

OCTOBER 2013

Sec Johnson -

Date

Oct 8/13

- How many schools represented?
- 6 represented

- requests to Capital
funding
- closing attendance
boundaries

1) How are ^{demographic} changes affecting
your school?

2) Knowledge about your
community.

3) Questions to board?

It just happens that Connaught
was chosen for dual track
Community School - 7 heritage
is not education ->
Kathleen --

KATH LEEN
KATHERINE
KATHERINE

Page

Mark Whiting

From: Mark Whiting
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 2:18 PM
To: Mike Walter
Subject: Book3.xlsx
Attachments: Book3.xlsx

Numbers immersion EAL and FNMI on bottom of first tab

Category	1	Total
1	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]



Mark Whiting

From: Mark Whiting
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 2:27 PM
To: Mike Walter
Subject: Book4.xlsx
Attachments: Book4.xlsx

Part Deux

Elementary School	Pre K	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Albert	20			20	11	24	20	
Arcola	0				0		2	
Argyle	0						0	
Braun, Henry								
Bryant, Judge								
Buck, Ruth M.								2
Centennial								4
Centennial FI								2
Coldwell, M.J.			1					1
Connaught	31	18	12	11	8	15	24	20
Connaught FI	0	16	25	16	20	21	13	14
Coronation Park								
Davin								
Douglas Park	3							
Ferguson, Dr. Geo.	5							
Ford, W.H.	10							
Glen Elm	1							
Grant Road	3							
Hanna, Dr.L.M.	2							
Harvest City								
Hawrylak								
Hawrylak FI								
Hunt, Wilfred								
Imperial								
Janzen, Henry								
Kitchener								
Lakeview								
Lee, George								
Mackenzie, Jack								
McNeill								
Massey FI								
McDermid								
McDonald, Gladys								
McLurg								
McVeety, Marion								
Milliken, Ethel								0
Mironuck, Elsie								9
Mironuck, Elsie FI								1
Pawson, Ruth								9
Perry, Dr.A.E.								2
Ready, W.F.								

7
2
0
1
1
1

[illegible]



From: Katherine & Dean Gagne <gagne@myaccess.ca>
To: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>, Jane Ekong <ekong2012@hotmail.com>, cindywork <cindy_work@hotmail.com>, Kathleen O'Reilly <kathleenoreilly@sasktel.net>, carla beck <carlabeck@sasktel.net>, Dale West <kennethdwest@gmail.com>
Sent: Fri, 11 Oct 2013 18:39:40 -0000 (GMT)
Subject: Speak to Motion

Just a reminder and clarification for a statement in my previous email. You need only speak to the motion/ Connaught SCC request if you so wish.
Katherine

Alma Tholl

From: Amy Petrovitch <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 7:02 PM
To: Julie MacRae
Cc: Carla Beck; Chris Keyes
Subject: School Board Meeting

Sent from my iPod

Good evening Julie,
I hope you are having an enjoyable long weekend. A member of my community alerted me to the fact that the School Board agenda for the meeting tomorrow night lists an item that is of interest to the SCC of Ecole Connaught Community School (item 7 a) and potentially the parents of the students who attend there but no background information has been attached. Can you tell me more about the Heritage information that will be presented and why our SCC was not notified that this item was to be discussed? In the interest of transparency and just plain good communication I would suggest that it would be good policy to inform those schools who have may an interest in the topics being presented at your meetings. Posting the agenda on your website a few days before the meeting is just not enough.

Amy Petrovitch
Chair, School Community Council
Ecole Connaught Community School

From: Katherine & Dean Gagne <gagne@myaccess.ca>
To: Suzanne Shuba <suzanne.shuba@rbe.sk.ca>
Sent: Tue, 15 Oct 2013 22:31:13 -0000 (GMT)
Subject: Heritage Designation

Suzanne,

Are you able to tell me when the Connaught SCC motions were first put on the board agenda and then what other dates did they resurface?

Thank you,
Katherine

John Malcolm

From: Terry Zacharias
Sent: October-16-13 1:54 PM
To: Ryan Robinson
Subject: RE: Steam pipe leaking

Sure. I'll tell John to give my relief the heads up about the leak and shut the boiler off once the building heats up.
Terry

From: Ryan Robinson
Sent: October-16-13 1:50 PM
To: Terry Zacharias
Subject: RE: Steam pipe leaking

Hey Terry,
Is there any chance this can wait until next week when Peter gets back?

From: Terry Zacharias
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 9:00 AM
To: Ryan Robinson
Subject: Steam pipe leaking

Hi Ryan, John asked me to give you a quick e-mail about the one of the leaks here at Connaught. It's a steam leak and it is wrapped in asbestos. I'll be away Thursday and Friday and will have relief filling in. It's in a classroom ceiling. If you can have someone come out so I can show them where it is and maybe I can get the room ready if they have to remove some asbestos. Thanks
Terry@Connaught

From: [Holly Wallace](#)
To: [Ron Christie](#)
Subject: Connaught School
Date: Thursday, October 17, 2013 1:32:18 PM
Attachments: [123-13 Connaught School Inspection.pdf](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

Good Afternoon,

As requested attached is a drawing detailing the work required for an inspection of the foundation walls at Connaught School, which was recommended in the last periodical inspection report. If the wall finishing's were removed, as specified in the drawings, we could do an inspection just before Christmas and hopefully have everything put back together for when the children are back from the Christmas Holidays. I also wanted to note that I added in the drawings that a 3" diameter core section would be drilled through the wall, this is to determine the condition of the entire wall, interior to exterior.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call our office. Also, if you could keep me updated on the progress of this I would appreciate it. Thanks!

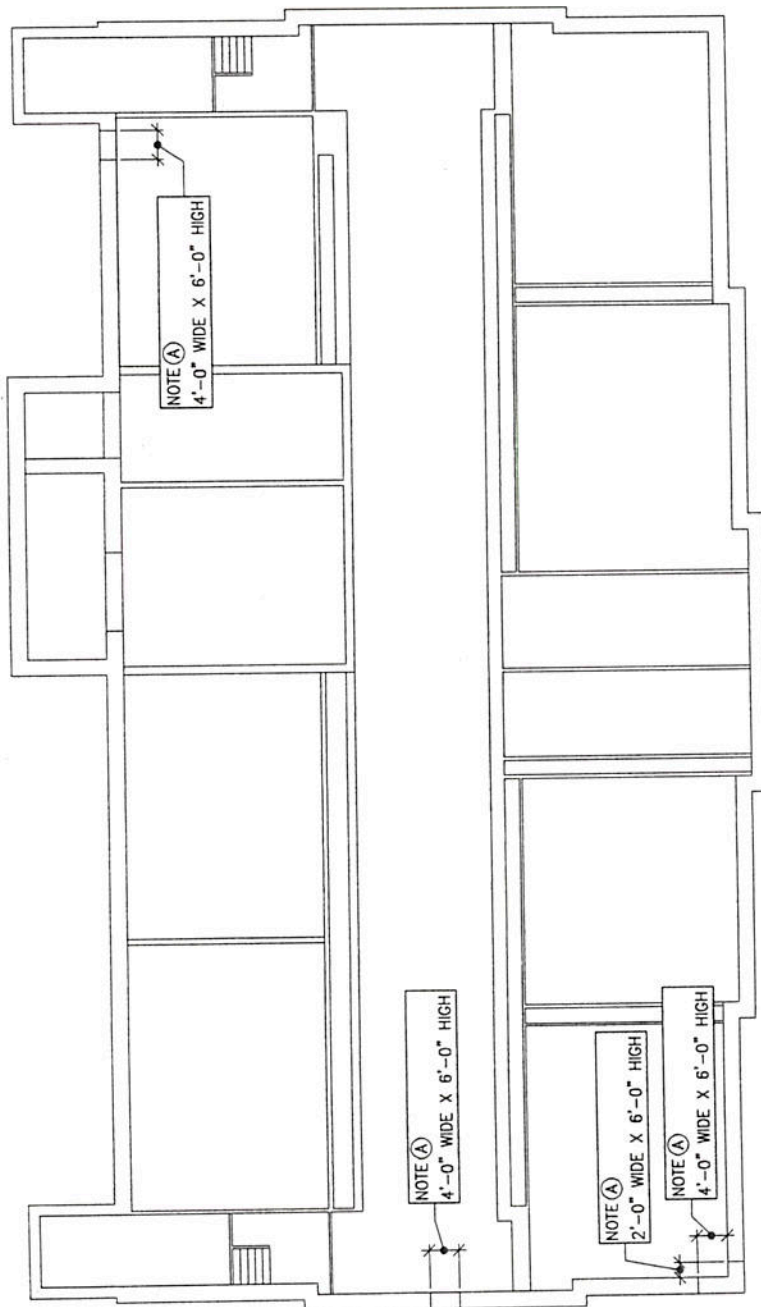
Holly Wallace, P.Eng.

Structural Engineer



J C KENYON ENGINEERING INC.
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS
2424 COLLEGE AVENUE
REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN S4P 1C8
Office: (306) 585-6126 ext.294
Direct: (306) 206-0294
Fax: (306) 585-6156

Disclaimer: This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential property of J. C. Kenyon Engineering Inc. and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If the reader is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, retransmission, dissemination, disclosure, modification, or other use, is strictly prohibited except with written authorization. Please delete all copies from your system and notify us immediately.



1 BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
ST.1.1 N.T.S.

- NOTE (A)
- CUT HOLE IN WALL FINISHINGS AS SPECIFIED ON DRAWING.
 - STRIP WALL DOWN TO BRICK.
 - OBTAIN 1 3/8" X FULL WALL THICKNESS CORE SECTION FOR EACH LOCATION AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.
 - ENGINEER TO INSPECT FOUNDATION WALL.
 - PATCH AND GROUT CORING HOLE TO REPAIR.
 - ON APPROVAL OF ENGINEER CLOSE UP THE WALL, PATCH AND REPAIR TO MATCH EXISTING.

GENERAL NOTES

1. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS: NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF CANADA, 2010.
2. UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, TYPICAL DETAILS APPLY THROUGHOUT.
3. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

EXISTING CONSTRUCTION

ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING EXISTING CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ORIGINAL DRAWINGS AND SITE MEASUREMENTS. CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM ALL DIMENSIONS AND SITE CONDITIONS PRIOR TO COMMENCING CONSTRUCTION. IF EXISTING CONDITIONS DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY CONTACT CONSULTANT IMMEDIATELY.

SAFETY

OBSERVE AND ENFORCE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY MEASURES REQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF CANADA, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AND MUNICIPAL STATUTES AND AUTHORITIES.

JCK J.C. KENYON ENGINEERING INC. STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS		PROJECT TITLE CONNAUGHT SCHOOL FOUNDATION INSPECTION 2013		DRAWING TITLE BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN	
DRAWN RW		CHECKED HHFW		SCALE N.T.S.	
DATE 13.10.17		JOB NUMBER 123-13		DWG. NO. 51.1	
REVISION 0		DATE 13.10.17		REVISION 0	



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

Regina Public School Division Office
1600 4th Avenue, Regina, SK S4R 8C8
Web site: www.rbe.sk.ca

Ph: (306) 523-3000
Fax: (306) 523-3031
E-mail: info@rbe.sk.ca

October 17, 2013

Attention: Amy Petrovitch
Chair, School Community Council
École Connaught Community School
amypetrovitch@hotmail.com

Dear Ms. Petrovitch:

Further to your request of June 12, 2013, and our response of June 24, 2013, this serves to confirm that the Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan, at its meeting held October 15, 2013, considered the outstanding matter of heritage designation for École Connaught Community School and, at that time, adopted the following motion:

WHEREAS the Board has researched the implications of obtaining a Heritage Designation for École Connaught Community School; and WHEREAS obtaining such a designation would serve to limit the Board's options; BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board decline the request from the Connaught School Community Council to seek a heritage designation for the existing facility.

Your patience in awaiting a response in this matter is appreciated.

Yours truly,

Debra G. Burnett
Deputy Director, Division Services
Secretary-Treasurer

DGB:sjs

cc J. MacRae

John Malcolm

From: John Malcolm
Sent: October-18-13 9:03 AM
To: Ryan Robinson
Cc: Dan Van Buekenhout
Subject: RE: Message from Unknown sender (3065417830)

Thanks Ryan, I will pass this.

From: Ryan Robinson
Sent: October-18-13 9:02 AM
To: John Malcolm
Cc: Dan Van Buekenhout
Subject: RE: Message from Unknown sender (3065417830)

Because of the asbestos on the pipe we were waiting for Peter to get back on Monday. Terry said it wasn't urgent and this was OK. He was going to tell you that so you could give the relief guy a heads up. I guess he didn't..

From: John Malcolm
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2013 8:35 AM
To: Ryan Robinson
Cc: Dan Van Buekenhout
Subject: FW: Message from Unknown sender (3065417830)

Guys, do you know what's happening with Connaught's steam line repair? Terry put in a service request on Tuesday, and the leaking pipe is asbestos wrapped. We can't keep the boiler running over the weekend if it's not fixed and the school will be cold Monday morning. Shawn is over there today.

John

From: Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System [<mailto:unityconnection@rbe.sk.ca>]
Sent: October-18-13 8:22 AM
To: John Malcolm
Subject: Message from Unknown sender (3065417830)

From:

To:

[REDACTED]
Amy Petrovitch; [REDACTED], Carla Beck; Chris Keyes

Subject:

RE: Ecole Connaught Community School

Date:

Sunday, October 20, 2013 1:27:04 PM

Thanks Amy, I agree that it was an outrageous decision. [REDACTED]

From: amypetrovitch@hotmail.com

To: c_a_m@e.ca; carlabeck@sasktel.net; chris.keyes@rbe.sk.ca;

elaine@e.ca; [REDACTED];

[REDACTED];

[REDACTED];

[REDACTED];

[REDACTED];

Subject: FW: Ecole Connaught Community School

Date: Sat, 19 Oct 2013 14:13:28 -0500

Dear SCC,

Please find a copy of the personal email that I sent to the School Board this afternoon. I know that some of you may not be in agreement with everything that I have said in it and that is alright - I just wanted you to know that I have sent it.

Amy

From: amypetrovitch@hotmail.com

To: aleana.m.young@gmail.com

CC: kathleenoreilly@sasktel.net; cindyandersonrps@gmail.com; carlabeck@sasktel.net; ekong2012@hotmail.com; gagne@accesscomm.ca; kennethdwest@gmail.com

Subject: Ecole Connaught Community School

Date: Sat, 19 Oct 2013 14:07:30 -0500

Aleana,

I am personally quite upset with the motion that you presented at the School Board meeting earlier this week and the way that it was hidden on the agenda as "Heritage Designation Information". The decision of Heritage designation should fall to the wishes of the community and if you have read the report on the consultation that was done with my community you already know that we cherish the historical school that we currently

have. You have forgotten that you were elected to represent the parents and community of your subdivision and not mine. I'd like to suggest that the next time you take it upon yourself to represent my community, that you actually come and meet with some of us to learn of our opinions and to share yours with us. At the very least, I feel that you should have met with the School Community Council to present your research on the matter.

School Boards should be accountable and transparent to parents and communities.

Amy Petrovitch
Chair, School Community Council
Ecole Connaught Community School

From: Chris Keyes
To: Amy Petrovitch
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]
Date: Sunday, October 20, 2013 9:31:19 PM

Amy,

I apologize for confusing when to exercise transparency and when to exercise discretion. I will not make that error again. Here is the conversation you wish me to share.

Chris

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Petrovitch [mailto:amypetrovitch@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sun 10/20/2013 4:36 PM
To: Chris Keyes
Subject: Re: Ecole Connaught Community School

Chris,

I did state that it was my personal opinion. I signed it as chair only as an identifier. I suppose that I could have signed it as "mom", "parent" or "community member" but I chose to use the identifier "chair" as that is how most of the School Board identifies me. I have had a few comments back from the SCC which all have been positive. If you have had any to the contrary they should have been directed to me.

