

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

- We are calling on the recommendation concerning Connaught School to be tabled for now, to allow an independent review of the Stage 1 document and for the undertaking of studies that your consultants recommended should be completed before moving forward to decision-making.
- We are willing to cost share the studies, if that is an issue
- In particular, questions about the stated comparisons between renovation and new construction suggest that trustees need to pause and take a second look at the proposal before rushing to approve it.
- This is a decision that will massively impact our children's learning environment, so we want more than the usual diligence taken.

## **I. BUDGETARY ISSUES**

Stage 1 submission document

p. 8 "Unless the funding gap can be closed, Option 1 does not appear to be viable, although it was clearly strongly desired by the community."

- Was any effort made to seek ways to close the funding gap?
- Was any effort made to independently review the estimates?

Looking at the unadjusted budget, assuming the structural allowance of \$6.25 million is a fixed cost, that leaves \$16,944,580 of potentially adjustable budget space.

Options include a less ambitious renovation plan that is more responsive to expressed community needs/desires, or a staged process that would involve renovating within budget, with a future capital request for a second stage some years down the road.

For example:

The estimate for renovation includes costs for the demolition of 4,000 m<sup>2</sup>, which is just 452 m<sup>2</sup> short of total demolition.

A notation states: "The expectation is the existing building will be renovated and rehabilitated extensively..."

This estimate is based on the assumption that during the design consultation, the community will favour a design that guts the building. This should not be a guaranteed assumption, from either a budgetary or community buy-in viewpoint. People may wish a less drastic alteration of their children's school, as indicated in the initial consultation meetings.

For example, a modest scaling back of the demolition and renovation area might look like:

Component of Work	Cost per m2	Component area	RENOVATION Component cost	Component area	NEW Component cost
Demolition	\$110	2,000	\$220,000	4,452	\$489,720
Renovated area	\$2,023	3,000	\$6,069,000		
New construction/addition	\$2,890	76	\$219,640	4,528	\$13,085,920
Structural allowance			\$6,250,000		
<b>Subtotal Renovation and New</b>			<b>\$12,758,640</b>		<b>\$13,575,640</b>
Architect and Engineering Fees		11%	\$1,403,450	8%	\$1,086,051
Construction contingency		10% of const.	\$1,275,864	5%	\$678,782
<b>Total Renovation and New</b>			<b>\$15,437,954</b>		<b>\$15,340,473</b>

This is one small measure that significantly closes the gap. It is difficult to carry the calculation through to the final project total, however, without first clearing up issues with subtotals for additional program space and costs based on Full SA-1 (see attached).

In brief:

#### P. 22 – Estimated budgets, Renovation versus New Build

There appears to be a mathematical error in the additional program space subtotal. The subtotal should be \$1,404,646, not \$1,407,646.

The subtotal for costs based on SA-1 under the New Build category appear to add up to \$19,385,780, not \$18,880,064.

New Build Budget:

SA-1	\$16,857,200
FF&E at 9% of building budget	\$1,517,148
External works at 6% of building budget	\$1,011,432
<b>Total Based on SA-1</b>	<b>\$18,880,064</b>

Should be:

SA-1	\$16,857,200
FF&E at 9% of building budget	\$1,517,148
External works at 6% of building budget	\$1,011,432
<b>Total Based on SA-1</b>	<b>\$19,385,780</b>

We also have concerns with how contingency costs are stated.

A 10 per cent construction contingency is added to the renovation structural allowance with the following notation:

“The OPC assumes of structural allowance of \$6.25 m as provided by JC Kenyon Engineering in May 2012. This cost may be higher depending on unforeseen conditions.”

However, according to a letter dated May 23, 2012 (attached), the Kenyon estimate already includes a 25 per cent contingency *within* the \$4.5 million underpinning estimate. The OPC does not acknowledge this, and adds an additional 10 per cent contingency to that amount, pushing the total contingency estimate for structural underpinning to 35 per cent of cost, 10 per cent more than the amount suggested by the consulting engineer as a suitable contingency. This in turn has impact throughout the budget comparison, as subsequent calculations are a percentage of building costs.

