

March 1, 2023

Via email: [EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Honourable Rachna Singh  
Minister of Education and Child Care  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Singh:

On behalf of the Central Okanagan Board of Education (the Board), I am writing to request an internal review of the funding formula and ask that the Ministry of Education and Child Care (the Ministry) share the key drivers that formulate the Annual Facility Grant (AFG) funding allocation.

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) (the District) receives a funding level that is neither adequate nor sustainable. Funding previously provided by the Ministry has not been sufficient to meet the demands in the system. Each year, staff continue to defer important maintenance projects to meet the budgets set by inadequate funding levels.

The total estimated costs of deferred maintenance captured in the Ministry's Capital Asset Management Software (VFA Facility) identifies a requirement for \$45,114,352 in capital funding for the 2023/2024 school year to address the identified deferred maintenance within the District. This includes vital electrical, facility, site, and mechanical upgrades, as well as roof replacements and functional improvements. These costs are well above the District's current Annual Facility Grant of \$4,027,768, which has not matched inflationary material and labor increases over the past 18 years. The District has constructed new schools and added new childcare spaces, thus increasing the educational space this grant supports by over 20,000 sq. meters in recent years, with no additional funding for maintenance.

Currently, Central Okanagan Public Schools serve families in the fastest growing region in Canada. While the Board of Education continues to advocate for new, expansion, and replacement school spaces that our communities desperately require, the District also must have sufficient funds to properly maintain the District's purpose-built bricks and mortar educational facilities and the significant number of temporary portable classrooms that have been required to place on many school sites.

Please undertake a review of the AFG funding formula to ensure equitable distribution across all 60 school districts, and as appropriate, consider increasing the funding to Central Okanagan Public Schools so the District can continue to provide safe and functional learning spaces for children in our large and rapidly growing district.



Lee-Ann Tiede, Chair  
Board of Education

copy: Central Okanagan Board of Education Trustees  
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