I have been quite careful not to use my position as "chair" to the advantage of any other groups that I am a member of and I have been open and honest to the SCC. Save Our Connaught Heritage and Real Renewal, which is not really that active as of current, were both formed in response to the possibility of losing Connaught. They are run by unpaid parents and community members who believe situations in the schools could be better which is not unlike what the SCC does. We spend time away from our families to attend meetings and often spend what little leisure time we have working towards the same. If the members of the SCC choose to make a motion to elect another chair that is fine by me. I've tried to do my best and have spent countless hours at it.

I think your email should have been sent to all of the SCC and not just to me. To do otherwise is to not be transparent. I urge you to consider sending your email and my reply to the whole SCC.

I will do as you have requested but feel it was clear the first time.

Amy

Sent from my iPod

On 2013-10-20, at 2:01 PM, "Chris Keyes" <chris.keyes@rbe.sk.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon Amy,

I am somewhat concerned that you have sent an email which you have acknowledged as being both personal and not necessarily representative of the views of everyone on the SCC yet you have signed it as the Chair of the Connaught SCC. To my mind this is not "alright", especially given your very public declaration of your affiliation with both SOC and Real Renewal. As it stands right now it looks very much like you are using your position on the SCC to promote the interests of those two other organizations. Whether this is true or not, it does give the appearance of a conflict of interest. I would suggest that you send an additional email indicating that these are your personal views and not necessarily those of the SCC. If you wish to send this message with the support of the SCC it would seem to me that you make a motion at the next meeting, have a discussion and then vote on a response. This only seems reasonable.

Chris

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Petrovitch [mailto:amypetrovitch@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sat 10/19/2013 1:13 PM

To: C. A. M. [mailto:ca.m@rbe.sk.ca]; Carla Beck; [redacted]
[redacted]

Subject: FW: Ecole Connaught Community School

Dear SCC,

Please find a copy of the personal email that I sent to the School Board this afternoon. I know that some of you may not be in agreement with everything that I have said in it and that is alright - I just wanted you to know that I have sent it.

Amy

From: amypetrovitch@hotmail.com

To: aleana.m.young@gmail.com

CC: kathleenoreilly@sasktel.net; cindyandersonrps@gmail.com; carlakeck@sasktel.net; ekong2012@hotmail.com; gagne@accesscomm.ca; kennethdwest@gmail.com

Subject: Ecole Connaught Community School

Date: Sat, 19 Oct 2013 14:07:30 -0500

Aleana, I am personally quite upset with the motion that you presented at the School Board meeting earlier this week and the way that it was hidden on the agenda as "Heritage

Designation Information". The decision of Heritage designation should fall to the wishes of the community and if you have read the report on the consultation that was done with my community you already know that we cherish the historical school that we currently have. You have forgotten that you were elected to represent the parents and community of your subdivision and not mine. I'd like to suggest that the next time you take it upon yourself to represent my community, that you actually come and meet with some of us to learn of our opinions and to share yours with us. At the very least, I feel that you should have met with the School Community Council to present your research on the matter. School Boards should be accountable and transparent to parents and communities. Amy Petrovitch, Chair, School Community Council, Ecole Connaught Community School

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 19, 2013, at 1:13 PM, "Amy Petrovitch" <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear SCC,

Please find a copy of the personal email that I sent to the School Board this afternoon. I know that some of you may not be in agreement with everything that I have said in it and that is alright - I just wanted you to know that I have sent it.

Amy

From: amypetrovitch@hotmail.com
To: aleana.m.young@gmail.com
CC: kathleenoreilly@sasktel.net; cindyandersonrps@gmail.com; carlabeck@sasktel.net; ekong2012@hotmail.com; gagne@accesscomm.ca; kennethdwest@gmail.com
Subject: Ecole Connaught Community School
Date: Sat, 19 Oct 2013 14:07:30 -0500

Aleana,

I am personally quite upset with the motion that you presented at the School Board meeting earlier this week and the way that it was hidden on the agenda as "Heritage Designation Information". The decision of Heritage designation should fall to the wishes of the community and if you have read the report on the consultation that was done with my community you already know that we cherish the historical school that we currently have. You have forgotten that you were elected to represent the parents and community of your subdivision and not mine. I'd like to suggest that the next time you take it upon yourself to represent my community, that you actually come and meet with some of us to learn of our opinions and to share yours with us. At the very least, I feel that you should have met with the School Community Council to present your research on the matter.

School Boards should be accountable and transparent to parents and communities.

Amy Petrovitch
Chair, School Community Council
Ecole Connaught Community School

John Malcolm

From: John Malcolm
Sent: October-21-13 7:33 AM
To: Ryan Robinson
Subject: connaught

Ryan, can Garrad go out to Connaught right away, to check whether the welding work to be done this morning will have any possible effect on the fire alarm system.

John

John Malcolm
Manager of Operations
Regina Public Schools
Tel (306)523-3082
Fax(306)523-3086

From: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 9:57 AM

Subject: Re: Connaught School motion

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. As with all emails I receive, I have taken it to heart and consideration.

Despite some mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I have a great belief in heritage and love of heritage buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

At our June board meeting, a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. They stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access 'millions of dollars of funding' which would help make up the difference in costs between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating funding opportunities for heritage buildings and speaking to local heritage authorities on the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. Unfortunately, there was no where near the 'millions of dollars of funding' to be had. The largest grants issued by any heritage funds in Canada (for which Connaught is not eligible) were \$50,000. Heritage designation does not prevent a building from being demolished. While our province is home to some lovely old schools, other heritage schools such as those in Moose Jaw, had their renovations conducted many years ago under the old funding model which allowed school boards to set mill rates and raise or lower these as necessary to fund capital projects such as school renovations/rebuilds.

The government has indicated they will only fund a rebuild. While this is not the option desired by everyone, as I'm sure you know with the new education funding model the Board does not have the option to fund a renovation. The school division has now commissioned two engineering reports on Ecole Connaught. These two independent reports both conclude that the building is unfortunately in very bad shape.

As the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist, I and four other trustees elected to reject the heritage designation requested by the SCC. I made the motion, not out of any passionate desire to reject it, but simply because I had tabled the original request in June.

As I noted at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. thank you for your email.. even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Regards,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 11:12 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ms. Young. I am writing to ask you to reconsider your motion to oppose pursuing heritage status for Connaught School. I believe that this status would serve students, members of the local community, and members of our city well and that failure to acquire it will cause needless harm.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: **Aleana Young** <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 10:09 AM
Subject: Re: Motion Opposing Heritage Status for Connaught School
To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. As with all emails I receive, I have taken it to heart and consideration.

Despite some mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually have a great belief in heritage and love of heritage buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral. In principle I agree with your assertions about heritage. Heritage buildings give our communities character and preserve history.

To clarify a few points: the vote which occurred at our October board meeting was not a vote on whether or not to demolish Connaught. As you've noted, the vote was about heritage status. Forgive me if this is 'old news' to you, but I thought I'd give a bit of context as you're clearly very passionate about last week's motion...

At our June board meeting, a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. They stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access 'millions of dollars of funding' which would help make up the difference in costs between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating funding opportunities for heritage buildings and speaking to local heritage authorities on the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. As a personal aside, despite Connaught not being in my subdivision, I was the only trustee to undertake any research on the issue over the summer. I took this very seriously. Unfortunately, there was no where near the 'millions of dollars of funding' to be had. The largest grant issued by any heritage fund in Canada (for which Connaught is not eligible) was \$50,000. While that is a significant amount of money to an individual, when considered in the context of making up a \$9M funding deficit, it is sadly a drop in the bucket.

As I learned, sadly heritage designation does not prevent a building from being demolished. While our province is home to some lovely old schools, other heritage schools such as those in Moose Jaw, had their renovations conducted many years ago under the old funding model which allowed school boards to set mill rates and raise or lower these as necessary to fund capital projects such as school renovations/rebuilds.

As the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist, I and four other trustees elected to reject the heritage designation requested by the SCC. I made the motion, not out of any passionate desire to reject it, but simply because I had tabled the original request in June.

This is not some attempt by soulless technocrats to demolish a community landmark. The school

division has now commissioned two engineering reports on Ecole Connaught. These two independent reports both conclude that the building is unfortunately in very bad shape. The consulting architect is well known for his work on heritage buildings, and I believe restored the current Prairie Dog offices on Scarth.

As I'm sure you're aware, the government has indicated they will only fund a rebuild. While this is not the option desired by everyone, with the new education funding model the Board does not have the option to fund a renovation. We do not set our own budgets any longer.

As I noted at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. thank you for your email.. even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Regards,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 12:35 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Aleana Young,

>

>

> I would like to express my extreme unhappiness with the motion that you put forward to oppose pursuing heritage status for the historic Ecole Connaught Community School. I ask you to please reconsider your position on this issue.

>

> My name is [REDACTED], I am 22 years old and graduated grade 8 from Connaught in 2005. I am currently studying Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urbanism at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, but the Cathedral Village in Regina will always be my true home. For my entire life I have experienced the streets of Cathedral Village and even in my comparatively short time I have seen much change in the community, especially in the last 5 or so years.

>

> Being in the field of Architecture and community building, I am certainly not opposed to change and 'progress,' when appropriate. However, I do not believe the words 'change' and 'progress' always go hand in hand. Heritage and history are integral parts of building a diverse (in terms of people, cultures, religions, income levels AND infrastructure), safe and enjoyable community. The historic Connaught School is an endlessly important heritage structure for its surrounding neighbourhood, as well as the City of Regina. It is so unfortunate the some are to distracted to recognize this fact.

>

> What is interesting about city planning and community building, is that individuals such as yourself, who's job title might be 'trustee,' might not think of themselves of as a significant actor in this field (which is dangerous). In situations such as this you will have an incredible impact on not only the current residents of the Cathedral Area, Connaught School students and teachers, but also on the entire future of the neighbourhood itself, present day and far into the future. Heritage buildings give communities a sense of belonging and permanence. They give community members a sense of connectivity throughout time to people and their surrounding environment, which is especially important today. They also add an air of mystery and intrigue to what this place used to be. I am extremely confident in saying that destroying Connaught School is not what is best for my community.

>

> Here are some additional points I would like to add

>

>

> Connaught has served the Cathedral Area for 100 years and is Regina's oldest public school.

>

> The board already has three other public schools under the Municipal Heritage Holding Bylaw: Davin, Thomson and Balfour (none of which are as old as Connaught).

>

> As argued by trustee Beck, heritage status would open up new opportunities and partnerships for school renewal, and would honour the results of well-attended public consultations.

>

> Heritage Canada and other heritage organizations and experts across the country are ready and willing to help facilitate renovation planning that more than meets the learning needs of students in the 21st century.

>

> The school's structural condition is at best unknown, with the board refusing to conduct the tests recommended by its own consultants. A request to allow building conservation experts to examine the school, at no cost to the board, was refused.

>

> Schools of the same age and construction have been successfully and beautifully renovated at relatively low cost in other Canadian cities, for example Moose Jaw.

>

>

> I could type forever about how passionate I am on this subject and in this situation specifically as the historic Connaught School is very dear to myself and my friends, but I will leave it at this and ask you again to please reconsider your position on this issue after pondering the potential detriment the Cathedral Neighbourhood could feel from having this historic building destroyed forever.

>

>

> Thank you for taking the time to read my email,

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

From: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 10:16 AM

Subject: Re: Connaught School

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. As with all emails I receive, I have taken it to heart and consideration.

Despite some mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually have a great belief in heritage and love of heritage buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

To clarify a few points: the vote which occurred at our October board meeting was not a vote on whether or not to demolish Connaught. As you've noted, the vote was about heritage status. Forgive me if this is 'old news' to you, but I thought I'd give a bit of context as you're clearly very passionate about this issue.

At our June board meeting, a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. They stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access 'millions of dollars of funding' which would help make up the difference in costs between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating funding opportunities for heritage buildings and speaking to local heritage authorities on the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. As a personal aside, despite Connaught not being in my subdivision, I was the only trustee to undertake any research on the issue over the summer. I took this very seriously. Unfortunately, there was no where near the 'millions of dollars of funding' to be had. The largest grant issued by any heritage fund in Canada (for which Connaught is not eligible) was \$50,000. While that is a significant amount of money to an individual, when considered in the context of making up a \$9M funding deficit, it is sadly a drop in the bucket. As I learned, sadly heritage designation does not prevent a building from being demolished. While our province is home to some lovely old schools, other heritage schools such as those in Moose Jaw, had their renovations conducted many years ago under the old funding model which allowed school boards to set mill rates and raise or lower these as necessary to fund capital projects such as school renovations/rebuilds.

As the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist, I and four other trustees elected to reject the heritage designation requested by the SCC. I made the motion, not out of any passionate desire to reject it, but simply because I had tabled the original request in June.

In regards to your comment about acquiring proper reports on the building and its state, the school division has now commissioned two engineering reports on Ecole Connaught. These two independent reports both conclude that the building is unfortunately in very bad shape. As you

noted, there is a group which has called for a 'second opinion on the second opinion', however, with two independent reports already acquired, at a certain point it becomes irresponsible. We have 21,000 students and +50 other schools in our division.

As I noted at the top of my email - personally, I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. thank you for your email.. even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Regards,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 11:41 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ms Young, and other members of the Regina Public School Board:

I am writing to ask that you: (1) apply for heritage designation for Ecole Connaught Community School, and (2) allow experts in heritage conservation to examine the school.

Demolishing a building is something that cannot be undone. Such a decision therefore merits careful consideration, informed by as much evidence as can be made available. Connaught is Regina's oldest public school. I understand that a local group has raised money to pay for conservation experts to examine the school and provide a report. This would cost taxpayers nothing. I am sure that, as school trustees, you appreciate the importance of conducting adequate and balanced research prior to reaching any decision of significant consequence.

My family has lived in the Cathedral neighbourhood for over 20 years. Both of my children attended Connaught. They are now adults, and productive citizens of Saskatchewan who have fond memories of their formative years. I wish nothing less for current and future generations of children.

Please act in the long-term best interests of our city and our community. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: **Aleana Young** <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 10:21 AM

Subject: Re: Connaught School Heritage Status

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. As with all emails I receive, I have taken it to heart and consideration.

Despite the mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually have a great belief in heritage and love of heritage buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while - like you - I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

To clarify a few points: the vote which occurred at our October board meeting was not a vote on whether or not to demolish Connaught. As you've noted, the vote was about heritage status. Forgive me if this is 'old news' to you, but I thought I'd give a bit of context as you're clearly very passionate about this issue.

At our June board meeting, a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. They stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access 'millions of dollars of funding' which would help make up the difference in costs between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating funding opportunities for heritage buildings and speaking to local heritage authorities on the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. As a personal aside, despite Connaught not being in my subdivision, I was the only trustee to undertake any research on the issue over the summer. I took this very seriously. Unfortunately, there was no where near the 'millions of dollars of funding' to be had. The largest grant issued by any heritage fund in Canada (for which Connaught is not eligible) was \$50,000. While that is a significant amount of money to an individual, when considered in the context of making up a \$9M funding deficit, it is sadly a drop in the bucket. As I learned, sadly, heritage designation does not prevent a building from being demolished. While our province is home to some lovely old schools, other heritage schools such as those in Moose Jaw, had their renovations conducted many years ago under the old funding model which allowed school boards to set mill rates and raise or lower these as necessary to fund capital projects such as school renovations/rebuilds.

As I'm sure you're aware, the government has indicated they will only fund a rebuild. While this is not the option desired by everyone, with the new education funding model the Board does not have the option to fund a renovation.

As the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist, I and four other trustees elected to reject the heritage designation requested by the SCC. I made the motion, not out of any passionate desire to reject it, but simply because I had tabled the original request in June.

In regards to your comment about acquiring proper reports on the building and its state, the school division has now commissioned two engineering reports on Ecole

Connaught. These two independent reports both conclude that the building is unfortunately in very bad shape. While this is not the answer that some people wanted, these two independent reports reached the same conclusion. To reject that and get a second opinion on a second opinion, in my mind, is irresponsible to the other +50 schools and 21,000 students in our division.

As I noted at the top of my email - personally, I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision..I can only hope you believe my sincerity. Thank you for your email.. even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Regards,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 10:56 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the motion to NOT consider Connaught as a heritage school.

We know that Connaught is the oldest school in Regina.

