapegoats for local government and developers.

SSA charges provide the avenue to local government that they have no responsibility for site designation, provision or acquisition under any circumstances.

We would suggest that SSA is not a District or Municipal issue, but a provincial one and that consideration be given to the concept of an annual SSA assessment being assessed to the nine (9) property classes\* province-wide through the BC Assessment

*Love,*

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• Chris Johns • Kathryn Kitt • Doug McPhee • Wendy Turner • Patricia Whalen

Authority, collected by local government and forwarded to the Ministry, thereby meeting all parties' needs.

We believe local governments share the belief that our schools are the most important asset in a thriving city, district or community and that our schools attract young families with their children being the community's most important resource and source of pride in our future success.

Accordingly, **local government should not only be required to consult with school districts on the requirements for school sites but designate them with restrictions regarding rezoning.**

We applaud recommendation two (2), that the required legislative and regulatory changes be introduced requiring municipal governments to include the cost of offsite servicing in their municipal development cost charges. A true partnership would include the onsite servicing as well with the resources they have and new schools offering community uses and benefits.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank Lento, Board Chair

cc: SD5 Board  
Silke Yardley, Superintendent  
Alan Rice, Secretary Treasurer

\*Residential, Utilities, Major Industry, Light Industry, Business and Other, Managed Forest Land, Rec/Non Profit and Farm

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