Meanwhile, the construction contingency for a new build is listed at 5 per cent. A 2010 review prepared by Athabasca University for the Upper Canada District School Board found contingency estimates for Canadian school construction range from 5 per cent to 10 per cent, with 10 per cent being the norm. It appears that the new build estimate employs the *minimum* possible construction contingency, in contrast to the renovation option, which seeks the upper end for both renovation and new construction elements.

Finally, there is an inconsistency in that new construction carries a 10 % contingency in the Renovation Column, but 5% in the New Build column. As they are both new construction, they should be given equal contingency value. Recognizing that new and additional structures within a renovation might have some additional challenges, if new construction contingency is to be equally applied, as it should be, we would suggest pegging it at 10% for both.

Next Page: Budget adjustments based on corrected subtotals and revised contingency costs, with new construction equally applied at 10 %

Unless there is a reason for the subtotals not to add up, making those corrections, along with a more detailed contingency costing to ensure contingency is neither double-counted or under-counted, would in itself close the gap significantly, from \$4.3 million to \$1.77 million.

A modest scaling back of the renovation plan would do the rest of the job of providing viable options that are in the same funding ballpark – thus avoiding having to ask the government for additional funds for a renovation.

			<b>Reno/Addition</b>		<b>New Build</b>
<b>Component of Work</b>	<b>Cost per m2</b>	<b>Component area</b>	<b>Component cost</b>	<b>Component area</b>	<b>Component cost</b>
Demolition	\$110	4,000	\$440,000	4,452	\$489,720
Renovated area	\$2,023	4,452	\$9,006,393		
New construction/addition	\$2,890	76	\$219,640	4,528	\$13,085,920
Structural allowance					
Underpinning			\$3,750,000		
Upper floor structures			\$1,000,000		
Additional modifications			\$750,000		
<b>Subtotal Renovation and New</b>			<b>\$15,166,033</b>		<b>\$13,575,640</b>
Architect and Engineering Fees		11%	\$1,668,263	8%	\$1,086,051
Const. contingency - underpinning		As stated in estimate	\$75,000		
Const. contingency - remainder		10%	\$150,910	10%	\$1,357,564
<b>Total Renovation and New</b>			<b>\$17,060,206</b>		<b>\$16,019,255</b>
Additional program space	\$2,890	185	\$535,000	185	\$535,000
32-51 daycare spaces	\$2,890	245	\$708,050	245	\$708,000
Architect and engineering fees		8%	\$99,444		\$99,444
Contingency for additional spaces		5%	\$62,152		\$62,152
Subtotal Additional Program Space		4,958	\$1,404,646		\$1,404,596
<b>Total Renovation and New</b>		<b>4,958</b>	<b>\$18,464,852</b>		<b>\$16,745,069</b>
<b><i>Difference of renovated vs. new</i></b>					<b>\$1,719,783</b>
Retained value of existing building					-23%
Preliminary SA-1	2890	4958			\$14,328,620
Costs based on full SA-1			<b>Renovation</b>		<b>New</b>
SA-1	3400	4958	\$18,464,852		\$16,857,200
FF&E at 9% of building budget	as per MoE	same as new	\$1,517,148		\$1,517,148
External works at 6% of building budget	as per MoE	same as new	\$1,011,432		\$1,011,432
<b>Total Based on SA-1</b>			<b>\$20,993,432</b>		<b>\$19,385,780</b>

## II. RECOMMENDED STUDIES

### J.C. Kenyon Engineering letter to James Youck, dated May 23, 2012

“...prior to any decision regarding proceeding with a renewal process, we recommend that a more detailed investigation program be undertaken to assess the condition of the building structure. This would include exposing the footings at several locations to determine the condition of the concrete, retrieval of core samples at the footings and the superstructure and an investigation into the slab and beam rebar.”