Connaught School is a key component of the Cathedral neighbourhood. This is recognized by the School Board trustee from our area, who voted for heritage consideration.

It offends me that others from elsewhere are so willing to go against the clear and obvious expression of people from the community, to go in a different direction in spite of community members' expressed willingness to put in the extra effort that is needed to maintain Connaught School. Don't people from the community itself know best what is good for their own neighbourhood and community?

On the one hand, teachers are expected to not only teach but be aware and responsive to the family and community situation of their students. And the families and communities are expected to do the best to prepare children to participate fully in educational opportunities. On the other hand, when the School Board has a choice to make decisions that could positively impact a neighbourhood, keeping it livable and walkable and maintaining community values, such as Haultain School in the Eastview area, or maintaining Connaught School which is clearly desired by the Cathedral area community, suddenly the School Board says - "We are not responsible for those community issues - we are only concerned with education."

Where is the teamwork and inter-sectoral analysis and collaboration that is talked about by leaders, administrators and professionals?

Learning is about the teachers who come prepared and willing to work with students. Connaught School has been a successful learning environment for 100 years. Go ahead and try other types of schools where new schools needs to be built. But why destroy something that has worked for so many years?

The decision about the condition of the building is being made with only the views of one engineering consultant. The School Board has refused to get other types of assessment done, even if Connaught School parents and community have offered to pay the costs of such an assessment. In this regard the School Board is not showing due diligence and is negligent in carrying out its financial responsibilities.

Heritage Canada has recognized the heritage value of Connaught School through adding it to its list of endangered buildings. Yet we locally cannot see its value?

Schools in Moose Jaw I have seen, and both of my elementary home schools in Winnipeg, (Wolseley and Laura Secord), have successfully maintained their heritage. I would like the same for the school that my children attended in Regina.

The knowledge about our history is not just contained in books - it is in art, and music, and multimedia resources, and in the buildings and natural spaces that surround us. Of course we will have new buildings and innovations in Regina and in Saskatchewan. But retaining our heritage reminds us about where we have come from and the core positive values that have built our communities.

Please reconsider and have Connaught School obtain heritage status.

[REDACTED]

From: Aleana Young
To: Aleana Young
Cc: Cindy Anderson; Carla Beck; Jane Ekong; Katherine Gagne; Dale West; Kathleen O'Reilly
Subject: Re: Heritage Designation
Date: Monday, October 21, 2013 11:54:14 AM

Dearest Fellow Trustees,

I did not hear from any of you and as such have responded. I will continue to respond to any emails addressed specifically to me. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Thank you,

Aleana

On Sun, Oct 20, 2013 at 10:58 AM, Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com> wrote:

PS. Please note: I will not be responding to the email from [REDACTED] as it was addressed to Carla.

On Sun, Oct 20, 2013 at 10:57 AM, Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Fellow Trustees,

As you will have seen - I received about half a dozen similar emails yesterday, including one from the Ecole Connaught SCC Chair.

I will be responding later today, however, I wanted to do my duty by you and check in to see if you had any concerns or comments prior to my responses. If you do and would get them to me by 5 PM Sask time, it would be most appreciated. If I do not hear from you, I will assume I have your trust to respond in accordance with the emails.

Thank you,

Aleana

On Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 3:20 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ms. Young.

As a citizen of the Cathedral community I was very disappointed to hear of the recent school board's motion to not pursue heritage status for Connaught School. I really do not understand why pursuing a designation would be opposed to and would like to hear the reason as to why a school board trustee would oppose an action that could not only demonstrate the good will and community spirit of the board but, if the school is indeed considered a historical designation, the board could be making a huge mistake by tearing the school down. Imagine if there was no historical designation for any

buildings anywhere. We would have very little history or cultural identify. I wonder what Europe would look like without it's historical buildings. Many Canadians travel to Europe to view and experience history, imagine if they didn't have the foresight to maintain their history and culture.

I hope the board will reconsider their decision and I do believe that it's the citizens of the community who knows what's best for the community.

Thank you and I am looking forward to your response.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: **Aleana Young** <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 3:17 PM

Subject: Re: Connaught School

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. As with all emails I receive, I have taken it to heart and consideration.

Despite some spiteful opinions being circulated, I actually have a great belief in heritage and love of historic buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

Just to clarify - the decision to rebuild Connaught school was made 8 months ago in February. Prior to this vote, the government indicated they would only fund a rebuild (as opposed to a renovation). While this is not ideal, with the new education funding model the Board does not have the option to fund a renovation. As I'm sure you're aware, under the new funding model for education school boards do not have the ability to raise funds for capital projects.

The vote which took place last Tuesday was in response to a request made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council (SCC) in June to investigate the merits of pursuing heritage status. The original request was made to allow the SCC to access 'millions of dollars of funding' which would help make up the difference in costs between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence. I believed it was important to gather all the information. Had I not tabled the motion, I am confident it would have been defeated on the floor.

I spent hours over the summer investigating funding opportunities for heritage buildings and speaking to local heritage authorities on the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. As a personal aside, despite Connaught not being in my subdivision, I was the only trustee to undertake any research on the issue over the summer. As I had tabled the motion, I took this very seriously. Unfortunately, there was nowhere near the 'millions of dollars of funding' to be had. The largest grant issued by any heritage fund in Canada (for which Connaught is not eligible) was \$50,000. While that is a significant amount of money to an individual, when considered in the context of making up a \$9M funding deficit, it is sadly a drop in the bucket. Furthermore, I learned that sadly a heritage designation does not prevent a building from being demolished. While our province is home to some lovely old schools, other heritage schools such as those in Moose Jaw, had their renovations conducted many years ago under the old funding model which allowed school boards to set mill rates and raise or lower these as necessary to fund capital projects such as school renovations/rebuilds.

As the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist, I and four other trustees elected to reject the pursuit of a heritage designation requested by the SCC. I made the motion, not out of any passionate desire to speak to it, but

simply as a matter of course because I had tabled the original request in June.

As a last point, I'm not sure why you think I would want to erect condos in place of Connaught? This is entirely false. If you'd be considerate enough to let me know where you heard this, I would very much appreciate it. While I obviously understand there are people who disagree, individuals who are focused on spreading misinformation and factually inaccurate statements are detrimental to thoughtful public dialogue.

I noted at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. thank you for your email.. I hope you believe my sincerity. I work on the U of R campus so I'd be happy to visit your office and continue the conversation if you have any remaining questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 1:28 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Good afternoon,

I am writing to request that you reconsider your motion to oppose the pursuit of heritage status for Connaught School.

I write as a concerned community member who lives in the Cathedral and takes great pride in the character *and* history of the neighbourhood—as a community member I think consultation on this issue is key. I am also writing as an educator concerned about the impact this will have on public education. The National Trust for Historic Preservation discusses the role of historic schools as anchors in each neighbourhood and I worry about losing our anchor in the Cathedral.

It is my understanding that Connaught School is one of the oldest schools in our city, and has been serving the community for 100 years. I cannot imagine a reason why you would want to replace this piece of history with a condo or other type building. That being said, I think there are many people in the community that have strong feelings about the status of the school and pursuing heritage status would allow those conversations to continue.

There has been public consultation thus far. I am asking that you re-open the dialog.

Regina is a rapidly growing city but that growth should not come at the expense of our history. In the interest of democracy and civic engagement I am asking that you reconsider your motion and allow for a much needed dialog to take place about the future of Connaught School. Please consider that the decisions we make about this school, this historic building, have future implications for the neighbourhood and city, but for public education as well.

Thank-you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 6:41 PM

Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 6:41 PM
Subject: Fred M.

Subject: Fwd: Moose Jaw Historic School Tour!! 28th September - next Saturday!
To: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

To: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: September 20, 2011

Date: September 24, 2013 10:11:51 PM CST
To:

To: [REDACTED] September 24, 2013 10:11:51 PM CST

Subject: Fwd: Moose Jaw Historic School Tour!! 28th September - next Saturday!

Is this your daughter? When am I going to see you?? xo

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Trish Elliott" <pelllott@accesscomm.ca>
Date: September 20, 2011, 10:00 AM

Date: September 24, 2013 6:54:42 PM CST
To: " [REDACTED] "

To: " [REDACTED] " September 24, 2013 6:54:42 PM CST

1. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]
6. [REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]
11. [REDACTED]
12. [REDACTED]
13. [REDACTED]
14. [REDACTED]
15. [REDACTED]
16. [REDACTED]
17. [REDACTED]
18. [REDACTED]
19. [REDACTED]
20. [REDACTED]
21. [REDACTED]
22. [REDACTED]
23. [REDACTED]
24. [REDACTED]
25. [REDACTED]
26. [REDACTED]
27. [REDACTED]
28. [REDACTED]
29. [REDACTED]
30. [REDACTED]
31. [REDACTED]
32. [REDACTED]
33. [REDACTED]
34. [REDACTED]
35. [REDACTED]
36. [REDACTED]
37. [REDACTED]
38. [REDACTED]
39. [REDACTED]
40. [REDACTED]
41. [REDACTED]
42. [REDACTED]
43. [REDACTED]
44. [REDACTED]
45. [REDACTED]
46. [REDACTED]
47. [REDACTED]
48. [REDACTED]
49. [REDACTED]
50. [REDACTED]
51. [REDACTED]
52. [REDACTED]
53. [REDACTED]
54. [REDACTED]
55. [REDACTED]
56. [REDACTED]
57. [REDACTED]
58. [REDACTED]
59. [REDACTED]
60. [REDACTED]
61. [REDACTED]
62. [REDACTED]
63. [REDACTED]
64. [REDACTED]
65. [REDACTED]
66. [REDACTED]
67. [REDACTED]
68. [REDACTED]
69. [REDACTED]
70. [REDACTED]
71. [REDACTED]
72. [REDACTED]
73. [REDACTED]
74. [REDACTED]
75. [REDACTED]
76. [REDACTED]
77. [REDACTED]
78. [REDACTED]
79. [REDACTED]
80. [REDACTED]
81. [REDACTED]
82. [REDACTED]
83. [REDACTED]
84. [REDACTED]
85. [REDACTED]
86. [REDACTED]
87. [REDACTED]
88. [REDACTED]
89. [REDACTED]
90. [REDACTED]
91. [REDACTED]
92. [REDACTED]
93. [REDACTED]
94. [REDACTED]
95. [REDACTED]
96. [REDACTED]
97. [REDACTED]
98. [REDACTED]
99. [REDACTED]
100. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1070701

~~_____~~

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Message [redacted], dated [redacted]

Saturday!

FYI - Here is the board's motion that is on the agenda tonight to deny heritage status for Connaught School. It is being put forward by Aleana Young. Her

briefing note claims there are no funding programs for heritage renovations,
only a city tax break.
- Trish

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Patricia Elliott

Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 9:51 AM

Subject: Moose Jaw Historic School Tour!! 28th September - next Saturday!

Hi!
Is anyone interested in going??! Please spread the word!!! Thanks, Jeannie

Saturday SEPTEMBER 28TH!!~! What does a renovated historic school look like? Heritage Regina is offering a bus tour of renovated historic schools of Moose Jaw! Moose Javians will be on hand to take us inside their 100-year-old-plus schools. We'll get to learn about their history and details of the renovations that have been done.

Itinerary:

9 a.m. sharp - departure from Connaught School, Regina
10:00 to 10:40 a.m. - Prince Arthur School
11:00 to 11:30 a.m. - King George School
12:00 noon to 1:15 p.m. - Lunch at Hopkins Dining Parlour
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. - Central Collegiate
2:30 - 3:30 p.m. - General sightseeing
4:30 p.m. - Back in Regina

A limited number of tickets are available at Groovy Mama or from members of Heritage Regina, Save Our Connaught and the Connaught SCC. \$25 adults, \$15 kids 13 and under, infants free. Lunch is not included in the ticket price.

The National Trust for historic buildings recommends that any school community being asked to make a decision on the future of a heritage school should be given the opportunity to tour renovated schools. Thanks to Heritage Regina for making this possible!

Event photo: Prince Arthur School. Peel Library Postcard Collection. Postcard 12731, Published by Gowen Sutton Co. Ltd., Vancouver.



REGINA BOARD OF EDUCATION

7b

BOARD MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

TOPIC: TABLED MOTION RE HERITAGE PROPERTY DESIGNATION

FORUM	AGENDA ITEMS	INTENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/> Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session	<input type="checkbox"/> New Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reports from Administrative Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: External Reports/Presentations	

BACKGROUND

At the June 18, 2013, regular meeting of the Regina Board of Education, Trustee Young moved to table the request from the École Connaught School Community Council for support of heritage designation for École Connaught Community School in order to obtain more information.

CURRENT STATUS

Attached is information relative to the process for designating heritage properties, the consequences associated therewith, and grants available for renovations should heritage designation occur.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board not pursue a heritage designation for École Connaught Community School at this time.

PREPARED BY

Julie MacRae, Director of Education

DATE

September 20, 2013

ATTACHMENTS

☒ Yes ☐ No



August, 2013

Heritage Property Designation

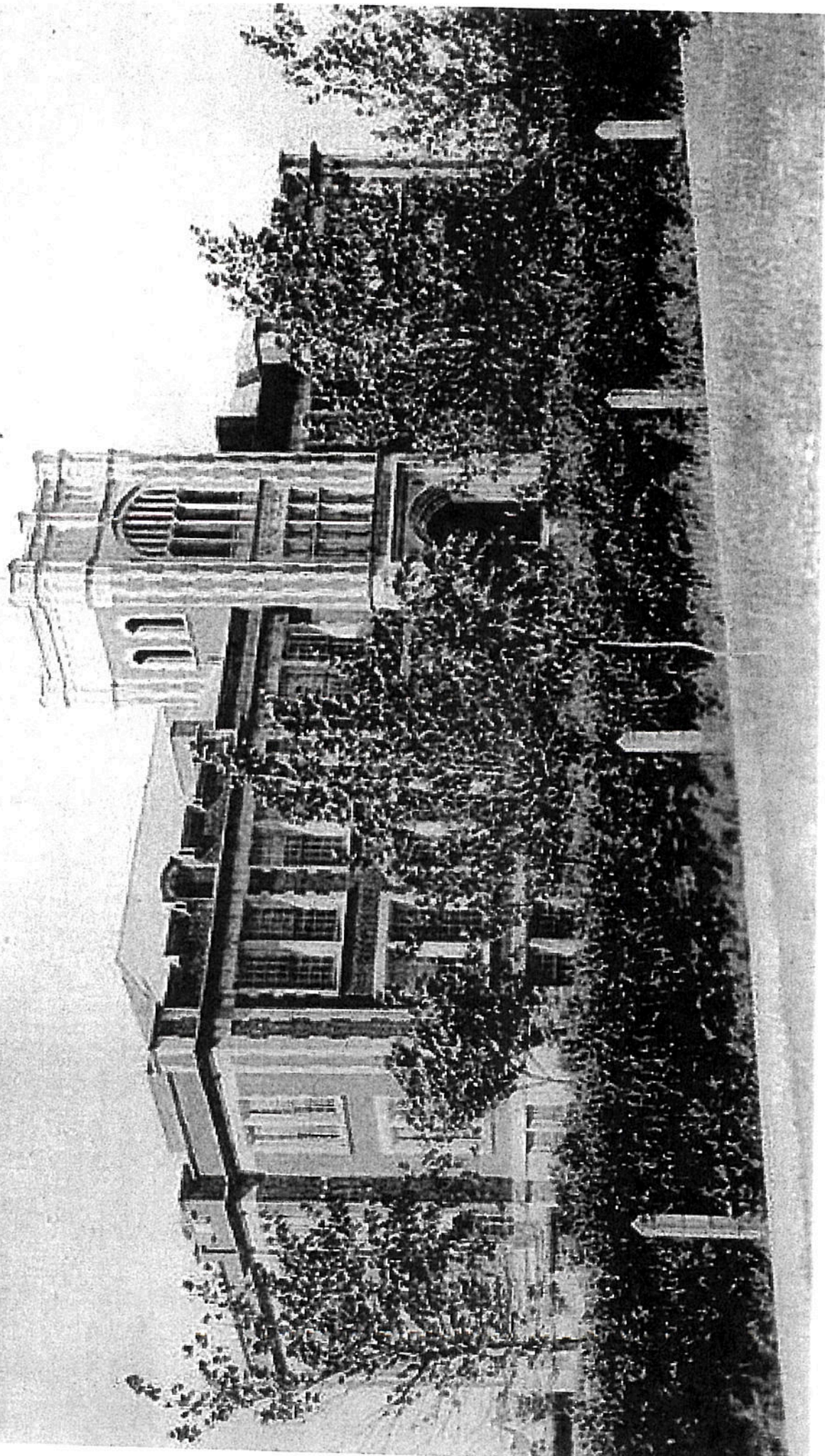
Background:

Additional information pertaining to "designation" of properties for heritage purposes was requested by the Board. Information on this subject has been collected from provincial and municipal agencies and is attached. Information includes:

- "Designating a Heritage Property" (Parks, Culture and Sport)
 - Provides general information on the two types of designations (provincial and municipal) provided for under *The Heritage Property Act*.
 - Of note is that once designated, the owner of a property must obtain Ministerial consent (in the case of a provincial designation) or municipal council to make any alteration that affect the property's heritage character-defining elements.
- "For Heritage Property Owners" (Parks, Culture and Sport)
 - Provides FAQ's for property owners considering an application of designation
- *The Heritage Property Act* <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=558>
 - Legislation that provides the framework for preserving heritage property in Saskatchewan.
- City of Regina "Municipal Heritage Holding Bylaw"
 - Under its Municipal Heritage Holding Bylaw (attached) the City maintains about 300 potential heritage properties protected against demolition or significant changes under a 60-day holding period. The following excerpt assists in explaining the purpose of the Bylaw and is from a City report addressing a property listed under this bylaw:

The Heritage Holding Bylaw is used as a planning tool to provide a valuable record of Regina's heritage. In addition, the City has adopted a number of policies and guidelines which affect properties that are listed under the bylaw. Essentially, it provides the City with an opportunity to further examine the heritage value of a listed property and to conclusively determine if Municipal Heritage Property designation is warranted.
 - Three RPS schools are included as part of this Bylaw: Davin, Thomson and Balfour (the former Regina Public School Board Office (1860 Lorne St.) is also on the list, however RPS no longer owns that building). These properties are not formally "designated heritage properties".
- City of Regina "Municipal Heritage Designation" process
 - A Municipal Heritage Designation requires a formal review process (attached - "Review process for designation of municipal heritage properties")
 - There are about 60 "designated heritage properties" in Regina
 - RPS has no schools as "designated heritage properties"
- Most heritage grant funding opportunities appear to require a formal designation of the property by the owner in order to apply.
- Many of the City of Regina heritage incentives are tax relief-based. This would provide no benefit to RPS as educational properties are tax exempt.
- Heritage designations relinquish the Board's control over decisions with respect to school buildings to third parties (municipal or provincial) and their constituents.
- From an RPS perspective, heritage designation would only be beneficial for consideration in the circumstance of a viable long-term renovation project.

Prince Arthur School, Moose Jaw, Sask.



From: Amy Petrovitch
To: [REDACTED]; carlabeck@sasktel.net; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Ecole Connaught Community School
Date: Monday, October 21, 2013 11:27:48 PM

SCC,

If you are interested, please find the reply from Aleana Young below and in turn, my response.

Amy

From: amypetrovitch@hotmail.com
To: aleana.m.young@gmail.com
CC: chris.keyes@rbe.sk.ca; gagne@accesscomm.ca; carlabeck@sasktel.net
Subject: RE: Ecole Connaught Community School
Date: Tue, 22 Oct 2013 00:16:25 -0500

Good Evening Aleana,

I really appreciate the fact that you have not only responded to my email but have provided a bit of insight into your personal feelings and thought process surrounding heritage designation. I still believe the right thing to do would have been to present your research to the School Community Council in conjunction with our area trustee before the motion was brought up for the voting process. Parents and community members have the right to not only know what decisions are being made on their behalf, but also to have their opinions heard during the decision making process. Perhaps the School Board could provide an option on their website for people to opt in to automatically receive notifications of board agendas via email. one small step would make it easier for the board to notify people in the community who wish to attend. This option could be advertised in the monthly school news letters which are sent home to parents of students and on the website itself.

To be fair, the motion made by Ecole Connaught Community School asked "for support for a heritage designation for Ecole Connaught Community School so as to allow access to Federal and Provincial grants for renovations". There was no mention of monetary amounts in either the motion or the body of the letter I wrote. I am personally interested to find out what the amounts you came up with in your research. I found that there was not much information given during the actual board meeting which lead to my frustration in this matter and I would be interested to read anything that you may have prepared for the board to read since there was no new information attached to the agenda for that night.

In closing, I am in favor of there being a productive dialogue between School Community Councils and the trustees when important decisions arise. I believe that we should be

accountable and transparent to each other. I urge you and the other trustees to take a look at your policies and make a positive change.

Please note that this entire email contains only my opinions and not necessarily those of the Ecole Connaught School Community Council.

I will pass this email onto the SCC as soon as I send this to you. Please feel free to do the same and send this to the rest of the trustees.

Amy Petrovitch

Date: Mon, 21 Oct 2013 11:17:02 -0600

Subject: Re: Ecole Connaught Community School

From: aleana.m.young@gmail.com

To: amypetrovitch@hotmail.com

CC: chris.keyes@rbe.sk.ca; gagne@accesscomm.ca; carlabeck@sasktel.net

Dear Amy,

Thank you for the clarification. While I am responding to you directly, please share my response with your elected SCC members. I have cc'd Principal Keyes, Board Chair Katherine Gange, and Trustee Beck here.

I am sorry you're upset.

Despite the mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually have a great love of historic buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

At our June board meeting, a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. It was stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access millions of dollars of funding which would help make up the cost differential between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating heritage buildings and speaking to local and provincial heritage authorities on available funds as well as the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. Unfortunately, the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist. As you know, we were to

vote on this at our September meeting, but it was delayed a month to allow some trustees additional time to conduct their own research. As such, at our October meeting I was asked to make the motion because I had tabled the original request in June and raised it from the table at the previous meeting.

As you noted, I was elected and my oath of office obligates me to make decisions that I believe are in the best interest of the Division as a whole and the community at large. As stated at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. I can only hope you believe my sincerity.

Thank you for your email.. even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Regards,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Sun, Oct 20, 2013 at 4:47 PM, Amy Petrovitch <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Aleana,

At the request of Principal Chris Keyes I wish to clarify that the opinions expressed below are that of my own and not those of the entire SCC. In the interest of transparency I sent the letter below to the SCC of Ecole Connaught Community School yesterday immediately after sending it to you.

Amy Petrovitch

Sent from my iPod

On 2013-10-19, at 1:07 PM, "Amy Petrovitch" <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com> wrote:

Aleana,

I am personally quite upset with the motion that you presented at the School Board meeting earlier this week and the way that it was hidden on the agenda as "Heritage Designation Information". The decision of Heritage designation should fall to the wishes of the community and if you have read the report on the consultation that was done with my community you already know that we cherish the historical school that we currently have. You have forgotten that you were elected to represent the parents and community of your subdivision and not mine. I'd like to suggest that the next time you take it upon yourself to represent my community, that you actually come and meet with some of us to learn of our opinions and to share yours with us. At the very least, I feel that you should have met with the School Community Council to present your research on the matter.

School Boards should be accountable and transparent to parents and communities.

Amy Petrovitch
Chair, School Community Council
Ecole Connaught Community School

From: **Aleana Young** <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Oct 22, 2013 at 8:23 AM

Subject: Re: Rethinking École Connaught

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I received a similar email from your husband yesterday. I'm not sure if you've read my response to him? I will forward it to you so I don't begin to repeat myself :) If you have and weren't satisfied, please let me know what your specific questions were. I have also been in dialogue with your SCC chair Amy, so if you have not seen the emails exchanged, please let me know.

Just to clarify a few factual inaccuracies above..

We had two independent engineering reports commissioned. While we would be happy to hear any specific concerns you have with our RFP and procurement process, we have treated Ecole Connaught more than equitably compared to the other +50 schools in our division.

You noted, "From what I understand, the assessments you were given were biased, being contracted by the school board, under the thumb of, and in alignment with our conservative government" I would like to protest that this is incorrect. While you are absolutely entitled to be frustrated, my oath of office binds me to truthfulness. While it sounds like you've received some misinformation let me be clear: every Trustee is democratically elected. We are not a partisan board and we are elected by the citizens of Regina, not appointed. As you must be aware, in 2009 the education funding model changed and all school boards lost a certain amount of financial autonomy. Despite this, we challenge the government all the time.

You noted that you are worried a new school will be built. The vote to proceed with a rebuild (vs. a renovation) happened 8 months past in February. The vote on Tuesday was in regards to heritage designation. I got into much more detail in my email to your partner, but please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Thank you for your email, I look forward to hearing back from you,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Tue, Oct 22, 2013 at 7:32 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Aleanna Young, and the Regina School Board Trustees,

I am deeply saddened at the Regina School Board's recent decisions regarding Ecole Connaught Community School. This old school, located in the middle of the thriving Cathedral area, deserves another chance. Your

decision to not give this beautiful school heritage designation, and the previous decisions to not fight to keep an architectural centrepiece as a school for our children is a mistake.

When my husband and I moved to Regina from Quebec more than six years ago, we chose Cathedral as the area that we would like to live. We found (and find) it to be artistically thriving, with a diverse community and socioeconomic profile, and a tremendous support for all things cultural: exactly the kind of place I would like my three young children to live, grow, and go to school. I am devastated that somehow our school board has decided to not save this old and beautiful school, especially surrounded by such a vibrant community who cares about it so deeply.

While I do understand that two estimates by independent assessors were made with a difference of \$4M between a renovation/addition vs a new build, I cannot believe that such an enormous job would have just two assessments. I personally had more than 10 estimates by different contractors/companies when my home basement in Cathedral needed foundation work!

There are contractors, engineers, and conservation specialists with extensive backgrounds in historical renovations (ie: Government House as I recall) who spoke at a Connaught SCC meeting several months ago, who have offered their services to the Cathedral community to give another assessment of Connaught school. They cannot do this without being given permission by the school board to have a day at the school to do proper assessments. From what I understand, the assessments you were given were biased, being contracted by the school board, under the thumb of, and in alignment with our conservative government. Perhaps hearing another perspective might give some balance to this situation. It states clearly in the P3A for Connaught, that the public's greatest concern was to "conserve the building" over any other. Don't you feel it is your due diligence to look into these costs a little more broadly to respect the community's wishes and make peace with future steps?

On behalf of everyone who loves architecture, education, Canadian history and cultural inheritance, I plead with you to reconsider the decisions made around École Connaught Community School. Our school board will have made a huge mistake if a new school is built and the Cathedral community will suffer a great loss.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: **Aleana Young** <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 22, 2013 at 8:25 AM
Subject: Fwd: Connaught School
To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find below my letter to your partner. I have not forwarded the emails from Amy as it is noted in our correspondence that she has shared them with the SCC. If for some reason you haven't gotten them, please let me know and I'll forward them as well.

Regards,

Aleana

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Aleana Young** <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 11:42 AM
Subject: Re: Connaught School
To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. As with all emails I receive, I have taken it to heart and consideration.

Despite some mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually have a great belief in heritage and love of heritage buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

At our June board meeting, a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. They stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access 'millions of dollars of funding' which would help make up the difference in costs between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating funding opportunities for heritage buildings and speaking to local heritage authorities on the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. As a personal aside, despite Connaught not being in my subdivision, I was the only trustee to undertake any research on the issue over the summer. I took this very seriously. Unfortunately, there was no where near the 'millions of dollars of funding' to be had. The largest grant issued by any heritage fund in Canada (for which Connaught is not eligible) was \$50,000. While that is a significant amount of money to an individual, when considered in the context of making up a \$9M funding deficit, it is sadly a drop in the bucket.

Furthermore, I learned that sadly a heritage designation does not prevent a building from being demolished. While our province is home to some lovely old schools, other heritage schools such as those in Moose Jaw, had their renovations conducted many years ago under the old funding model which allowed school boards to set mill rates and raise or lower these as necessary to fund capital projects such as school renovations/rebuilds.

As the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist, I and four other trustees elected to reject the heritage designation requested by the SCC. I made the motion, not out of any passionate desire to reject it, but simply because I had tabled the original request in June.

As I'm sure you're aware, the government has indicated they will only fund a rebuild. While this is not the option desired by everyone, with the new education funding model the Board does not have the option to fund a renovation. In February, the Board voted to request funding for the aforementioned rebuild. Were this issue occurring ten years past, we would have the option to raise the required funds through property taxation. However, as I'm sure you're aware, under the new funding model for education school boards do not have the ability to raise funds for capital projects. We get what the Ministry of Education elects to give us. As to why the school was not reinforced or underpinned many years ago, I have no information as it was before my time as I was likely still in elementary school :)

In regards to your note about the community hearing what the experts have to say - the division has now commissioned two reports on the state of Connaught. While the engineer's recommendations are not favourable to those calling for a renovation, they are two independent assessments. There are requests to commission further reports, however, in my personal opinion - once we begin getting second opinions on second opinions it becomes unfair to the other +50 schools and 21,000 students for whom we are responsible. The original architect's report is located here:

<http://www.rbe.sk.ca/sites/default/files/ConnaughtStage1FacilityStudyJune2012.pdf> if you would like to read it. The consulting architect is well known for his work on heritage buildings, and I believe restored the current Prairie Dog offices on Scarth.

I realize what an emotional issue this is, and believe me I wish it was one we didn't have to face. However, I believe firmly in keeping schools in the core areas of our city and I would rather have a school - any school - in the cathedral neighbourhood than reject the funds for a rebuild and lose that opportunity when the current building becomes unsafe. It is my personal hope that any new build will be able to fit with the character of the neighbourhood and hopefully include elements salvaged from the existing building.

As I noted at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. thank you for your email.. I hope you believe my sincerity. Even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Regards,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 11:23 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Ms. Young:

I am writing to you, in the hopes that you might reconsider your recent decision to oppose pursuing heritage status for Connaught School. I am certain that you know most of the pertinent details; Connaught is now more than 100 years old, and has served the Cathedral and surrounding community well for as long. You also know that the building itself needs work.

This is certainly not your fault. But the *wrong* – the lack of funds and will in the past, to keep this school up to the highest standard – CAN be *righted* by you and your board of trustees. Built heritage is the most physical, visceral reminder of any community's past, and Connaught is no exception.

As I understand it, there are options here. At the very least, cannot the community that (very lovingly) surrounds this wonderful, old, and tired school, not have the benefit of knowing what the experts have to say? Are we to sit idly whilst a conservative provincial government whose typical party line promotes building new structures (that may only last 30 years) as the sole indicator of "investment in education" and "building the economy", gets their way? Or instead, couldn't we have a say in preserving a building that may in fact serve more than the students and staff that currently occupy it?

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Oct 22, 2013 at 8:30 AM

Subject: Re: Connaught School

To: [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED]s hard for everyone involved - education and schools are very emotional issues. It's absolutely understandable that people are heated, actually I think it's great when people get excited about education, however, it seems there has been a bit of a misinformation campaign initiated by some frustrated folks.

I hope the North is treating you well! My little sister is up in Whitehorse and I know it's been winter-y already.

Regards,

Aleana

On Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 6:08 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Thank you for the follow-up with additional information. I hope that all parties are interested in a respectful dialogue, otherwise it is not fair to yourself or others.

Cheers,
[REDACTED]

On Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 1:33 PM, Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

I wanted to write and inform you a little more about the situation. There is a lot of misinformation out there, and while I'm obviously 'in the middle' of the debate (!) it seems there are some people deliberately spreading inaccuracies. I'm very happy to have people disagree with me, however, it seems that purposefully spreading misinformation is detrimental to public dialogue.

Despite some of the mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually have a great belief in heritage and love of heritage buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

In February of last year, the Board voted by majority to pursue a rebuild (as opposed to a renovation) of Connaught school. This was a contentious vote, however, prior to the decision we received information from the Ministry of Education indicating that they would only fund a

rebuild, as our initial engineering report and architect's report put the cost differential at about \$9M more for the renovation.

