

February 16th, 2018



School District 19
(Revelstoke)

Marie-France Lapierre, Chairperson
Board of Regional Trustees
Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique
11, 13511 Commerce Parkway
Richmond, BC V6V 2J8

Dear Ms. Lapierre:

At the February 14th, 2018 School Board Meeting, the Revelstoke Board of Education reviewed your letter of January 24th, 2018. After careful review, the Revelstoke Board of Education wishes to advise that we are not able to accommodate your request to lease space at our Farwell site.

For your information, during our review we considered two main factors which I have included below:

1. The district is currently experiencing space challenges, and in our Capital Planning with the Ministry, the Farwell Elementary School site and improvements was previously identified as the site for our future growth.
2. Revelstoke students continue to experience direct benefits from the programs offered by the partners currently leasing our Farwell Elementary School site.

For the information of your trustees, I have included some of the details regarding our context, the Farwell site, and our accommodation of Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF) at the Arrow Heights Elementary School site.

Since its closure in June of 1987, the Farwell site has been an important part of the district and the community. Our Board of Education has been very successful over the years in obtaining external grants and funding to ensure that the facility has been maintained and that the partnerships we have formed through the shared space have benefitted students.

Our partnership with Okanagan College continues to provide our students with access to a range of offerings from First Aid training and business courses through to Dual Credit and Apprenticeship programs. In addition, the College has converted what was a small multi-purpose space (that acted as a gym in the original school) into a Learning Center, a Business IT lab, and a variety of small workspaces.

The Revelstoke Childcare Society operates a daycare and early learning space that runs at full capacity on the site. The Society has been able to access funding sources to install an outdoor pre-school play structure, and to complete interior work to make provisions for infant care spaces.

Although the building is very busy during peak times, we have been able to accommodate the Rocky Mountain Rangers Youth Cadets and the Red Cross with small ancillary spaces to run their programs.

These lease arrangements have made it possible to cover operating expenses and ensure that the site remains an option for future expansion to accommodate increased student enrolment. In our long term planning and disposition of surplus sites process with the Capital Division at the Ministry, the Farwell asset has been retained for future growth that considers the demographics of School District No. 19 catchment areas.

Currently, Begbie View Elementary School, that serves the Farwell catchment area, is operating at capacity. This past year it was necessary to convert the computer lab at Begbie View Elementary School into a regular classroom space to accommodate increased enrolment.

Our students and staff at Arrow Heights Elementary School are currently experiencing space challenges as enrolment increases and as we continue to accommodate the Ecole des Glaciers. However, we have made that work through shared space provisions in all areas of the school, including the gymnasium, library and all outdoor spaces and play structures. Although the CSF staff have elected not to share the staffroom and associated ancillary spaces, the offer has remained open to do so. As you are aware, the CSF has placed one portable on our site, and have begun the process to place another for September 2018. Within the building Ecole des Glaciers has three classroom spaces, one break-out room and the ancillary space formerly known as the primary wet area.

I know that SD19 staff, along with SD93 staff, continue to work together to ensure that students in both districts have the best possible school experience.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bill MacFarlane, Chair
Revelstoke Board of Education

cc: Rob Fleming, Minister of Education
Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister of Education
Ryan Spillett, Director, Capital Projects Unit, Ministry of Education
Board Correspondence File