- Was this investigation completed as recommended, prior to any decisions proceeding?

### Initial Heritage Assessment by Jonathan Yardley, dated April 30, 2012

“...the building could well be re-used for its original educational purpose. This will require much further study related to programs and a full heritage conservation plan to enable the most appropriate decisions to be made. It is hoped that this brief overview of the heritage aspects of Connaught School will enable a rational plan to be developed.”

- We note that the document is called *Initial* Heritage Assessment. Has the recommended conservation plan been completed?

### P3A Stage One Submission Document, dated May 31, 2012

#### P. 21 - Valuation of existing structure

“The OPC does not assign a value to the heritage aspects of Connaught School...It is difficult to assign a value to a subjective element such as heritage value, however, it was clear in the community consultation process the attendees felt that the heritage component should have great value.”

- It is *not* difficult to assign a value to heritage. There exists a class of professionals called heritage economists dedicated to the task of objectively assigning value to heritage. There are non-market valuation experts who are part of our community. Community members have asked in consultation meetings and by letter for a complete valuation study. The heritage consultant Jonathan Yardley stated in a meeting with the SCC that affixing a dollar figure to the heritage value is a recommended step.

### Relocation

P. ii “The consultant’s recommendation to the Board is to review student relocation options while submitting a request to the Ministry.”

- Was this review completed and were options sought from the school community? Is there a report available?

### Playground Assessment

The value of sweat equity and donations from individuals, business and partnering agencies, as well as equipment, public art, trees and grass must be added up and accounted for if the area is going to be impacted. The playground represents a significant community investment.

### School Design and Learning

Stage One Submission P. 23 – “The building performs poorly as a modern teaching environment and the traditional layout is restrictive to creating a learner based educational environment.”

- What is the research basis of this statement and what is the comparative data for the alternative being offered? Parents in the Connaught community, as well as across North America, have expressed serious and valid concerns with style of design being promoted for new builds, as have some education and education design experts.

### Independent Review

As noted previously, there are several issues with the way options are costed and presented. An independent review – conducted by someone who has no connection to the city and who is unlikely to bid on the project – would reflect best practices for project planning.

### Cost of Studies

At the beginning of the process, several recommendations were made for further investigation before decision-making proceed. These studies are very important to informed decision-making. RealRenewal is willing to cost-share these studies to make them happen.

### Provincial Pressure

The wording of the board administration’s recommendation hints that this recommendation is in response to direction from the province that favours new construction over renovation. If this is the case, we should know about it. We suggest the following:

- Adjust and resubmit an estimate for renovation that is equal to or lesser than a new rebuild (by correcting mathematical errors and double-counting of contingency costs, and/or by scaling back the scope of the renovation at this time) so that the government is not faced with having to spend more on a renovation
- We note that Moose Jaw was able to obtain provincial funds to renovate their historic schools. If Regina is getting a different message, this is inconsistent and should be challenged.
- An informed community can lobby the province to lift restrictions and directives. We can say things to government that school board officials cannot. We have a shared interest in promoting local autonomy for decision-making.

## **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

### **P3A Submission – P. 1**

“The difficulty in renovating to create 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environments was also identified as problematic. This is partially due to the fact that the community consultation process revealed a very strong desire to retain the existing Connaught School building ‘as-is.’”

- This statement reveals that the community is seen as a barrier to what is already planned, rather than a source of direction on what should be done.
- (By ‘as is’ we assume this means ‘as is,’ in the sense of building retention, but with desired repairs and renovations, as there was not a strong call for no changes at all.)

The U.S. National Historic trust – the go-to body on Historic Schools and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning – asks the following questions:

### **Public Participation and Community Planning**

1. Was a citizen’s or advisory committee formed to help explore options and issues?
2. Did design meetings ask the right questions, were there enough meetings and information, and did they include broad community representation?