As you may be aware, in 2009 the government stripped school boards of the ability to set taxes and fund themselves. All education funding is distributed by the government to the schools. Essentially school divisions are unable to set their own budgets or fund their own capital projects. Were this issue occurring ten years past, we would have the option to raise the required funds through property taxation. We get what the Ministry of Education elects to give us. As to why the school was not reinforced or underpinned many years ago, I have no information as it was before my time as I was likely still in elementary school. Therefore, when the Ministry indicates they will only fund a rebuild, then that is the Board's only opportunity to acquire funds for that school.

In regards to last Tuesday's vote for heritage designation....

At our June board meeting - 4 months after the decision to rebuild - a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. They stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access 'millions of dollars of funding' which would help make up the difference in costs between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating funding opportunities for heritage buildings and speaking to local heritage authorities on the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. As a personal aside, despite Connaught not being in my subdivision, I was the only trustee to undertake any research on the issue over the summer. I took this very seriously. Unfortunately, there was nowhere near the 'millions of dollars of funding' to be had. The largest grant issued by any heritage fund in Canada (for which Connaught is not eligible) was \$50,000. While that is a significant amount of money to an individual, when considered in the context of making up a \$9M funding deficit, it is sadly a drop in the bucket.

Furthermore, I learned that sadly a heritage designation does not prevent a building from being demolished. While our province is home to some lovely old schools, other heritage schools such as those in Moose Jaw, had their renovations conducted many years ago under the old funding model which allowed school boards to set mill rates and raise or lower these as necessary to fund capital projects such as school renovations/rebuilds.

We also sought a second opinion on the engineering report. These two independent reports were consistent in their conclusions on the degraded state of the structure. I honestly worry it is on the verge of becoming a safety hazard. As it is we have it being verified by engineers on a quarterly basis.

As the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist, I and four other trustees elected to reject the heritage designation requested

by the SCC. I made the motion, not out of any passionate desire to reject it, but simply because I had tabled the original request in June.

I realize what an emotional issue this is, and believe me I wish it was one we didn't have to face. However, I believe firmly in keeping schools in the core areas of our city and I would rather have a school - any school - in the cathedral neighbourhood than reject the funds for a rebuild and lose that opportunity when the current building becomes unsafe. It is my personal hope that any new build will be able to fit with the character of the neighbourhood and hopefully include elements salvaged from the existing building.

As I noted at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. thank you for your email.. I hope you believe my sincerity. Even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Thank you and please feel free to follow up with any questions you may have.

Regards,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 1:21 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Hello:

As a former resident of Regina, I would like you to consider Heritage Status for Connaught School.

As someone in the design field, I understand that costs of renovation can be daunting when compared to the costs of new construction. I also understand that funding capital improvements for educational facilities can be difficult depending on how such funding is evaluated (i.e. cost per sq.m.). There are a number of successful projects around the world where our significant historic public buildings are protected to act in their existing role, or to be re-purposed for new uses. While I do not know the specifics for Connaught, I do know that there are a wide variety of options for how we preserve and protect our heritage. Demolition and replacement is something that should only be considered in extreme circumstances.


I moved to Lumsden from Yellowknife when I was 9, and from Lumsden to Regina when I was 12. I went to Davin for one year prior to going to Sheldon Williams. I had friends at Connaught, and spent many hours at the adjacent Connaught Library. Since then I have moved around a fair amount, and find myself back in the North. In the North we have no significant historic context for our buildings, and that makes me realize the importance that our heritage buildings have to not only our immediate surroundings, but to who we are.

While I have appreciated going to school in modern buildings, the older buildings are the ones that I believe had the most influence on my experience. Schools like Davin, Balfour, Thomson and Connaught provide settings that have a history of education and expose students day-in and day-out to a sense of history and context. Of course, the buildings also need to be able to adapt to the changing needs of education. These are not easy decisions, but the community importance of a building does need to be given significant weight to the analysis of whether to renovate, re-purpose or demolish.

As I am not intimately familiar with this debate, my request is that you consider where the "win win" situation is within all of this. With available budgets, with potential partnerships, with technological solutions... how might it be possible to craft the appropriate solution. Our heritage buildings are something that we hold in trust. Once they are gone they cannot be replaced.

I appreciate that your role is to facilitate the education of our youth, and that is a bottom line that is incredibly important. Please, seek to find the partnerships where a community consensus might be achieved. Connaught has 100 years of memory... and the accompanying power of those memories could be impressive.

Thanks for your consideration, and I wish you success in finding a win-win.

Respectfully,


Alma Tholl

From: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 9:51 AM
To: Katherine Gagne; Carla Beck; Dale West; Cindy Anderson; Kathleen O'Reilly; Jane Ekong; Julie MacRae
Subject: Fwd: Ecole Connaught Community School

As per Amy's note, I am sharing her email with you. On a personal note, as you will have seen :) I received a number of emails over the weekend and replied to all of them. I have gotten back a handful of conciliatory and in some cases apologetic responses. It underscores what respectful and honest dialogue can do! Anyway - it made me happy so I thought I'd share the thought.

Thanks,

Aleana

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Amy Petrovitch <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 11:16 PM
Subject: RE: Ecole Connaught Community School
To: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>
Cc: Chris Keyes <chris.keyes@rbe.sk.ca>, Katherine Gagne <gagne@accesscomm.ca>, "carlabeck@sasktel.net" <carlabeck@sasktel.net>

Good Evening Aleana,

I really appreciate the fact that you have not only responded to my email but have provided a bit of insight into your personal feelings and thought process surrounding heritage designation. I still believe the right thing to do would have been to present your research to the School Community Council in conjunction with our area trustee before the motion was brought up for the voting process. Parents and community members have the right to not only know what decisions are being made on their behalf, but also to have their opinions heard during the decision making process. Perhaps the School Board could provide an option on their website for people to opt in to automatically receive notifications of board agendas via email. one small step would make it easier for the board to notify people in the community who wish to attend. This option could be advertised in the monthly school news letters which are sent home to parents of students and on the website itself.

To be fair, the motion made by Ecole Connaught Community School asked "for support for a heritage designation for Ecole Connaught Community School so as to allow access to Federal and Provincial grants for renovations". There was no mention of monetary amounts in either the motion or the body of the letter I wrote. I am personally interested to find out what the amounts you came up with in your research. I found that there was not much information given during the actual board meeting which lead to my frustration in this matter and I would be interested to read anything that you may have prepared for the board to read since there was no new information attached to the agenda for that night.

In closing, I am in favor of there being a productive dialogue between School Community Councils and the

trustees when important decisions arise. I believe that we should be accountable and transparent to each other. I urge you and the other trustees to take a look at your policies and make a positive change.

Please note that this entire email contains only my opinions and not necessarily those of the Ecole Connaught School Community Council.

I will pass this email onto the SCC as soon as I send this to you. Please feel free to do the same and send this to the rest of the trustees.

Amy Petrovitch

Date: Mon, 21 Oct 2013 11:17:02 -0600

Subject: Re: Ecole Connaught Community School

From: aleana.m.young@gmail.com

To: amypetrovitch@hotmail.com

CC: chris.keyes@rbe.sk.ca; gagne@accesscomm.ca; carlabeck@sasktel.net

Dear Amy,

Thank you for the clarification. While I am responding to you directly, please share my response with your elected SCC members. I have cc'd Principal Keyes, Board Chair Katherine Gange, and Trustee Beck here.

I am sorry you're upset.

Despite the mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually have a great love of historic buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

At our June board meeting, a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. It was stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access millions of dollars of funding which would help make up the cost differential between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating heritage buildings and speaking to local and provincial heritage authorities on available funds as well as the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. Unfortunately, the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist. As you know, we were to vote on this at our September meeting, but it was delayed a month to allow some trustees additional time to conduct their own research. As such, at our October meeting I was asked to make the motion because I had tabled the original request in June and raised it from the table at the previous meeting.

As you noted, I was elected and my oath of office obligates me to make decisions that I believe are in the best interest of the Division as a whole and the community at large. As stated at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. I can only hope you believe my sincerity.

Thank you for your email.. even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Regards,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Sun, Oct 20, 2013 at 4:47 PM, Amy Petrovitch <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com> wrote:
Dear Aleana,

At the request of Principal Chris Keyes I wish to clarify that the opinions expressed below are that of my own and not those of the entire SCC. In the interest of transparency I sent the letter below to the SCC of Ecole Connaught Community School yesterday immediately after sending it to you.

Amy Petrovitch

Sent from my iPod

On 2013-10-19, at 1:07 PM, "Amy Petrovitch" <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com> wrote:

Aleana,

I am personally quite upset with the motion that you presented at the School Board meeting earlier this week and the way that it was hidden on the agenda as "Heritage Designation Information". The decision of Heritage designation should fall to the wishes of the community and if you have read the report on the consultation that was done with my community you already know that we cherish the historical school that we currently have. You have forgotten that you were elected to represent the parents and community of your subdivision and not mine. I'd like to suggest that the next time you take it upon yourself to represent my community, that you actually come and meet with some of us to learn of our opinions and to share yours with us. At the very least, I feel that you should have met with the School Community Council to present your research on the matter.

School Boards should be accountable and transparent to parents and communities.

Amy Petrovitch
Chair, School Community Council
Ecole Connaught Community School

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Oct 22, 2013 at 10:20 AM
Subject: Re: Connaught School
To: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Best wishes for better days in the week ahead, Aleana. Our correspondence has made me feel better too, so I hope you will be able to have similar discussions with those causing you distress in other areas of your life. On the other hand, some days . . .

----- Original Message -----

From: Aleana Young
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 9:55 AM
Subject: Re: Connaught School

Thank you [REDACTED] - I realize that I called you by your first name too - apologies for the presumption! I suppose due to our hearty debate I was lulled into a sense of familiarity. Apart from 'trustee-ing' this has been a very difficult week for me personally. Over the past day, having a respectful and informed dialogue with someone as passionate as yourself has been a bright spot.

Thank you for that and all the best.. if you ever have questions, please don't hesitate to connect.

Aleana
[306-209-7809](tel:306-209-7809)

On Tue, Oct 22, 2013 at 9:47 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Good morning Aleana. It was good to hear from you -- so good that I am now, as you see, calling you by your first name. Or maybe that's because people my age have great-grandchildren your age, so I am feeling what I am, a grandmother.
I concur with you on one important point: As you have written, "Even if we do not agree, hopefully we can be civil and respectful opponents." I mean that most sincerely.
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: Aleana Young
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 9:13 AM
Subject: Re: Connaught School

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. I try my hardest to respond honestly to all of the emails I receive, but you're actually the first person to respond to my response - so thank you.

I'm only 26, so John Beckie was before my time (!) but that sounds like a ludicrous situation. Obviously I have no idea what information the Board at the time did or didn't have, but having windows seems like more than common sense to me. I have two in my office and the light makes my whole day better. I think I can sympathize with your mistrust of school boards, but for whatever it's worth - by and large we have really good people, trying to do the best job they can. Most people understand the importance of public trust and the honour we have in being elected to uphold it.

As another personal aside - my frustration comes from when other people don't take this responsibility seriously. I noted I was the only one to research heritage buildings over the summer despite Connaught not being 'my' school. Despite my age and newness to the Board, I have become a bit of a pitbull when it comes to holding people to account. If any of this frustration spilled over in my response to you, I apologize. I understand I made the motion against heritage status, and I absolutely understand people will be upset. However there seems to be a campaign of misinformation going on, and I've seen emails sent to my mother about me, or emails noting that I think there are only 'city tax exemptions' for heritage buildings. A lot of the opinions in regards to a renovation have missed the unfortunate conclusion of the architect and both engineering reports which conclude that given the state of the building a renovation may essentially entail a total rebuild. Either the outside would have to be stripped off to fix the interior, or the interior removed to reinforce and maintain the exterior. I'm not sure how the building got to be in such a sorry state, but it truly is sad and unfortunate.

As I said, I understand how emotional and sacred Ecole Connaught is to a lot of people, but I (naively) wish we could have honest public dialogue as opposed to inflammatory rhetoric which I believe damages the social contract.

I am very concerned with the societal attitude overall as it pertains to tearing down old buildings. Both from an environmental perspective and from a cultural heritage perspective. As a relative newcomer to Regina, I've marvelled over those old photos in 'Vintage Regina', especially in the down town and warehouse districts. I can't believe some of the structures torn down. One of the reasons I got publicly involved was because I value culture and character and community and wanted - in some small way - to help shape Regina during this important and fast paced chapter of its history.

I know this must all sound very incongruous with my motion in regards to Ecole Connaught, however, as of 2009, school boards do not have control over their own budgets and funding. If this situation were happening 10 years past, prior to the change in the education funding model, I would 100% throw the issue to the community and support their wishes. Prior to the funding model shift we were able to raise and lower taxes to fund capital projects. Now we await funding from the Ministry of Education.

Ultimately - I am most concerned about keeping a school - any school - in that area. Enrolment at Connaught is down, however, I believe that as the boom in our city continues more and more families will choose to make Cathedral home and send their children to Connaught. I worry about getting a new school constructed before the old building becomes a safety hazard. I think we need to keep schools in the core areas of our city. While I know not everyone will be happy,

my hope is that a new building will be designed with significant community consultation, to fit with the character of the neighbourhood, and will hopefully incorporate as many salvaged elements of the old building as possible.

Those are my remaining musings on Ecole Connaught... Thank you again for your email - as I said, you're the first one to have written me back. Even if we do not agree, hopefully we can be civil and respectful opponents :)

(I apologize for any typos above - I'm currently at work and wrote this on my tea break and did not have the time to proof read it)

Regards,

Aleana

On Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 4:52 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ms Young, thank you for your prompt and obviously sincere and considered reply. I appreciate it.

I also feel guilty for venting my frustration with the school board on you. I apologize for my sarcasm, especially since I have never met you and do not know you as a person. I have long decried the short-sighted and often narrow-minded decisions of the school board. When my sons attended Lakeview School -- they are now 41 and 45 -- I was part of a parent group protesting the board's decision to close all windows in this school. The reason for the closure, said the board, was to save money lost through heating and also replacing broken windows. Against my wishes, the parent committee proposed a compromise: block off half the windows, which the board proceeded to do. Three years later I happened to write a Leader Post profile on John Beckie, the head of the board at the time, and he was so pleased with it he took me to lunch at the Hotel Saskatchewan for further conversation. At the end of the lunch I told him how I really felt about him and his role in the closure of windows. By then, he too had read the research about the value of light in classrooms -- common sense could have told him the same thing -- and agreed he and his board were wrong and he wished he could undo the damage. This was the beginning of my mistrust of school boards, and those bricked-in windows continue to remind me of it almost every day.

I bore you with all this because it also illustrates the need of the school board to consider more than just money when it makes its decisions. Yes, I know the board has been entrusted with taxpayers' dollars. The board is to spend it wisely, but it appears this mandate suggests that board members should be bean counters; should consider only the tangible, never the intangible. To me, it is the latter that is most important. There are scientific reason for having plenty of windows and thus light in schools, but I just know I feel and work better in my current office with its big window than in a former office in the basement. I also feel and gain knowledge of my own history when I am in an old building or district. New tells me nothing, stirs no feelings, contributes no understanding of my life today. As for the environment, which is one of the prime victims when a building is torn down and the materials taken to the dump, I

am a touchy feely person in this respect too but I can also cite you scientific reasons for its protection.

Rereading your last paragraph makes me cringe all over again so, once more, I apologize for my implied personal criticism. I still wish you would change your mind and lead the board to reconsideration of the Connaught designation, however. Based on Mr. Beckie's confession and on your genuine desire to do the right thing, I truly think you would be proud of your stand for the rest of your life. As I wrote before, you could show your true mettle -- a compliment by the way! And, as a result, know that your appreciation of heritage goes beyond mere words.

Again, thank you for considering my words and taking the time to lay out the reasons for your actions.

----- Original Message -----

From: Aleana Young

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 3:03 PM

Subject: Re: Connaught School

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. I take all communications I receive to heart and into consideration.

