

October 25th, 2023

Mayor Blaine Hyggen and members of City Council
City of Lethbridge
910 4 Avenue South
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0P6

Dear Mayor Hyggen and Members of City Council,

Re: Support for Gymnasium - Galbraith Elementary School Modernization

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Chair of the Lethbridge School Division Board, regarding an important matter to Lethbridge School Division and the community landscape of our city.

For more than 15 years, the modernization of Galbraith Elementary School, the oldest school in Lethbridge, has held a place of priority for capital improvement within the Lethbridge School Division's capital plan. This pursuit received a notable boost in 2021 when Alberta Education provided pre-planning funds, empowering our Division to embark on a comprehensive value scoping and visioning process for the modernization endeavor.

The heart of this process was two days of intensive community engagement, where parents, dedicated staff members, division administration, skilled contractors, and representatives from Alberta Education joined forces to envision the potential of the modernization project. During this constructive dialogue, a shared aspiration emerged: the relocation and construction of a new gymnasium that would be seamlessly integrated into the fabric of the school modernization.

Provincial support for the modernization of Galbraith Elementary School was further solidified in the Alberta Provincial Budget of 2023, which allocated planning funds to our division. These funds signal the progression of our planning efforts, putting us on the path to approval and funding support. These funds support the initiation of site readiness activities, preliminary schematic design, and an exploration of possible partnership opportunities.

A fundamental aspect of our request to the City hinges on the long-standing Joint Use of Facilities Agreement that Lethbridge School Division shares with both the City of Lethbridge and the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division. Through this collaborative agreement, the City has previously demonstrated its commitment to enhancing school gymnasiums in cases where new schools are constructed. It is within this context that we turn to you with a sincere inquiry.

We are seeking feedback to ascertain the City's potential interest in participating in the enhancement of the Galbraith Elementary School gymnasium as a part of the modernization initiative. This enhancement

would not only serve our students but also elevate the available community spaces for the residents of Lethbridge.

We wish to stress that at this stage of the planning process, no firm commitment is being requested. Our division is hopeful that the green light for the modernization will be granted by February 2024 or, at the latest, February 2025. Subsequently, a year of planning would precede the anticipated two-year construction period. Should the City opt to engage in this partnership, the funds required for the gymnasium's enhancement would be spread across a three-year period, potentially spanning the fiscal years of 2025 to 2027 or 2026 to 2028. Based on past contributions and inflation, we anticipate the total contribution to be approximately \$900,000.

We appreciate the City of Lethbridge and the extensive investment it has made in community-oriented spaces. It is with sincere appreciation for our longstanding relationship and shared objectives that we approach you on this matter.

If the prospect of exploring this partnership resonates with the City, we kindly request a letter expressing your interest in this endeavor. It is crucial to emphasize that the letter of interest we are requesting is not a firm commitment at this preliminary planning juncture.

Thank you so much for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to the betterment of education and community in our city. We eagerly anticipate your response and remain dedicated to fostering an even stronger collaboration between Lethbridge School Division and the City of Lethbridge.

Sincerely,



Allison Purcell
Lethbridge School Division Board Chair

Cc: Joint School Boards/City Council Committee
Board of Trustees, Lethbridge School Division
Mike Nightingale, Superintendent, Lethbridge School Division
Christine Lee, Associate Superintendent, Business and Operations, Lethbridge School Division