3. Does the study take into account the Neighbourhood Concept Plan?
4. Were site visits made to other successfully renovated buildings/schools?
5. Who reviews the consultant's work and what are their qualifications? Is anyone involved with expertise in preservation of communities?

The National Trust's checklist is the difference between intelligent, critical, partnering engagement with communities versus handing out felt pens and sticky notes.

People were unsatisfied with the consultation meetings. They felt talked down to, there was almost no solid information on the table, and there was no opportunity for community members to present information to decision-makers.

Part of the disconnect involves accepting diversity and knowing who your audience is. A slide show featuring only new construction of a certain style and a lecture on creative age theory is not a good idea in the Cathedral Area.

Included are copies of letters from the Connaught SCC and RealRenewal regarding requests for information, and deficiencies in the consultation process. These concerns remain unaddressed.

The desire to be given full information and to be included at all stages of decision-making has been ignored. Information is sparse, and the most major decision of all – whether to renovate or replace – was done out of sight, and not revealed until 4:30 p.m. on the Friday before a Tuesday meeting.

We are parents, with family lives and jobs. This approach makes it very difficult to participate when it really counts.

Genuinely partnering with the community and respecting parents' intelligence and abilities can reap great benefits. These are ways we can help:

1. Cost-sharing of recommended studies.
2. Ability to fundraise and apply for grants.
3. Sweat equity and in-kind professional services.

The Cathedral Area has an enormous amount of energy and social capital that could be brought forward in support of a plan that respects their neighbourhood's intelligence, planning abilities, vision, and the built environment they want their children to live and learn in.



Figure 8.1 Class "D" Opinion of Probable Cost

- All costs are in 2012 dollars.
- Renovation cost per m<sup>2</sup> is determined as 70% of new construction cost  $\$2,890 \times 70\% = \$2,023$ .
- The expectation is the existing building will be renovated and rehabilitated extensively with a complete architectural, mechanical and electrical upgrade and replacement.
- SA-1 indicates a  $\$/m^2$  of \$3,400. This would include all of the above.
- Construction cost of \$2,890/m<sup>2</sup> has been provided by the Ministry of Education for new school construction values.
- Architecture and Engineering percentage fee is as per SAA fee guidelines.
- The 10% contingency for renovation construction may be low given the age of the existing building and the state of the infrastructure.

\* The OPC assumes a structural allowance of \$6.25 m as provided by JC Kenyon Engineering in May, 2012. This cost may be higher depending on unforeseen conditions.

Contingency already applied to underpiling 19,385,780

Connaught Community School	Renovation/Additional 4452 sm + 76 sm	New Build 4582 sm
Component of Work	Component Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Component Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Demolition	4,000	4,452
Renovated Area	\$110	\$489,720
New Construction/ Addition	\$2,023	\$9,006,396
Structural Allowance	\$2,890	\$13,085,920
Subtotal	76	n/a
Architecture and Engineering Fees	\$6,250,000*	\$13,575,640
Construction Contingency	\$15,916,000	\$1,086,051
	11%	8%
	10% of Const.	5% of Const.
Sub-Total Renovation And New	\$1,591,600	\$678,782
Additional Program Space	4,528	4,528
32-51 Daycare Spaces	\$19,258,360	\$15,340,473
Architecture and Engineering Fees	185	185
Contingency for Additional Spaces	\$535,000	\$535,000
Sub-Total Additional Program Space	\$708,050	\$708,050
Total Renovation and New	8%	8%
Difference of renovated vs. new	\$99,444	\$99,444
Retained value of existing bldg.	5%	5%
Preliminary SA-1 (New building construction cost including Day Care and Additional Program Space excluding fees and soft costs)	\$62,152	\$62,152
Costs Based on Full SA-1	4,958	4,958
SA-1 @ \$3,400/sm project cost including all soft costs and additional program area and a 5% contingency	\$1,407,646	\$1,407,646
FF&E at 9% of building budget	\$20,666,000	\$16,748,083
External Works at 6% of building budget	4,958	4,958
Total Project Based on SA-1	\$3,917,923	\$3,917,923
	-23%	-23%
	\$14,328,620	\$14,328,620
Costs Based on Full SA-1	Renovation	New Construction based on SA-1
SA-1 @ \$3,400/sm project cost including all soft costs and additional program area and a 5% contingency	\$20,666,000	\$16,857,200
FF&E at 9% of building budget	4,958	4,958
External Works at 6% of building budget	\$1,517,148	\$1,517,148
	\$1,011,432	\$1,011,432
	\$23,194,580	\$18,880,064

