April 18, 2023

via email: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Rachna Singh, Honourable Minister of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9045, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Re: 2023/24-CPSD73-01 Capital Plan Response Letter

Dear Honourable Minister Rachna Singh:

On behalf of our board, I would like to thank you for the recent Capital Plan Response Letter for our 2023/24 Capital Plan submission. We appreciate that 3 minor capital projects were approved and that 3 school buses were approved. We also appreciate the significant increase in Annual Facilities Grant funding this year, as this will help offset some of the significant cost increases we have experienced over the past few years.

We would like to express our concern that our top priority for new schools, Aberdeen Secondary School, and the corresponding Site Acquisition project did not receive support this year. We are asking for $7.5M to secure the site.

Aberdeen Secondary School is a pressing priority. There are significant overcrowding issues at Sa-Hali Secondary School, which is currently at 138% capacity utilization and is projected to grow to 157% by 2023. The elementary schools in that area, which would be graduating students to go to Aberdeen Secondary are currently at 141% (average). In order to build this secondary school, we must have a site and the site is valued at $7.5M based on the spring 2022 appraisal, which is comparatively low to property valuations elsewhere in the province.

With respect to the site acquisition project, the Board wrote to Minister Whiteside on April 12, 2022, received a response on July 13, 2022 that this project would continue to be part of ongoing

We are grateful for your consideration of this request for $7.5M to secure this site in Aberdeen. Please contact me, Board Chair Heather Grieve at hgrieve@sd73.bc.ca, if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Heather Grieve
Board Chair, School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)

cc:
SD73 Board of Education
Rhonda Nixon, Superintendent of Schools
Trina Cassidy, Secretary-Treasurer