Though it seems clear you have made up your mind in regards to my character and motivation, for the sake of thoughtful public dialogue I wanted to clarify a few inaccuracies. While you may choose to believe them or not, I am entirely sincere and bound by my oath of office to be truthful.

Despite the mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually have a great belief in heritage and love of heritage buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

In regards to the heritage designation, the request was put to the Board by the Connaught school community council in June. The request noted that by granting the building heritage status, millions of dollars of potential funding and grants would be released. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence. Had I not tabled the motion, it would have been defeated on the floor.

I spent hours over the summer investigating funding opportunities for heritage buildings and speaking to local heritage authorities on the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. While you noted that parents citizens and students have brought sources of financial assistance to our attention, this is not accurate. As a personal aside, despite Connaught not being in my subdivision, I was the only trustee to undertake any research on the issue over the summer. I took this very seriously. Unfortunately, there was no where near the 'millions of dollars of funding' to be had and indeed rather tens of thousands. While this is a considerable amount to an

individual, this is sadly a drop in the bucket when it comes to the issues facing the Connaught school building. I have no information as to how or why the school building deteriorated to the condition it is in now, but I genuinely believe it is on the verge of becoming a safety concern.

I could be mistaken, but I believe I've read your book on stone structures in Saskatchewan. If I am correct, as an established author on our province's architectural heritage, you know that our province is home to some lovely historic schools. However, other heritage schools such as those in Moose Jaw, had their renovations conducted many years ago under the old funding model which allowed school boards to set mill rates and raise or lower these as necessary to fund capital projects such as school renovations/rebuilds.

As the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist, I and four other trustees elected to reject the request put forward by the SCC. I made the motion, not out of any passionate desire to reject it, but simply as a matter of course because I had tabled the original request in June.

I noted at the top of my email - personally, I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision. Though you have claimed I am weak, misguided, inflexible, and ignorant - I believe that keeping ANY school in Cathedral neighbourhood is to having no school in the neighbourhood. The decision to proceed with a rebuild (as opposed to a renovation) of Ecole Connaught was made in 8 months ago in February 2012 by a 5 to 2 majority vote. As I'm sure you're aware, prior to this vote the government indicated they would only fund a rebuild as a renovation was estimated to be \$9M more. While I wish there was an alternative, with the new education funding model the Board does not have the ability to fund a renovation.

I can only hope you believe my sincerity. Thank you for your email.. even though you obviously do not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education. I look forward to any future communications from you.

Thank you,


Aleana

On Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 1:47 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Ms Young, I commend you for your unrelenting pursuit of the destruction of Connaught School, as suggested by the refusal to pursue its heritage designation. It indicates a much admired steely resolve. As you likely know, the thicker the steel, the less flexibility and the greater strength. Your leadership role in denying heritage designation to Connaught indicates to me your strength. Again, congratulations.
Unfortunately, your strength denies the children and parents of the Cathedral Area the right to have the school of their choice. It also removes one more block in the foundation of our history, and that affects all of us in this city and in the province of which it is the capital and thus, by example, the leader. And finally, it demonstrates an utter disregard of environmental basics to the very people who will bear the brunt of your denial.
On the other hand, I am hoping your strength will allow you to lead the reversal of the board's decision to deny heritage designation for Connaught. After all, only the weak are unable to admit

they were misguided.

It would appear the community can do no more. Parents, concerned citizens and even students have presented every reason to preserve Connaught and brought to your attention every source of financial assistance to do so, but you and the board have the final say. Please listen again to those most directly affected by the board's recent decision, and do what you know is the right thing. In short, show us your true mettle.

Thank you



No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2014.0.4158 / Virus Database: 3614/6762 - Release Date: 10/18/13

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2014.0.4158 / Virus Database: 3614/6762 - Release Date: 10/18/13

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2014.0.4158 / Virus Database: 3614/6762 - Release Date: 10/18/13

From: Katherine & Dean Gagne <gagne@myaccess.ca>
To: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>
Sent: Tue, 22 Oct 2013 16:19:45 -0000 (GMT)
Subject: Re: Ecole Connaught Community School

Once again, well stated. Both your diplomacy and sincerity shine through.
KG

----- Original Message -----

From: "Aleana Young" <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>
To: "Amy Petrovitch" <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com>
Cc: "Chris Keyes" <chris.keyes@rbe.sk.ca>, "Katherine Gagne" <gagne@accesscomm.ca>, carlabeck@sasktel.net
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 9:46:35 AM
Subject: Re: Ecole Connaught Community School

Dear Amy,

In advance - please let me apologize for the brevity of this email. I wanted to respond promptly, but I'm at work and have limited time to do so.

Thank you for your email. I write to you as an individual trustee representing my own opinions and not those of the collective Board.

I can understand your frustration and I appreciate that my explanation was received - whether or not it is agreed with..! I believe honest and respectful dialogue is critically important, especially in an area as emotional as education and where issues of community identity are being discussed.

In regards to your notes about attending an SCC meeting.. following the contentious meeting last February, I actually made the offer/request to attend a SCC meeting were anyone interested in hearing my reasoning, comments, and concerns in regards the Ecole Connaught rebuild/renovation situation. I didn't receive any follow up, which is understandable as it was a busy and, as noted, contentious time. In general, trustees wait to be invited to SCC meetings even within their own subdivision. I would be happy to attend any meeting to which I am invited with the consent of the SCC and the division trustee.

Your suggestions in regards to the website and 'agenda' notifications are brilliant and I will raise them. I am the chair of the Community Relations Committee and while I know little about the functionality of our website, it may be very easy to implement a system such as the one you suggest. While this can do little about your feelings of not being consulted in the past, it may help avoid future misunderstandings.

In regards to consultation.. (for whatever it's worth) as the Heritage Motion had been on the September agenda and, by request, delayed a month to facilitate additional research, I did not think it was a surprise to find it on the October agenda. I'm obviously not the trustee for your area, so I have no insight into the discussions which happened previous to the October meeting. However, it honestly never crossed my mind that anyone would be taken aback. Clearly there is more work to do, and hopefully we can incorporate some sort of digital update or reminder as

you suggest. As you rightly noted, we can improve dialogue between SCCs and the Board, and I think your suggestion could help.

In regards to my heritage research - with your understanding that it is my personal research and not representative of the Board or administration, I will try and dig it out and forward it later this week. I have two jobs in addition to school board which are being very demanding currently and some of my notes are hand written.

Thank you for your email. Again, apologies for the brevity and/or any typos which may be contained above. I am writing this on a break at work and do not have the leisure to proof read it. I will forward your email to the Board, and please feel free to share mine with the SCC.

Regards,

Aleana

On Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 11:16 PM, Amy Petrovitch <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com> wrote:

Good Evening Aleana,

I really appreciate the fact that you have not only responded to my email but have provided a bit of insight into your personal feelings and thought process surrounding heritage designation. I still believe the right thing to do would have been to present your research to the School Community Council in conjunction with our area trustee before the motion was brought up for the voting process. Parents and community members have the right to not only know what decisions are being made on their behalf, but also to have their opinions heard during the decision making process. Perhaps the School Board could provide an option on their website for people to opt in to automatically receive notifications of board agendas via email. one small step would make it easier for the board to notify people in the community who wish to attend. This option could be advertised in the monthly school news letters which are sent home to parents of students and on the website itself.

To be fair, the motion made by Ecole Connaught Community School asked "for support for a heritage designation for Ecole Connaught Community School so as to allow access to Federal and Provincial grants for renovations". There was no mention of monetary amounts in either the motion or the body of the letter I wrote. I am personally interested to find out what the amounts you came up with in your research. I found that there was not much information given during the actual board meeting which lead to my frustration in this matter and I would be interested to read anything that you may have prepared for the board to read since there was no new information attached to the agenda for that night.

In closing, I am in favor of there being a productive dialogue between School Community Councils and the trustees when important decisions arise. I believe that we should be accountable and transparent to each other. I urge you and the other trustees to take a look at your policies and make a positive change.

Please note that this entire email contains only my opinions and not necessarily those of the Ecole Connaught School Community Council.

I will pass this email onto the SCC as soon as I send this to you. Please feel free to do the same and send this to the rest of the trustees.

Amy Petrovitch

Date: Mon, 21 Oct 2013 11:17:02 -0600

Subject: Re: Ecole Connaught Community School
From: aleana.m.young@gmail.com
To: amypetrovitch@hotmail.com
CC: chris.keyes@rbe.sk.ca ; gagne@accesscomm.ca ; carlabeck@sasktel.net

Dear Amy,

Thank you for the clarification. While I am responding to you directly, please share my response with your elected SCC members. I have cc'd Principal Keyes, Board Chair Katherine Gange, and Trustee Beck here.

I am sorry you're upset.

Despite the mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually have a great love of historic buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

At our June board meeting, a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. It was stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access millions of dollars of funding which would help make up the cost differential between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating heritage buildings and speaking to local and provincial heritage authorities on available funds as well as the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. Unfortunately, the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist. As you know, we were to vote on this at our September meeting, but it was delayed a month to allow some trustees additional time to conduct their own research. As such, at our October meeting I was asked to make the motion because I had tabled the original request in June and raised it from the table at the previous meeting.

As you noted, I was elected and my oath of office obligates me to make decisions that I believe are in the best interest of the Division as a whole and the community at large. As stated at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. I can only hope you believe my sincerity.

Thank you for your email.. even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Regards,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Sun, Oct 20, 2013 at 4:47 PM, Amy Petrovitch <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Aleana,

At the request of Principal Chris Keyes I wish to clarify that the opinions expressed below are that of my own and not those of the entire SCC. In the interest of transparency I sent the letter below to the SCC of Ecole Connaught Community School yesterday immediately after sending it to you.

Amy Petrovitch

Sent from my iPod

On 2013-10-19, at 1:07 PM, "Amy Petrovitch" <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com> wrote:

I am personally quite upset with the motion that you presented at the School Board meeting earlier this week and the way that it was hidden on the agenda as "Heritage Designation Information". The decision of Heritage designation should fall to the wishes of the community and if you have read the report on the consultation that was done with my community you already know that we cherish the historical school that we currently have. You have forgotten that you were elected to represent the parents and community of your subdivision and not mine. I'd like to suggest that the next time you take it upon yourself to represent my community, that you actually come and meet with some of us to learn of our opinions and to share yours with us. At the very least, I feel that you should have met with the School Community Council to present your research on the matter.

School Boards should be accountable and transparent to parents and communities.

Amy Petrovitch
Chair, School Community Council
Ecole Connaught Community School

----- Original Message -----

Subject: FW: Ecole Connaught Community School

From: Amy Petrovitch <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, October 22, 2013 8:45 pm

To: "C. A. M. i. O." <C.A.M.i.O.@sasktel.net>, "carlabeck@sasktel.net"

<carlabeck@sasktel.net>, "el. a. h. a. r. e. w. @. s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

"i. t. e. m. i. s. t. e. r. i. a. l. s. @. s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

"i. t. e. m. i. s. t. e. r. i. a. l. s. @. s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

"i. t. e. m. i. s. t. e. r. i. a. l. s. @. s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

"i. t. e. m. i. s. t. e. r. i. a. l. s. @. s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

<k. e. y. e. s. @. r. b. e. s. k. c. a>, "rd. i. s. t. r. i. b. u. t. i. o. n. @. s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

"re. s. p. o. n. s. o. r. s. @. s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

"s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

"s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

"s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

"s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

<k. e. y. e. s. @. r. b. e. s. k. c. a>, "rd. i. s. t. r. i. b. u. t. i. o. n. @. s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

"re. s. p. o. n. s. o. r. s. @. s. a. s. k. t. e. l. n. e. t."

Dear SCC,

I have received the following email from Aleana Young who has extended her offer to attend one of our SCC meetings. Please let me know if you are interested in having her attend and if so what month would be better, November or December.

Thanks,

Amy

From: amypetrovitch@hotmail.com

To: aleana.m.young@gmail.com

CC: chris.keyes@rbe.sk.ca; gagne@accesscomm.ca; carlabeck@sasktel.net

Subject: RE: Ecole Connaught Community School

Date: Tue, 22 Oct 2013 22:41:06 -0500

Aleana,

Thank you for your offer to meet with Connaught's SCC. I was not aware that you had offered to meet with us after the February meeting. I would be very interested in having you attend one of our meetings and I will ask the rest of the SCC if they are interested as well as I can not speak on their behalf. I will share this email with them and find out what the consensus is.

dialogue is critically important, especially in an area as emotional as education and where issues of community identity are being discussed.

In regards to your notes about attending an SCC meeting.. following the contentious meeting last February, I actually made the offer/request to attend a SCC meeting were anyone interested in hearing my reasoning, comments, and concerns in regards the Ecole Connaught rebuild/renovation situation. I didn't receive any follow up, which is understandable as it was a busy and, as noted, contentious time. In general, trustees wait to be invited to SCC meetings even within their own subdivision. I would be happy to attend any meeting to which I am invited with the consent of the SCC and the division trustee.

Your suggestions in regards to the website and 'agenda' notifications are brilliant and I will raise them. I am the chair of the Community Relations Committee and while I know little about the functionality of our website, it may be very easy to implement a system such as the one you suggest. While this can do little about your feelings of not being consulted in the past, it may help avoid future misunderstandings.

In regards to consultation.. (for whatever it's worth) as the Heritage Motion had been on the September agenda and, by request, delayed a month to facilitate additional research, I did not think it was a surprise to find it on the October agenda. I'm obviously not the trustee for your area, so I have no insight into the discussions which happened previous to the October meeting. However, it honestly never crossed my mind that anyone would be taken aback. Clearly there is more work to do, and hopefully we can incorporate some sort of digital update or reminder as you suggest. As you rightly noted, we can improve dialogue between SCCs and the Board, and I think your suggestion could help.

In regards to my heritage research - with your understanding that it is my personal research and not representative of the Board or administration, I will try and dig it out and forward it later this week. I have two jobs in addition to school board which are being very demanding currently and some of my notes are hand written.

Thank you for your email. Again, apologies for the brevity and/or any typos which may be contained above. I am writing this on a break at work and do not have the leisure to proof read it. I will forward your email to the Board, and please feel free to share mine with the SCC.

Regards,

Aleana

On Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 11:16 PM, Amy Petrovitch
<amypetrovitch@hotmail.com> wrote:

Good Evening Aleana,

I really appreciate the fact that you have not only responded to my email but have provided a bit of insight into your personal feelings and thought process surrounding heritage designation. I still believe the right thing to do would have

been to present your research to the School Community Council in conjunction with our area trustee before the motion was brought up for the voting process. Parents and community members have the right to not only know what decisions are being made on their behalf, but also to have their opinions heard during the decision making process. Perhaps the School Board could provide an option on their website for people to opt in to automatically receive notifications of board agendas via email. one small step would make it easier for the board to notify people in the community who wish to attend. This option could be advertised in the monthly school news letters which are sent home to parents of students and on the website itself.

To be fair, the motion made by Ecole Connaught Community School asked "for support for a heritage designation for Ecole Connaught Community School so as to allow access to Federal and Provincial grants for renovations". There was no mention of monetary amounts in either the motion or the body of the letter I wrote. I am personally interested to find out what the amounts you came up with in your research. I found that there was not much information given during the actual board meeting which lead to my frustration in this matter and I would be interested to read anything that you may have prepared for the board to read since there was no new information attached to the agenda for that night.

In closing, I am in favor of there being a productive dialogue between School Community Councils and the trustees when important decisions arise. I believe that we should be accountable and transparent to each other. I urge you and the other trustees to take a look at your policies and make a positive change.

Please note that this entire email contains only my opinions and not necessarily those of the Ecole Connaught School Community Council.

I will pass this email onto the SCC as soon as I send this to you. Please feel free to do the same and send this to the rest of the trustees.

Amy Petrovitch

Date: Mon, 21 Oct 2013 11:17:02 -0600

Subject: Re: Ecole Connaught Community School
From: aleana.m.young@gmail.com
To: amypetrovitch@hotmail.com
CC: chris.keyes@rbe.sk.ca; gagne@accesscomm.ca;
carlabeck@sasktel.net

Dear Amy,

Thank you for the clarification. While I am responding to you directly, please share my response with your elected SCC members. I have cc'd Principal Keyes, Board Chair Katherine Gange, and Trustee Beck here.

