



Office of the Chair of the Board

The Honourable Glen R. Murray,
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Ontario
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5,
gmurray.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Dear Minister Murray:

Further to the letter that I sent to you on March 21, 2016 as the Chair of the Toronto Catholic District School Board, I am writing to request a meeting with you and staff from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate, to discuss funding support for a new proposed school at the former Duke of York school site, (20 Regent Street, Toronto), to build a pilot "Net Zero" elementary school in the City of Toronto. In addition to building a pilot school at 20 Regent St., we would also like to discuss a potential community partnership opportunity at this site with Young Peoples Theatre (YPT), who also have a strong interest in a net zero energy facility. The building of a new integrated facility represents a powerful opportunity for the Ontario government to showcase publicly its commitment to the community hub model as well as addressing climate change as it strives to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals by 2050.

The Ministry of Education (EDU) is currently reviewing our business case submissions and capital funding requests for two new schools. Both requests are the result of Pupil Accommodation Reviews and school consolidations. These two school sites would also be ideal locations for "net-zero" energy use facilities –the new school proposed for 20 Regent Street has a potential community partner who is also interested in sharing the capital costs and building a state of the art energy efficient, net-zero building.

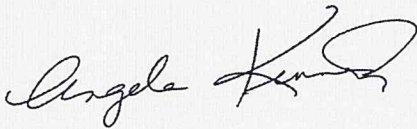
In addition to seeking your support for a pilot school project at 20 Regent Street, and our other capital request, for a replacement school for St Matthias Elementary School, in Scarborough, I also wanted to discuss the possibility of receiving additional funding for the five new schools recently approved by the Ministry of Education; St Antoine Daniel Elementary School (160 Finch Ave W. Etobicoke), St Leo Elementary School (165 Stanley Ave, Etobicoke), St Raymond Elementary School, (270 Barton Ave, Toronto), St Margaret (85 Carmichael Avenue, North York) and Blessed Cardinal Newman Secondary School (100 Brimley Road, Scarborough). Although we have received EDU approval for these projects, under the current cost benchmark, we would face significant challenges to achieving net zero status for these buildings unless we are provided with additional funding. Energy-saving technologies such as solar panels, geothermal heating, enhanced natural and mechanical ventilation systems, LED lighting, daylighting controls would increase building performance and lower annual operating costs. These savings would more than offset any additional capital investment required to design and implement these green systems.

Our Board strongly believes that these new capital projects, when aligned with a commitment to build up to six new “net-zero” energy use schools, represents a powerful opportunity for the Ontario government to showcase publicly its commitment to addressing climate change as strives to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals by 2050.

We would be most appreciative of an opportunity to meet with you and your staff, to discuss a pilot “Net Zero” school at 20 Regent Street as well as the possibility of building five new “net zero” schools elsewhere in the City of Toronto.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Chair of the Board of Trustees, Angela Kennedy
Toronto Catholic District School Board
(416) 222-8282 ext 2659

Cc:

The Honourable Mitzy Hunter, Minister of Education
Executive Director of Young People's Theater, Nancy J. Webster
Board of Trustees, Toronto Catholic District School Board,
Director of Education, Angela Gauthier, TCDSB
Associate Director of Planning and Facilities, Angelo Sangiorgio
Associate Director of Education, Rory McGukin
Superintendent of Facilities Services, M. Puccetti
Comptroller of Planning and Development Services, M. Silva,
Superintendents of Education