
Re: RMS Overcrowded

From Wendy Holly <jwholly29@icloud.com>

Date Thu 2025-09-11 9:44 PM

To Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>

Cc All Trustees <All-Trustees@sd23.bc.ca>; Jon Rever <Jon.Rever@sd23.bc.ca>; Delta Carmichael <Delta.Carmichael@sd23.bc.ca>; Lise Bradshaw <Lise.Bradshaw@sd23.bc.ca>

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I'll right some letters. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we as a family could celebrate 100 years of schooling in central Rutland next year with an announcement that RMS will get an improvement! My Dad was involved in building RMS in the 40's. He always took such pride in his work (maybe too much so if the building remains so sound) but even he would think all things come to an end.

Thanks for listening!

Wendy Holly

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2025, at 9:24 PM, Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca> wrote:

Dear Wendy,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and for highlighting your family's long connection to Rutland schools. The pride and history you describe truly reflect how important RMS is to the community. I understand your frustration—it's very discouraging to see RMS deferred year after year while other projects move ahead more quickly.

As a Board, we continue to make RMS one of our top priorities in the 5-Year Capital Plan, and we bring forward the challenges of overcrowding and aging infrastructure in every discussion with the Ministry of Child Care. Your question about what more can be done is important—community voices matter. **Letters to MLAs, the Minister of Education and Child Care**, and participation in consultations help strengthen the case for RMS. **Coordinating with the RMS PAC and COPAC** can also amplify your advocacy and show a united voice from Rutland families.

You're very welcome to attend our Public **Finance and Planning committee meeting on September 17th at 4pm**, where you'll also have the opportunity to ask questions directly to

our Superintendent, Secretary Treasurer, and Director of Operations.

Thank you again for reaching out. Your voice—and your family's long history at RMS—adds an important perspective to this advocacy.

Warm regards,

Julia Fraser

Chair, Board of Education

Warmest Regards,

Julia Fraser

Board Chair & Ex-Officio of All Committees,

Central Okanagan Board of Education

Resolutions Committee Chair,

BCSTA Thompson-Okanagan Branch

Cell: 250-681-0269

Email: Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca

*I respectfully acknowledge that I live,
work & play on the ancestral,
traditional and unceded territory of
the Okanagan People.*

From: Wendy Holly [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 8:59:43 PM

To: Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>

Cc: All Trustees <All-Trustees@sd23.bc.ca>; Jon Rever <Jon.Rever@sd23.bc.ca>; Delta Carmichael <Delta.Carmichael@sd23.bc.ca>; Lise Bradshaw <Lise.Bradshaw@sd23.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: RMS Overcrowded

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Thank you for your reply Julia! I appreciate that it is the government that makes the decision on projects and while RMS has been on the 5 year capital plan list for years it

continues to be bypassed year after year. What I don't understand is how new projects seem to get approved in a very short time and quite easily while the advocacy for RMS is ineffective year after year. What is being done for the other schools that RMS is missing? What more can be done so that there is actual results not just lip service that all are trying?

My family has attended school in Rutland for generations. I have a large extended family and since 1926 there has been only a handful of years that a relative has not attended the Rutland school system. I and my siblings all graduated from what is now RMS. So many years have past with huge changes in technology etc etc yet so little is different at RMS. Any suggestions you have that could get results to have RMS get the attention I feel it deserves to alleviate the overcrowding and modernize it so Rutland students can get the same sense of pride we used to have would be appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Wendy Holly

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2025, at 6:57 PM, Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca> wrote:

Dear Wendy,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns about Rutland Middle School. I hear your frustration, and I want to provide some context from the most recent Five-Year Capital Plan for Central Okanagan Public Schools (SD23).

As you have seen the announcement of a new middle school on Burtch Road, please know it is an important step in addressing capacity pressures in our district. At the same time, I want to stress that Rutland Middle School has been the Board's top capital project request for nearly a decade. Over the years, we have toured dozens of local and provincial politicians through RMS to demonstrate firsthand the challenges faced by students and staff, and we have consistently advocated for a new school.

It is important to understand that the provincial government ultimately decides which capital projects are funded. Despite a decade of advocacy and persistent pressure from the Board, the Ministry of Education has chosen not to fund a capital project to improve or replace RMS to date. In the meantime, portables have remained a necessary short-term solution to address enrolment growth, though we know they are not ideal for long-term learning environments.

Please know that I, along with the Board of Education, will continue to advocate strongly for RMS to be prioritized in future capital plan submissions. The

ongoing housing development in the catchment, the heavy reliance on portables, and the importance of equitable learning environments make it essential that RMS receives the attention it deserves.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns. Community voices like yours help keep the pressure on government and ensure that RMS remains a priority in our advocacy.

With appreciation,
Julia Fraser
Board Chair
Central Okanagan Public Schools

Warmest Regards,
Julia Fraser
Board Chair & Ex-Officio of All Committees,
Central Okanagan Board of Education
Resolutions Committee Chair,
BCSTA Thompson-Okanagan Branch
Cell: 250-681-0269
Email: Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca

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From: Wendy Holly [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 5:02:31 PM
To: Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: RMS Overcrowded

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Please see email below. I am resending in case you didn't receive as I've received no response as yet.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 8, 2025, at 4:17 PM, Wendy Holly [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Hello Julia,

> It's been interesting to read on Castanet about the proposed new Burtch Road middle school, the progress on George Pringle as well as various other upgrades and improvements. As per usual year after year after year there is never any mention of anything changing at RMS in spite of over half the school population being in portables?? Why is this? There is more and more housing development in the area which one would expect would mean yet more children feeding into the school. Is the plan to move the portables from Mount Boucherie that will no longer be required to RMS? Quite some time ago (maybe a year or two?) I took part in an on line presentation about RMS overcrowding. The main speaker was trying to convince the audience that it will never be rebuilt so change the focus to a complete renovation with added facilities (improved gym etc). RMS would still be inferior to other middle schools in the area but would appear much less of a "poor sister"—for this funding was sure to be approved. Since I have heard absolutely nothing. Why can nothing be done for RMS?

> Thank you for your input.

> Sincerely,

> Wendy Holly

> [REDACTED]

>

> Sent from my iPhone