



Memorandum

Date: May 27, 2015
To: Public Board
From: Michele Dick
Subject: New School Site: Town of Morinville

Attached for Trustee information are the three letters sent on behalf of the Board requesting the allocation of a site in the Town of Morinville for a new public school. To date, a response has not yet been received however the Town is actively working to secure a site for the new school.

Future school sites are indicated in the South Glens Area Structure Plan (ASP) and the Westwinds ASP however no development activity is expected in the South Glens area for the next several years and the land identified for a school site in Westwinds would not be large enough to accommodate a junior-senior high school. Though consideration has been given to utilizing some of the land associated with the new Multi-Plex/Recreation Centre, we have been advised that planning for the proposed Centre is still in the early stages and little specific information relative to ultimate configuration, timelines and partnership possibilities is currently available.

To date, the Sturgeon School Division Board and Morinville Town Council have had several meetings and will continue to work together to consider all options. Senior administrators for the division and the town have also had several meetings relative to the division's request. Unfortunately, until such time as a site has been formally allocated, the division cannot move forward with the planning and design phase of this project. At this time Morinville Public School is more than 100% utilized and will receive 6 modulars over the course of the summer to accommodate the significant increase in student enrollment.



April 27, 2015

Mayor Lisa Holmes and Town Council
Town of Morinville
10125 100 Ave
Morinville AB T8R 1L6

Dear Mayor Holmes and Council

RE: New Public School Site

Further to our letters of January 12th and February 20th, 2015, and meetings of March 10th and April 14th, 2015, the Sturgeon Board of Trustees wishes to submit, once again, a formal request for a new Public school site in the Town of Morinville.

As you are aware, the Government of Alberta has awarded our division \$750,000.00 for the planning and design of a new 1000 student, Grades 5-9 school (with capacity to accommodate Grades 5-12 as enrollment warrants). Unfortunately, the division cannot access the promised funding nor initiate the process of planning and design until such time as the town clearly identifies an appropriate site. In this case, given the anticipated size and configuration of the new school, approximately 20 acres of serviced Municipal School Reserve land is required.

With the rapidly growing population at Morinville Public School (present utilization rate of 106%) and a government expected completion date of 2017 for all new schools, time is of the essence relative to this request.

We look forward to your response regarding the urgent need to identify a site for this project and, as always, are available to meet with you, at your earliest convenience, to discuss options.

Sincerely,

Terry Jewell, Chair
Board of Trustees

cc: Division

Honourable Gordon Dirks, Minister of Education
Honourable Maureen Kubinec, MLA Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock
Honourable Jeff Johnson, MLA Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater
Minister Manmeet S. Bhullar, Minister of Infrastructure
Mrs. Sarah Hall, President, MPS School Council
Board of Trustees, Sturgeon School
Superintendent, Sturgeon School Division



February 20, 2015

Lisa Holmes, Mayor
Town of Morinville
10125-100 Avenue
Morinville, AB T8R 1L6

Dear Mayor Holmes & Council Members:

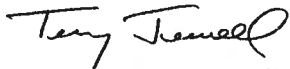
Pursuant to our letter dated January 12, 2015, and on behalf of the Sturgeon School Division Board of Trustees, I would like to officially request that the South Glens school site be allocated to Sturgeon School Division for the purposes of constructing a new public school Grades 5-9 (with growth to a potential Grades 5-12 of 1,000 students).

As you are aware, our division is very interested in discussing the possibility of a partnership with the town relative to locating the school on the site of, and potentially attached to, the proposed multiplex. Unfortunately, at this time, we do not have sufficient clarity with regards to the project and its associated timelines. Therefore the implications and potential for a successful partnership and the construction of a new school are relatively unknown. We realize that the development of a multiplex facility is extremely complex and requires extensive consultation and deliberation and we respect your commitment in this regard. However, as your final decision and planning may take some time, we feel it best to move forward with the South Glens site.

As you may know Alberta Education will not release the planning and design funding for Sturgeon's new school until a site is clearly identified and approved. Therefore, at this time, with the information we have on hand, we believe the South Glens site is the only one that clearly meets the requirements of a junior-senior high school. The Westwinds site is too small, and the multiplex site has yet to be fully articulated relative to the potential of a new school. In order to allow our division to move forward, your timely response with regard to this formal request would be greatly appreciated.

February 20, 2015

In addition, the Board is looking forward to meeting with the Mayor and Council at your earliest convenience to confirm our request regarding South Glens and to further discuss any potential there may be relative to the multiplex site. We would be available on either February 24, March 10, or March 24 before your scheduled Council meeting. Please advise if any of these dates/times are convenient. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.



Terry Jewell
Sturgeon School Division
Chair

cc. Councillors Nicole Boutestein; Stephen Dafoe; Brennan Fitzgerald; Rob Ladouceur; Gord Putnam;
Barry Turner (via email)
Deb Oyarzun, CEO (via email)
Trustees Misty Featherley; Elizabeth Kohle; Wendy Miller; Michelle Mychasiw; Tracy Nowak;
Shelley Porter (via email)
Michele Dick, Superintendent of Schools (via email)
Wayne Rufiange, Principal, Morinville Public School (via email)
Sarah Hall, Morinville Public Parent Council Chair (via email)

/bm



January 12, 2015

Lisa Holmes, Mayor
Town of Morinville
10125 – 100 Avenue
Morinville AB T8R 1L6

Dear Mayor Holmes:

On behalf of the Sturgeon School Division Board of Trustees I am pleased to provide you with an update regarding our application to government for a new school in Morinville.

On November 5 and 6, 2014 Trustees and senior staff from our jurisdiction met with representatives from Alberta Education and Infrastructure as well as our parent community to determine the specific scope of our needs in Morinville relative to providing public education to local families. On December 12, 2014, the Minister of Education granted our division the funding to plan and design a Grades 5-9 school for 600 students, capable of expanding to 1000, Grades 5-12.

As you may be aware, the next step is for the division to work with Town officials in determining an appropriate site for the new school. The general site guidelines provided by Alberta Infrastructure suggest that elementary schools require from 4 to 8 acres of land; junior highs 10 acres and senior highs from 15 to 20 acres. Our Board and school community are extremely interested in exploring the possibility of a partnership that would see a new school being built in conjunction with the proposed town multiplex. Should this not come to fruition, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that an appropriate alternative site is available for the construction of a second, much needed public school.

On December 18, 2014 our Superintendent met with Morinville CAO, Ms. D. Oyarzun and representatives from Alberta Education and Infrastructure to discuss site options and other important issues relative to the Minister's funding announcement. We have been advised that site determination is an essential step that must be resolved before any further discussions and decisions can occur relative to planning and design.

To this end, we are requesting a conditional assignment of the South Glens Municipal School Reserve for the development of a new public school. Given the identified dimensions of the South Glens and Westwinds sites and the recommended area dimensions provided by Alberta Infrastructure for school construction, it appears that the South Glens site is the only one that could reasonably accommodate a secondary school.

We look forward to discussing this matter with you further and to working with you in expanding public school opportunities to the families of Morinville.

Sincerely,

Terry Jewell, Chair
Board of Trustees

cc: Board of Trustees, Sturgeon School Division
Michèle Dick, Superintendent
Deb Oyarzun, CAO

