



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

August 18, 2023

Chris Brown

Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9151 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria B.C. V8W9H1
chris.brown@gov.bc.ca

Dear Assistant Deputy Minister Brown,

Subject: Review of School Area Standards

As you are aware, at the British Columbia School Trustees Association's 2023 annual general meeting, our members, representing all 60 boards of education in B.C., passed the following resolution:

"That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education and Child Care complete a review of the Area Standards for new school capital projects in collaboration with all education partner groups to ensure sufficient space is provided in schools to adequately address the diverse and changing needs of students."

Thank you for meeting with us on May 31 to discuss the resolution above. Your dedication to supporting public education is valued, and your thoughtful consideration of how these additional space requirements highlight discrepancies with current area standards is appreciated.

I understand that the Ministry of Education and Child Care is aware of this concern and that the work to address it will commence when appropriate resources can be dedicated to the task. Competing priorities are a constant challenge, and I respect that the ministry must address the most pertinent needs first. Nonetheless, please note that our association remains concerned, and we look forward to continuing to connect regularly over the coming year to follow up on this matter.



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As you know, BCSTA has reinstated our Capital Working Group, which will again actively engage in conversations and planning regarding capital. I understand that staff, on behalf of this working group, have already reached out to you with concerns related to this motion and others, and I trust you will find their dedication and support an asset moving forward. Thank you for agreeing to meet with them. I have copied the chair of the Capital Working Group, Trustee Mike Murray, to this email to facilitate further discussions.

We look forward to supporting this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Broady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Broady
President
British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: A202332

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

CC: Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister of Education and Child Care
Mike Murray, Trustee, Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows
BCSTA member boards of education
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA
BCSTA Board of Directors