I am sorry you're upset.

Despite the mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually

have a great love of historic buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

At our June board meeting, a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. It was stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access millions of dollars of funding which would help make up the cost differential between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating heritage buildings and speaking to local and provincial heritage authorities on available funds as well as the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. Unfortunately, the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist. As you know, we were to vote on this at our September meeting, but it was delayed a month to allow some trustees additional time to conduct their own research. As such, at our October meeting I was asked to make the motion because I had tabled the original request in June and raised it from the table at the previous meeting.

As you noted, I was elected and my oath of office obligates me to make decisions that I believe are in the best interest of the Division as a whole and the community at large. As stated at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. I can only hope you believe my sincerity.

Thank you for your email.. even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Regards,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Sun, Oct 20, 2013 at 4:47 PM, Amy Petrovitch
<amypetrovitch@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Aleana,

At the request of Principal Chris Keyes I wish to clarify that the opinions expressed below are that of my own and not those of the entire SCC. In the interest of transparency I sent the letter below to the SCC of Ecole Connaught Community School yesterday immediately after sending it to you.

Amy Petrovitch

Sent from my iPod

On 2013-10-19, at 1:07 PM, "Amy Petrovitch" <amypetrovitch@hotmail.com> wrote:

Aleana,

I am personally quite upset with the motion that you presented at the School Board meeting earlier this week and the way that it was hidden on the agenda as "Heritage Designation Information". The decision of Heritage designation should fall to the wishes of the community and if you have read the report on the consultation that was done with my community you already know that we cherish the historical school that we currently have. You have forgotten that you were elected to represent the parents and community of your subdivision and not mine. I'd like to suggest that the next time you take it upon yourself to represent my community, that you actually come and meet with some of us to learn of our opinions and to share yours with us. At the very least, I feel that you should have met with the School Community Council to present your research on the matter.

School Boards should be accountable and transparent to parents and communities.

Amy Petrovitch
Chair, School Community Council
Ecole Connaught Community School

From: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 25, 2013 at 8:27 AM

Subject: Re: Heritage Designation

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your response - I rarely receive any follow up communication so it's wonderful to open a dialogue with you. Even if we do not agree, I really appreciate the opportunity for respectful and open dialogue.

In regards to your query as to my statement around the motion, I apologize if I was unclear. I did reject the heritage designation - what I was trying to express was that I (as opposed to any of the other 4 trustees who voted against a heritage designation) did not clamour to make the motion out of eagerness, but rather made the motion as part of due course. If I believed there was more to gain by giving the school a heritage motion I would have been the actor there as well. As I noted I had tabled it in June, lifted it at the September board meeting as a few trustees had done no investigation or research over the summer and required more time, and subsequently was asked to make the motion in October.

In regards to heritage - I'd like to restate that in the abstract I am a fervent supporter of heritage, culture, and historic buildings. I grew up in a house constructed in the 1860s, went to a heritage school, and currently live in an old semi-restored house. In addition to that I really do love the community of the Cathedral neighbourhood. In addition to my full time job (and school board), I work part-time in the Cathedral neighbourhood simply because I enjoy being part of the neighbourhood and enjoy being involved in people's day to day lives.

As I noted in my initial email, there are no funds available for Connaught even with a heritage designation. There are some small amounts - up to about \$15,000 - which with Heritage status could be applied for. With the original request from the SCC to explore the possibility of heritage designation in order to allow them to obtain funds it was cited that millions of dollars of funding were available and readily accessible to the SCC if only the school had a heritage designation.

Everyone knows by now but in February - which is obviously prior to the June request for heritage status - a decision had already been made to proceed with a request for funds for a rebuild. Prior to this meeting we received notification from the government that only a rebuild would be funded. As the school divisions in this province are entirely and solely dependent on the government for capital funding (and all other funding), the vote was held and it was decided to proceed with a rebuild.

Giving heritage status to a building already slated to be rebuilt in my mind would give false hope to those set on a renovation and mixed signals to a government. The SCC request for heritage status noted, as you do above, that it would be able to provide funding which could help make up the millions of dollars in cost differential between a rebuild and a renovation. That is unfortunately not the case. Canada does not have heritage funding or grants in the size and scope

that they are available in the United States and Moose Jaw. Even the Heritage Canada Foundation recognizes that there are not millions of dollars available.

If this was prior to 2009 (when the funding model changed) and it was a simpler matter of asking the community to fund the renovation through tax increases we would perhaps be having a different conversation, however, we don't fund our own schools any longer. My ultimate concern is keeping a school, any school, in that neighbourhood. I believe it is critical to keeping education accessible to core neighbourhoods and that children should ideally be able to walk to school. I would much rather see a new building, which fits with the character of the neighbourhood and hopefully is able to include some salvaged elements of the old building, than no school and an empty lot.

While we might not agree, I hope we can 'agree to disagree' respectfully. I really appreciate the opportunity to 'discuss' this issue.

Thank you for your email,

Aleana

On Wed, Oct 23, 2013 at 7:17 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Thank you very much for your speedy response to my inquiry.

I can appreciate the position that you must be in and the difficult decisions that you need to make. I am however, somewhat confused by one of your comments "I made the motion, not out of any passionate desire to reject heritage designation, but simply because I had tabled the original request in June." I guess I'm not sure how tabling a motion in June is rationale for rejecting a motion. You mention that you explored the pros and cons of designating a heritage building with status, and although I am fairly familiar with the pros of such designation, I am unaware of any cons. Therefore, I am wondering what are the cons of pursuing a designation and how could pursuing a heritage designation hurt.? One never knows what could come of it. Maybe having the designation could at some point provide some leverage and that funding that is so badly needed.

Thanks again and I once again look forward to your response.
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On 2013-10-21, at 10:46 AM, Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. As with all emails I receive, I have taken it to heart and consideration.

Despite some mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually have a great belief in heritage and love of heritage buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

To clarify a few points: the vote which occurred at our October board meeting was not a vote on whether or not to demolish Connaught. As you've noted, the vote was about heritage status. Forgive me if this is 'old news' to you, but I thought I'd give a bit of context as you're clearly very passionate about last week's motion...

At our June board meeting, a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. They stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access 'millions of dollars of funding' which would help make up the difference in costs between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating funding opportunities for heritage buildings and speaking to local heritage authorities on the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status.

I took this very seriously. Unfortunately, there was no where near the 'millions of dollars of funding' to be had. The largest grant issued by any heritage fund in Canada (for which Connaught is not eligible) was \$50,000. While that is a significant amount of money to an individual, when considered in the context of making up a \$9M funding deficit, it is sadly a drop in the bucket.

As I learned, sadly heritage designation does not prevent a building from being demolished. While our province is home to some lovely old schools, other heritage schools such as those in Moose Jaw, had their renovations conducted many years ago under the old funding model which allowed school boards to set mill rates and raise or lower these as necessary to fund capital projects such as school renovations/rebuilds.

As the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist, I and four other trustees elected to reject the heritage designation requested by the SCC. I made the motion, not out of any passionate desire to reject heritage designation, but simply because I had tabled the original request in June.

As I'm sure you're aware, the government has indicated they will only fund a rebuild. While this

is not the option desired by everyone, as I'm sure you know with the new education funding model the Board does not have the option to fund a renovation.

As I noted at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. I can only hope you believe my sincerity.

Thank you for your email.. even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Regards,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 3:20 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear Ms. Young.

As a citizen of the Cathedral community I was very disappointed to hear of the recent school board's motion to not pursue heritage status for Connaught School. I really do not understand why pursuing a designation would be opposed to and would like to hear the reason as to why a school board trustee would oppose an action that could not only demonstrate the good will and community spirit of the board but, if the school is indeed considered a historical designation, the board could be making a huge mistake by tearing the school down. Imagine if there was no historical designation for any buildings anywhere. We would have very little history or cultural identify. I wonder what Europe would look like without it's historical buildings. Many Canadians travel to Europe to view and experience history, imagine if they didn't have the foresight to maintain their history and culture.

I hope the board will reconsider their decision and I do believe that it's the citizens of the community who knows what's best for the community.

Thank you and I am looking forward to your response.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 25, 2013 at 8:58 AM

Subject: Re: Heritage Status for Connaught School

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

Despite some mean-spirited opinions being circulated, I actually have a great belief in heritage and love of heritage buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral. Furthermore, in addition to my full time job (and school board), I work part-time in the Cathedral neighbourhood simply because I enjoy being part of the neighbourhood and enjoy being involved in people's day to day lives.

At our June board meeting, a request was made by the Ecole Connaught School Community Council to investigate pursuing heritage status. They stated that heritage status would allow the SCC to access 'millions of dollars of funding' which would help make up the difference in costs between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence.

I spent hours over the summer investigating funding opportunities for heritage buildings and speaking to local heritage authorities on the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. As a personal aside, despite Connaught not being in my subdivision, I was the only trustee to undertake any research on the issue over the summer. I took this very seriously.

Unfortunately, there was no where near the 'millions of dollars of funding' to be had. The largest grant issued by any heritage fund in Canada (for which Connaught is not eligible) was \$50,000. While that is a significant amount of money to an individual, when considered in the context of making up a cost differential in the millions, it is sadly a drop in the bucket. Even the Heritage Canada Foundation which you cited above recognizes that there are not millions of dollars available.

Furthermore, I learned that sadly a heritage designation does not prevent a building from being demolished. While our province is home to some lovely old schools, other heritage schools such as those in Moose Jaw (as you referenced), had their renovations conducted many years ago under the old funding model which allowed school boards to set mill rates and raise or lower these as necessary to fund capital projects such as school renovations/rebuilds. As to why there was no earlier request for heritage designation or investment in the maintenance of Ecole Connaught, I do not know. I'm 26 years old and only 1 year into my board term... this was far before my time or anyone on the Board's. If you have any facts or information in regards to why, I'd very much appreciate hearing it.

As the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist, I and four other trustees elected to reject the heritage designation requested

by the SCC. I made the motion, not out of any passionate desire to reject it, but simply because I had tabled the original request in June, and lifted it from the table in September to allow some individuals more time to investigate as they had not done so over the summer.

As I'm sure you're aware, the government has indicated they will only fund a rebuild. While this is not the option desired by everyone, with the new education funding model the Board does not have the option to fund a renovation. In February, the Board voted to request funding for the aforementioned rebuild. Were this issue occurring ten years past, we would have the option to raise the required funds through property taxation. However, as I'm sure you're aware, under the new funding model for education school boards do not have the ability to raise funds for capital projects. We get what the Ministry of Education elects to give us.

You noted that you'd like more work to be undertaken. In addition to the architect's report, the Board has undertaken two independent engineering reports both of which are in agreement as to the unfortunate condition of the building. The architect is also a noted heritage architect having restore a number of heritage buildings, I believe including the current Prairie Dog office in the Scarth Street mall.

All research did explore renovation options as equally as the opportunity for a rebuild. It's also worth noting that engineering/architectural firms would receive much more money for renovating the building than a new build. A modest renovation option was explored. Cost estimates approached the tens of millions of dollars and noted that without an intensive renovation (at which point the cost rises significantly) the life of the building would only be extended by at most 10 years. While this option is not possible due to the government direction and new funding model, even if it were, spending \$1M per year on one building when the division has +50 schools, 21,000 students - 5,000 of whom go to school hungry every day - I'm not sure if it would be responsible to fund one individual building at such a rate. However, those are just my personal musings, please don't take them for anything more than that.

Both independent engineering reports noted that given the condition of the building and the state of the foundations, roof, and structural elements if a renovation were possible, it would necessitate essentially destroying either the exterior or the interior. Essentially the exterior would have to be removed in order to fix and support the interior, or vice versa. I have no knowledge to the state of the schools you referenced in your letter prior to their restoration, so I can't speak to how they accomplished it. However, currently the state of Connaught is such that we have an engineer verifying the safety of the building on a quarterly basis.

In regards to consultation... the original request for heritage designation came from the School Community Council, so I do believe they were informed and aware that it was being researched and investigated by Board members. As individual trustees, we are very respectful and cautious of not interfering in another trustee's subdivision or with their SCCs. It is my duty to inform and consult with the SCCs in subdivision 2, and despite finding myself at the centre of this controversy, I'm not the trustee for Connaught. I had offered in February to attend a Connaught SCC meeting and we did take the SCC on a tour of the building with facilities staff and engineers present. It may be worth noting that the engineers wife worked at Connaught school for years.

I'm not entirely clear where the concept of putting a 'new, open concept building' has come from as I've heard it circulating. I've also heard that the Board is planning on building condos in the current school site. Neither of these are remotely true. While I'm sure some people won't believe that - I had to take an oath of office which binds me to honesty. There is no grounding in fact for that.

We certainly DO have two new schools which are open concept, however, the process for design has not begun as we are still awaiting funding confirmation from the government. There will be significant community consultation in the design process. At the February board meeting, the Cathedral Village Association presented and noted that while they would like to see the old building remain, they understand it is in significant disrepair, and that if a new build is to take place that it attempt to mirror the character and 'look and feel' of the neighbourhood. I can confidently state that I would prefer any new building to fit with the character of Cathedral and hopefully incorporate elements salvaged from the old structure. I firmly believe this opinion is shared by the majority, if not all, of the Board members.

You are correct that the government has not yet promised funding to the school and this is my main concern. I want to keep A school - ANY school in that neighbourhood. I believe that we must keep schools in the core areas of our cities and that keeping education accessible is critical. I would much rather see a new building, which fits with the character of the neighbourhood and hopefully is able to include some salvaged elements of the old building, than no school and an empty lot.

I realize what an emotional issue this is, and believe me I wish it was one we didn't have to face. While we might not agree, I hope we can 'agree to disagree' respectfully. I really appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue.

As I noted at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision for myself or the other trustees involved.. thank you for your email.. I hope you believe my sincerity. Even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Thank you for your email,

Aleana Young

PS. Please excuse any errors or typos above - I am typing this on a break at work and do not have the time to proof read it. My apologies in advance.

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Thu, Oct 24, 2013 at 9:49 PM, [REDACTED]

>

> Dear Ms. Young,

>

> I am a resident of the Cathedral area, and the mother of two children, ages 3 and 6 months (who I plan to send to Connaught School). I have lived in this neighbourhood for most of my life, and attended Connaught School as a child. I see it as the ideal neighbourhood to raise children in, and Connaught as the ideal school to send my children to. Everyone that I speak to sees the value of Connaught School in our community, as well as its heritage value. It is a beautiful building that has educated the residents of the Cathedral neighbourhood for 100 years. From its doors have emerged doctors, lawyers, artists, social workers, world-class musicians, nurses, IT professionals, financial advisers, etc. and most importantly, citizens who are remarkably thoughtful, caring, intellectually curious and engaged in their community.

>

> If you understand this neighbourhood, you understand that people live here because they value its history and sense of community. Our schools are integral to our community. The Board's decision not to pursue heritage designation for Connaught School - the oldest school in Regina - without even consulting with the school community is very disappointing. Pursuing heritage status would open up the possibility of partnerships, and grants for renovation, etc. I fail to understand why the Board pursued heritage designation for schools such as Balfour, Thomson and Davin schools, which are now on the Municipal Heritage Holding Bylaw, but refuses consider it in Connaught's case. It clearly has heritage value, and as I'm sure you know, was recognized by Heritage Canada as one of the country's Top Ten Endangered Buildings.

>

> I read the entire document that emerged from the community consultations, and those who attended clearly, clearly were in favour of a respectful renovation of this beautiful heritage building. There were many comments saying things like, "We are worried you are going to tear our school down". Please listen to the residents of this community - otherwise what is the point of consulting at all? Our community voted for Carla Beck, and I believe that she is representing her community well. Other trustees may not understand our community and the desires of its residents. I encourage the Board to consult with the community about pursuing heritage status, and to truly listen to the Connaught community! The people who live here have chosen to live in century-old houses, in small lots, in a walkable neighbourhood. Residents don't want a big, brand-new, experimental open-concept school. People have bought their house so that their children can walk - not be bussed or driven - to school at Connaught School in its present location.

