

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: March 10, 2015		
Subject: Letter to Minister Casey		
Motion for Council to Consider: Regional Council request the Mayor write a letter to Karen Casey, Minister of Education and Early Childhood development, expressing support for her decision for the replacement of the Le Marchant-St Thomas Elementary School building and request she direct provincial staff to meet with municipal staff to determine what steps are required to finalize the site selection process.		
Reason: The Minister has written to Melinda Daye, Chair, HRSB indicating that the new South End Elementary school site "would optimally include the closure of a section of Watt street if the selection is approved as recommended." (see attached) The purpose of this letter expressing support for the school while requesting staff meet to provide clarity regarding the scope and intent of the proposed Watt Street closure. Closing a street is governed by section 325 of the Halifax Charter and clarity regarding exactly what is required to meet the public school program may require a public hearing process.		
Outcome Sought: A letter to the Minister to start the technical discussion on a staff level regarding the new Le Marchant-St Thomas Elementary school site selection.		
<i>Councillor - Wayne Mason</i>		<i>District 7</i>



**Education and Early Childhood Development
Office of the Minister**

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February 23, 2015

Melinda Daye, Chair
Halifax Regional School Board
33 Spectacle Lake Drive
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1X7

Dear Ms. Daye:

I am writing regarding the selection and final approval of the site for the proposed replacement for LeMarchant-St. Thomas Elementary School located at 6141 Watt Street in Halifax.


In July 2014, the Halifax Regional School Board submitted the site selection report to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development that included two recommended sites and requested an exemption from the requirement of proposing three sites for consideration. Due to the location of the catchment area within a mature urban neighbourhood, the committee had been able to identify only two properties for site selection purposes. As a result, the request for an exemption was approved.

Upon examining both options, the final site investigation report from Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal recommended combining Site 1 and 2, which would offer more choice and flexibility with respect to development for the proposed school. This site option for the new school would optimally include the closure of a section of Watt Street if the selection is approved as recommended. Before the Province can move forward with this site and begin the design work for the proposed school, Halifax Regional Council would need to confirm that it is supporting the potential street closure.

It is my understanding that this site option is supported by the community. Prior to the Province incurring costs for site design, Halifax Regional Council must consider and confirm the partial closure of Watt Street.

I trust that this information is helpful to the board as it awaits the final approval for the site for the new school.

Yours truly,
Original Signed


Karen Casey
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

c Joachim Stroink, MLA – Halifax Chebucto
Waye Mason, Councillor – Halifax South Downtown