19,385,780





J C KENYON ENGINEERING INC.  
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

May 23, 2012

File: 116-10

Mr. James Youck  
P3 Architecture Partnership  
2292 Dewdney Ave.  
Regina, SK  
S4R 1H3

Re: Connaught School  
Regina, Saskatchewan

Dear James:

As you requested, we have prepared a preliminary "opinion of cost" for restoring the structural systems at Connaught School as part of a major renewal project for the school. As you are aware, the building has many structural issues with the primary concern being the condition of the foundation. The foundation consists of brick walls supported on concrete footings and the foundation requires stabilization in the form of underpinning with piles. The brick wall foundation presents many difficulties in regard to underpinning in that the brick does not have the continuity that is normally required for underpinning. The brick foundation requires more piles and more time to underpin than a comparable concrete foundation system would.

We have received a preliminary cost estimate from W & R Foundation Specialists for underpinning the structure which puts the cost at approximately \$3.75M. In our opinion, this cost should carry a 25% contingency at this time which puts the underpinning at approximately \$4.5M. This contingency would cover unforeseen conditions and repairs to deteriorated walls and other elements. It should also be noted that W & R has indicated that the time required for the underpinning would be 10 to 11 months.

Other structural items that need to be addressed as part of the renewal project would be the condition of the upper floor structures and the attic slab. These floor systems are sagged and cracked and their structural capacities are unknown since the rebar content within the concrete is unknown. We expect that structural reinforcement of the floors will be required in many areas. At this time, we suggest an allowance of \$1.0M be carried for upgrades to the superstructure.

We also expect that there will be structural modifications which would be part of the renewal project that would include things such as removal of some interior walls, new openings through walls, reconstruction of the front stairs and portico, support of new mechanical equipment and other items. We suggest an allowance of \$750,000 for these additional structural items.

Our opinion of cost is therefore \$6.25M for the structural renewal of this building. Our cost does not include general conditions, contractor overhead and profit and engineering fees.

Further to the above, prior to any decision regarding proceeding with a renewal process, we recommend that a more detailed investigation program be undertaken to assess the condition of the building structure. This would include exposing the footings at several locations to determine the condition of the concrete, retrieval of concrete core samples at the footings and the superstructure

Jim Kenyon, M.Eng., P.Eng. Principal      Tony A. Gartner, BA., A.Sc.T. Principal  
2424 College Avenue REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN S4P 1C8      P: 306. 585-6126 F: 306.585-6156  
#202 - 440 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN S7K 2C3      P: 306 249-5346 F. 306.249-4581

and an investigation into the slab and beam rebar.

We trust this information is sufficient for your present needs. Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

J C KENYON ENGINEERING INC.



Jim Kenyon, P.Eng.



Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of Saskatchewan		
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION		
J.C. Kenyon Engineering Inc.		
Number C794		
Permission to Consult held by:		
Discipline	Sk. Reg. No.	Signature
Structural	5214	JK

April 23, 2012

Regina Public School Board  
Julie MacRae, Director  
[Julie.macrae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:Julie.macrae@rbe.sk.ca)

Dear Ms. MacRae,

Members of the School Community Council (SCC) at Ecole Connaught Community School have compiled a list of questions that we would like to be addressed at next Thursday's public consultation meeting.

