



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

Office of the Minister
MLA, Edmonton - Castle Downs



AR 73016

December 5, 2011

Ms. Barb McNeill, Chair
Elk Island Public Schools Regional Division
683 Wye Road
Sherwood Park AB T8B 1N2

Dear Ms. McNeill:

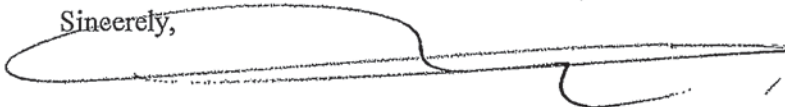
I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you and Bruce Beliveau, Superintendent of Elk Island Public Schools Regional Division, on November 28, 2011. Our discussion about the challenges faced by your school jurisdiction as a result of Colchester School's location in the utility corridor has provided me with valuable insight.

While I appreciate that the Colchester community is anticipating a new school, I believe our discussion confirmed there are many reasons for considering a consolidation of students at the Fultonvale site as an option. Even if the power lines were not a factor, other issues like the Anthony Henday extension and declining enrolments are problematic.

Education's Capital Planning staff is working with Infrastructure staff to set up a Value Management Session that is tentatively set for January 9 to 11, 2012. The session will explore all viable options for the accommodation of Colchester students, including the consolidation of Colchester, Ministik and Fultonvale students at a new school on the Fultonvale site. It is my understanding that a third party facilitator, assisted by an architect and cost consultant, will lead the discussion with representatives of the school jurisdiction, schools and staff from Education and Infrastructure. I am confident that this transparent process will foster a better understanding of the needs of not only the Colchester community but also the surrounding communities. It will also identify the most feasible options for consideration, which will assist you in formulating your updated capital plan for 2012-2015.

Once again, I appreciate you taking the time to meet with me and my government colleagues. Best wishes for success with this process in the coming months.

Sincerely,


Thomas A. Lukaszuk
Minister of Education
MLA, Edmonton - Castle Downs

cc: Iris Evans, MLA, Sherwood Park
Dave Quest, MLA, Strathcona

