



Mark Fisher, Director of Education and Secretary

2020 November 10

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce:

The Trustees of the Thames Valley District School Board would like to thank you for the approval of two new elementary schools based on our Board's 2019-2020 Capital Priorities Grant Program Submission. The Board and the communities of Belmont and northwest London will greatly benefit from these much-needed new schools.

While we are extremely thankful for these announcements, our Board would be grateful to the Ministry for the opportunity to consider further information related to the new Belmont school. At the Board's October 27, 2020 meeting, the following motion was approved:

That the Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education, acknowledging gratitude for the Capital Priorities Grant, and to explore further options, if necessary, regarding the Capital Priorities Grant submission of September 2019 related to the new school in Belmont.

Respectful of our board's business case for the Belmont school the Ministry approved a school with a capacity of 354 pupil places. The board is appreciative of the feedback provided regarding the reduction to the funded capacity for the new Belmont school; nevertheless, as the school community has been waiting for a new school for a number of years it is the Board's intent to direct the same number of students to the new school as proposed in the business case. As a result, the new Belmont school is expected to open with portables on site.

We are extremely grateful for the capital funding approvals, in particular the support for our rural schools and communities. Any opportunity to explore further options would be greatly appreciated. We look forward to working alongside our local Member of Parliament and the Minister of Education on these projects for the benefit of all students in Thames Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Morell".

Arlene Morell, Chair
Thames Valley District School Board

cc Trustees
M. Fisher, Director of Education
J. Yurek, MPP Elgin-Middlesex-London

Thames Valley District School Board - Office of the Chairperson

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