We have some concerns about how the consultation process for the Stage 1 report is proceeding and feel that there is a lack of transparency, which is very much a worry to us. We would like to work together with the School Board to ensure that our students receive the best outcome for them, which should be the ultimate goal of all participants. The SCC would also like to be provided with an agenda before each meeting so that we have the opportunity to provide input into the agenda, and we would like background documents, such as might be provided to school board officials.

Please take some time to consider our questions and have someone who can answer them attend the next meeting on Thursday, April 26th , 2012. They are as follows:

1. What date did the school's five-year expectancy designation start on?  
In reference to the school's five-year expectancy, the structural facility audit summary report states that 'without major structural upgrades the school life is a maximum of five years'. This was based on an audit that took place in April and May 2010, so does this mean we are already two years into the five years? If we do still have five years, what structural work has taken place in the meantime to ensure the safety of the structure?
2. Regardless of what is decided about the future of the building, it is a school. How are the children going to be accommodated without compromising their education during the renovation/building process?
3. Is there anything that the SCC and community members can do to help the school board promote Connaught's case for a quick decision on available funding from the Ministry? For example, should we be writing to our Member of the Legislative Assembly?



4. What is the total cost of repairing the school and can we have an itemized list of the repairs that are needed? We would like to see the estimate numbers of repair/rebuild and don't understand how can anyone even begin to make a decision without that knowledge.
5. What will be included in the Stage 1 report? Can the SCC see the draft of the consultant Stage 1 report at the same time that it goes to the school board office so that we can have some input before it goes to the Ministry?
6. At the last meeting, we felt that there were more opportunities for collaboration, based on our past business experiences. We are wondering what the school board thinks we could do to be more collaborative. For example, the SCC would like to be involved in the next Request for Proposals, including helping to draft the parameters and participating in the selections process. How will this be accommodated?
7. At the April 4, 2012 meeting it was stated that the consultant is "obligated" to provide the Ministry with both an option for demolition and an option for renovation. What/who is the source of this dual-option obligation? Where is it written on paper, and may we receive a copy? Where is the point of public input for determining such foundational requirements?
8. Understanding that taxpayer costs do not begin and end with public schools, how will downloaded, beyond-school costs be calculated in the options, for example municipal landfill stress? In particular, how will the environmental impacts/footprint, cultural, aesthetic and heritage values be captured and represented in the school board's presentation of alternatives to the ministry of education? Is the school board or p3a considering sustainable development indicators or other tools to capture the social, environmental and economic impacts of the redevelopment alternatives and if so what methods and expertise will be used?
9. Ecole Connaught Community School is a unique community and family-centered institution with a long history of parent and community engagement and active participation in school and playground maintenance and development. How will the redesign of our school involve Connaught families, maintain long-term community involvement in our school and playground environment and avoid "Board takeover" of this important community institution?
10. Could we see a flowchart of the beginning to end process, so that we know where we are in the process and what is yet to come? It would be beneficial if it included major decision points and major consultation opportunities.

We thank you for your time and mutual respect in this matter. We look forward to the meeting on Thursday.

Sincerely,

Amy Petrovitch  
On behalf of the School Community Council  
Ecole Connaught Community School





April 26, 2012

Regina Public Schools Division Office  
1600 4th Avenue  
Regina, SK, S4R 8C8

Dear Members of the School Board,

RealRenewal is committed to helping parents, School Community Councils and community members with issues related to Regina Public Schools. We have attended recent and past Community Consultation meetings.

School Boards are elected by the public, and should work together with the public to improve our schools. We have now fielded complaints from four different school communities about the school design consultation process, which prompts us to write. The complaints are similar: participants face a lack of concrete information, the process is highly directed and there is no community input into meeting formats and discussion parameters. We would like to offer several suggestions that would increase transparency and fairness, and reduce the stresses and legitimate concerns of parents, children and the community.

