



Letter from the Board of Education
February 16, 2022

Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Education

RE: Childcare Space Funding

Honourable Minister Whiteside:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Education with respect to a childcare matter.

First of all, congratulations on the shift to the inclusion of childcare in the Ministry of Education portfolio. This is an ambitious move that we hope will serve the best interests of parents and children for years to come. I note that our Board is supportive of this move and has been proactively applying for funding to construct childcare on school sites. In fact, we are hopeful that all of our schools will be able to support expanded childcare over the coming decade.

However, as we expand our childcare infrastructure, we need to ensure that it is maintained. At this time the cost of maintenance will come at the expense of the provider. Further, to cover the full cost of maintenance over time to the District must include capital upgrades and replacement of building systems. We are very worried that we will be put in the position of moving K-12 dollars to childcare without additional funding. Currently, the process of organizing and building the units is already taking staff time that is funded by our K-12 operating dollars.

To address this the Board passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) write a letter of advocacy to the Ministry of Education to encourage Child Care Spaces be included as part of AFG calculations and allocations.

Given that the expansion of facilities will occur over a number of years, the costs would not likely be born immediately and any increase to AFG could spread over a number of years. We also note that we have closed facilities that house childcare facilities that we currently do not receive sufficient fees to maintain over the long term. We do acknowledge that MCFD currently has funding envelopes available for currently existing facilities to be upgraded. However, the administrative burden to apply, even if we were eligible for such support is not the most efficient use of staff time.

Thank you for your continued support and consideration into this matter.

Sincerely,

Charlene McKay
Board Chair