>

> I am also concerned that the Board has not pursued further investigation into the structural status of Connaught, as recommended in the engineer's report. Please allow further investigation by building conservation experts, which I understand was refused by the board. And please consider the option of a modest renovation (which was apparently not considered as an option) and I'm sure would be much less costly than a state-of-the-art open-concept renovation of a 1912 building. Especially since there has not been funding promised by the provincial government for a new build. In the event that the funding is not provided, a heritage designation would provide more options for ensuring the survival of Connaught School. The clock is ticking.

>

> The fate of our valued school is in your hands, but it truly belongs to and serves our community. We, and our children, have to live with what the Board decides. Please consult with the Connaught School community - you will find that people would love their school to receive a renovation, similar to heritage school building renovations evident across Canada, such as Connaught School in Calgary, and several Moose Jaw schools. It can be done! It can be something to be proud of! It can be done more cheaply than a new-build! Especially if you retain its classrooms, and don't make it open-concept! And I can attest, as a former student, that Connaught School has the best of both worlds - the intimate classrooms and classmates of a traditional school, with the beautiful, expansive hallways serving as perfect open-concept space.

> In recent years, the Public School Board seems to have tended toward a top-down, "we know what's best for your children" approach to planning. Please remember that it's okay to reevaluate your positions. People are happy with this school, and would love and embrace the chance to give it a facelift and any necessary structural work. I would be very willing to have my child bussed/driven for a year to a different location if that was necessary. Every parent who I speak with wants the school to be renovated, and does not want to send their children to a new, open-concept building. They are worried about their children falling through the cracks. And every teacher I've spoken to - including teachers who have taught in them currently and in the 1970s - expressed serious concerns with them. We are rate-payers, homeowners, and parents and we would like to preserve our beautiful, successful school in its present site and building.

> Please reconsider your position against pursuing heritage designation, and please make an effort consult with the Connaught School community. We don't need a one-size-fits-all approach to education. There is strength in examining all possibilities. It's okay to bend, and to reconsider. To look from a different angle. To build-up and preserve, rather than tear-down.

> Sincerely,

> [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Oct 25, 2013 at 9:49 AM
Subject: Re: Heritage status for Connaught School
To: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Good morning Aleana,

I apologize for the slow reply.

Thank you for writing and, more generally, thank you for serving as a trustee.

Are the two reports available to the public? I was told that the first report was not based on a visual inspection of the inside of the school.

I know one of the individuals trying to save Connaught School and they do a lot of work in the community. They are definitely not a single issue person. Though I take your point that it is unfortunate that so much time has gone into this campaign. Hopefully lessons have been learned on both sides.

[REDACTED]

>>> Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com> 22/10/2013 8:47 AM >>>
Hi [REDACTED]

As I noted we have already gotten TWO... we were asked to get a second opinion, which we got - independently. To my knowledge - we have not received an offer of funding a third engineering report. I know we've received a lot of calls to let people into the building to examine it and we did give a tour with division facilities staff and engineers to the school community council and their invited guests (I believe they had a heritage person among them). As a 'standard practice' we generally don't let anyone bring people into our buildings. This isn't just in the case of Ecole Connaught, this is for all our schools. However, I'm not the trustee for the area I may not have all the information that has come from the school community council. I'm in subdivision 2 and as such I don't attend their SCC meetings. Carla Beck is the trustee for Connaught and may have more insight.

I understand wanting more information, but to be totally frank - it does seem like a bit of a slippery slope at this point. We were asked to get a second opinion (understandably), and we did. The second opinion concurred with the first. If we get a third opinion, and it concurs with the first and second - are we going to be asked to get a fourth? Or even more confounding - what if the third opinion differs from the first and second? Do we then have to get a fourth? Would the hypothetical third opinion negate the first and second? I'm not trying to be dismissive - so please don't take my rhetorical questions as such! These are just things I struggle with. And finally.. not that it's an either/or situation at all but we have 5,000 children who go to school hungry every day in our school division... I worry about them and wish they got half the attention Connaught has received.

My main concern is keeping any school in that area. While enrolment at Connaught is declining, based on the growth we've seen in the city and the lovely character and community that marks the Cathedral neighbourhood I hope many families will choose to send their children to Connaught. With a rebuild request in with the government I hope that we can build a school which will fit with the character and style of the community and hopefully incorporate elements salvaged from the old school into the new school. While I know this isn't ideal for a lot of people, with the education funding model (instituted in 2009) we don't have a lot of options. If this situation were taking place ten years ago we would have the ability to raise property taxes to fund a renovation and any further studies demanded by the community. With the current situation and the government only willing to fund a rebuild, I'm concerned about getting a new building up and full of children before the old building becomes a safety hazard. As I said - I want to keep a school in that area.

Anyway - I'm not sure if I answered your question, but hopefully I did.

Thanks again for your emails,

Aleana

On Mon, Oct 21, 2013 at 6:08 PM, S [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Aleana,

Thank you for sharing this information. I appreciate it!

With all due respect, what harm could come from allowing the Connaught group to fund another engineering report?

Yours,

>>> Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com> 21/10/2013 9:47 AM >>>

Dear S [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. As with all emails I receive, I have taken it to heart and consideration. Despite some opinions being circulated, I have a great belief in heritage and love of heritage buildings. I currently live in a house constructed in the 20s, and while I did not attend high school in Regina, my high school was a +100 year old heritage building. My mother is also a resident of Cathedral.

The original reason cited by the School Community Council to pursue heritage status was proposed for Ecole Connaught was to allow the SCC to access 'millions of dollars of funding' which would help make up the difference in costs between a rebuild and a renovation of the building. I tabled the motion in our June board meeting to allow us to break for the summer, investigate funding opportunities and to ensure that I and my fellow trustees had the time to research and do our due diligence. I spent hours over the summer investigating funding opportunities for heritage buildings and speaking to local heritage authorities on the pros and cons of designating a building with heritage status. Unfortunately there was no where near the 'millions of dollars of funding' to be had. The largest grants issued by any heritage funds in Canada (for which Connaught is not eligible) were \$50,000.

The government has indicated they will only fund a rebuild as it is significantly more cost effective. While this is not the option desired by everyone, as I'm sure you know with the new education funding model the Board does not have the option to fund a renovation. As the millions of dollars of funding originally cited in the original request for heritage status simply do not exist, I and four other trustees elected to reject the heritage designation requested by the SCC.

In regards to the engineering reports, there was an initial report commissioned by the division which is publicly available. We also sought a second opinion over the summer which is consistent with the initial request. With two independent reports commissioned, both of which conclude that the building is unfortunately in very bad shape, I do not believe there is a good reason to revisit the matter. Getting a 'second opinion on a second opinion' is difficult to justify when we have 54 other schools and 21,000 students that we are responsible for.

As I noted at the top of my email - personally I have a great love of heritage and this was not an easy decision.. thank you for your email.. even though you may not agree with me, it's wonderful when citizens take a legitimate interest in education.

Regards,

Aleana

If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Sun, Oct 20, 2013 at 2:49 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Aleanna,

I am writing to ask you to reconsider your motion to oppose pursuing heritage status for Connaught School. Many in the community would like school board to explore this option.

Many community members also want to see building conservation/engineering experts examine the school. I understand there is an offer to do this at no cost to the board. Would you support revisiting this matter?

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Oct 25, 2013 at 12:37 PM
Subject: RE: __Rethinking École Connaught
To: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>

Thank you, Ms Young.
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----
Subject: Re: __Rethinking École Connaught
From: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, October 25, 2013 7:29 am
To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your response, I will share it with the other board members.

Regards,

Aleana Young

On Tue, Oct 22, 2013 at 11:50 AM, [REDACTED] > wrote:
Hello Ms. Young,

Thank you for your reply. I understand that your email is confidential as stated at the bottom of your response, but in the hopes for transparency, accountability, and more openness between the school board and the communities it works with, I hope that these conversations will be shared with your entire school board.

When you say that
"in 2009 the education funding model changed and all school boards lost a certain amount of financial autonomy", this is exactly what I mean by being under the thumb of the conservative government. We are following their rules, and it happens to be hurting our cultural and built heritage right here in Regina.

I also am quite aware of what and when things have been happening surrounding this school and that this latest blast was regarding not giving Connaught heritage status. If you read carefully, my letter touches on both those issues, and I am just saddened by all of it. I do not agree with the board's decisions 8 months ago, and I still do not now. I am also upset that the school was not given heritage designation, not only for any potential funds this might have returned, but also, for the future of our community and the building as it stands as its own structure. I am disappointed in every way about the goings on regarding Connaught school and I want my voice to be heard. I want you and the school board to know, that individual citizens and regular Cathedral community members, tax payers, parents like me, are upset.

On another note, I am an individual. I am part of a family, and am involved in various groups

around the city. I want my letter and my own voice to be recognized as it's own. If you would like to contact my husband about his letter, then please do.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: _Rethinking_École_Connaught
From: Aleana Young <aleana.m.young@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, October 22, 2013 7:23 am
To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

I received a similar email from your husband yesterday. I'm not sure if you've read my response to him? I will forward it to you so I don't begin to repeat myself :) If you have and weren't satisfied, please let me know what your specific questions were. I have also been in dialogue with your SCC chair Amy, so if you have not seen the emails exchanged, please let me know.

Just to clarify a few factual inaccuracies above..

We had two independent engineering reports commissioned. While we would be happy to hear any specific concerns you have with our RFP and procurement process, we have treated Ecole Connaught more than equitably compared to the other +50 schools in our division.

You noted, "From what I understand, the assessments you were given were biased, being contracted by the school board, under the thumb of, and in alignment with our conservative government" I would like to protest that this is incorrect. While you are absolutely entitled to be frustrated, my oath of office binds me to truthfulness. While it sounds like you've received some misinformation let me be clear: every Trustee is democratically elected. We are not a partisan board and we are elected by the citizens of Regina, not appointed. As you must be aware, in 2009 the education funding model changed and all school boards lost a certain amount of financial autonomy. Despite this, we challenge the government all the time.

You noted that you are worried a new school will be built. The vote to proceed with a rebuild (vs. a renovation) happened 8 months past in February. The vote on Tuesday was in regards to heritage designation. I got into much more detail in my email to your partner, but please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Thank you for your email, I look forward to hearing back from you,

Aleana

This email, including any attachments, is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any redistribution or copying of this message is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify immediately, by return email, and delete this email. Thank you.

On Tue, Oct 22, 2013 at 7:32 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear Aleanna Young, and the Regina School Board Trustees,

I am deeply saddened at the Regina School Board's recent decisions regarding Ecole Connaught Community School. This old school, located in the middle of the thriving Cathedral area, deserves another chance. Your decision to not give this beautiful school heritage designation, and the previous decisions to not fight to keep an architectural centrepiece as a school for our children is a mistake.

When my husband and I moved to Regina from Quebec more than six years ago, we chose Cathedral as the area that we would like to live. We found (and find) it to be artistically thriving, with a diverse community and socioeconomic profile, and a tremendous support for all things cultural: exactly the kind of place I would like my three young children to live, grow, and go to school. I am devastated that somehow our school board has decided to not save this old and beautiful school, especially surrounded by such a vibrant community who cares about it so deeply.

While I do understand that two estimates by independent assessors were made with a difference of \$4M between a renovation/addition vs a new build, I cannot believe that such an enormous job would have just two assessments. I personally had more than 10 estimates by different contractors/companies when my home basement in Cathedral needed foundation work!

There are contractors, engineers, and conservation specialists with extensive backgrounds in historical renovations (ie: Government House as I recall) who spoke at a Connaught SCC meeting several months ago, who have offered their services to the Cathedral community to give another assessment of Connaught school. They cannot do this without being given permission by the school board to have a day at the school to do proper assessments. From what I understand, the assessments you were given were biased, being contracted by the school board, under the thumb of, and in alignment with our conservative government. Perhaps hearing another perspective might give some balance to this situation. It states clearly in the P3A for Connaught, that the public's greatest concern was to "conserve the building" over any other. Don't you feel it is your due diligence to look into these costs a little more broadly to respect the community's wishes and make peace with future steps?

On behalf of everyone who loves architecture, education, Canadian history and cultural inheritance, I plead with you to reconsider the decisions made around École Connaught Community School. Our school board will have

made a huge mistake if a new school is built and the Cathedral community will suffer a great loss.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Alma Tholl

From: Sarah Longman
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:47 AM
To: Julie MacRae
Subject: Connaught Flag

Julie

Just a heads up to let you know, Connaught is beginning the planning and conversations around putting up a Treaty Four Flag. Chris has been forwarded the agenda that we used for our flag ceremony as a template. I do not have any information around a date but if I hear one, I will pass it along.



S Longman

Sarah Longman
Supervisor of Aboriginal Education
Student Achievement
Regina Public Schools
Ph: (306) 523-3137
Cell: (306) 552-5411
sarah.longman@rbe.sk.ca

JOINT LETTER TO REGINA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES
Delivered October 29, 2013

Dear Trustees,

We oppose the board's decision not to seek heritage designation for Connaught School, and call on you to reverse an unconscionable decision. We say this because:

The motion against pursuing heritage status was presented without notifying or discussing it with the school community. This is unconscionable.

It devalued substantial community input received in formal consultations, and ignored the trustee who actually lives in and represents the community. This is unconscionable.

It countered community efforts to responsibly research all options for the richest possible learning environment for our children. This is unconscionable.

It turned its back on a nation-wide and international networks of experts willing to facilitate partnerships and research. This is unconscionable.

It plunged us further down a road of no return, without the research and conservation planning recommended by the board's consultants. This is unconscionable.

Sincerely,

Donald Allan Kirk
Maureen McKenzie
Sue Stroud
Catherine Robertson
Pauline Ferland
Terri Sleeva
June Mitchell
Dr. Tanya Dahms
Wendy Merkley
Gary Markle
Patricia Elliott
Aydon Charlton
Moir Bloom
Colleen Mahoney
Brenda Niskala

We have listened retain
@ school.

- 1) all school divisions for equitable
- 2) not set in stone. new fire hall in keeping w cathedral community
- 3) not in business to pursue heritage
- 4) portico, skirting, window wells etc not original facility upkeep
- 5) NO outcry from other subdivisions
- 6) open air school never discussed
- 7) in business for education → not heritage

Mark Whiting

From: Mark Whiting
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 9:18 AM
To: Sherry Germaine
Subject: FW: Book3.xlsx
Attachments: Book3.xlsx

These are the 2013/14 numbers. Remember for French immersion school the first line is always regular program and the second is FI students (you have to combine the both for total school enrolment)

Mark

Elementary School	Pre K	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Albert			7				
Arcola			5				
Argyle							
Braun, Henry							
Bryant, Judge							
Buck, Ruth M.							
Centennial							
Centennial FI							
Coldwell, M.J.							
Connaught	31	18	12	11	8	15	24
Connaught FI	0	16	25	16	20	21	13
Coronation Park							
Davin							
Douglas Park							
Ferguson, Dr.Geo.							
Ford, W.H.							
Glen Elm							
Grant Road							
Hanna, Dr.L.M.							
Harvest City							
Hawrylak							
Hawrylak FI							
Hunt, Wilfred							
Imperial							
Janzen, Henry							
Kitchener							
Lakeview							
Lee, George							
Mackenzie, Jack							
McNeill							
Massey FI							
McDermid							
McDonald, Gladys							
McLurg							
McVeety, Marion							
Milliken, Ethel							
Mironuck, Elsie							
Mironuck, Elsie FI							
Pawson, Ruth							
Perry, Dr.A.E.							
Ready, W.F.							
RCS							
Regina Huda							
Rosemont							

Thomson
Walker, Wilfrid FI
Walker
Wascana

3
1
2

High Schools

- *Balfour Col*
- *Campbell*
- *Campbell*
- *Cochrane*
- *Harvest*
- *Huda*
- *Johnson*
- *Knoll*
- *Martin*
- *Regina Christian*
- *Scott*
- *Sheldon*
- *Thom*
- *Thom*

Grade 9 Grade 10 Grade 11 Grade 12 Other ISP Fresh Start

8
1
5

0

112

Spec Ed Night Quit High Special tut: Total