RealRenewal strongly feels that the School Community Council and community members should be more involved in the process of Community Consultation from the outset. In a meeting that included representation from different communities, we came up with the following recommendations:

1. The School Community Council (SCC) should be given a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) advertisement, a copy of the RFP and all relevant materials prior to the posting of the RFP (such as the Facility Audit Report).
2. The SCC should be given at least one month to read over the report before members of the School Board meet with the SCC at which time the SCC should be able to ask questions and receive answers to their questions at said meeting.
3. At least two members of the SCC of the school subject to Community Consultation meetings should be invited to sit on the selection panel and be allowed to fully participate in the selection process of the Consultant.

4. The SCC at the centre of a Community Consultation should also be allowed to participate in planning the wording of the meeting notice that is sent out to the surrounding community, including that of the school population. This notice should be in plain language and should fully explain why the Consultation Meeting is taking place and include a brief background paragraph (for example: this meeting is taking place because a Facility Audit has indicated that a number of areas of your school need repair; this meeting will help the Consultant hired by the School Board to figure out if the school should be repaired or demolished and rebuilt).
5. Members of the SCC at the school cited for Consultation Meetings should be directed to a contact person at the School Board who can answer questions that the SCC or community may have at any time during the process. The best person to be the contact may be the elected School Board member who falls within the school's boundaries.
6. The SCC should be allowed to have input into the agenda of the Consultation Meetings.
7. The SCC should be allowed to request that the Consultant seek the recommendations or input of other professionals as they pertain to each individual situation (for example: the gathering of examples of other examples of Heritage renovation that has taken place in schools and the ideas or recommendations from the architects or designers involved).
8. Once the consultation report is complete, a copy should be sent to the SCC of the school involved for approval, as well as posted on the Regina Public School Board website. A notice should also be sent home with each child attending the school so that the parents of that child know where the report is posted.

We thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns and recommendations, and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Trish Elliott  
for RealRenewal





THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
**REGINA SCHOOL DIVISION**  
NO. 4 OF SASKATCHEWAN

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April 25, 2012

Mr. Rene Dumont, Chairperson  
École Connaught Community School Council  
2201 Retallack Street  
Regina SK S4T 2K7

Dear Mr. Dumont:

Thank you for the e-mail of April 20, 2012, sent by your vice-chair Sheila Jozsa and the letter of April 23, 2012, forwarded on behalf of the School Community Council by Amy Petrovich, inquiring about the Stage 1 Facility Study for École Connaught School and the related consultation meetings.

The responsibility of capital project management is a function of the School Division's administration and will continue to follow the processes that have been successful in securing four major school capital projects and garnering progressive Stage approvals in a number of others. You may be interested to know that there are two other Stage 1 Study projects following the same methodology that are underway in two other communities.

The Division is also committed to the safety and educational needs of students within our system. In the case of the Connaught School building, ongoing monitoring will ensure that it is safe for occupation by staff and students. Should the facility ever be deemed to compromise students' education and/or safety, the contingency would be to provide the students with education services at appropriate local Regina Public schools.

As such, the format for the Thursday, April 26, 2012, meeting will continue to collect information pertaining to a Stage 1 Ministry Study, specifically with our project consultant gathering information on partnership opportunities and site design considerations.

As part of the consultation opportunities, the Division's project consultant is scheduled to attend your May 15, 2012, School Community Council meeting. You may wish to present your five minute visual presentation of alternative redesign examples used on other historical buildings at that time for information purposes.

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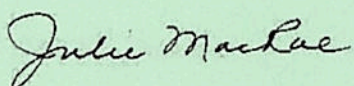


With the recent change in educational funding, continued progress toward the completion of these studies is important as funding decisions are dependent upon the availability of resources as determined by the provincial government. Your continuing support for this initiative will support a successful request for the Connaught community.

We thank you for your interest and participation in these activities to ensure that the educational outcomes for students at École Connaught Community School remain in focus.

Thank you again for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie MacRae".

Mrs. Julie MacRae  
Director of Education

MW lnh