

**Ministry of Education****Office of the ADM**

Capital and Business Support Division  
900 Bay Street  
20th Floor, Mowat Block  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation****Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint**

Division du soutien aux immobilisations et  
aux affaires  
900, rue Bay  
20<sup>e</sup> étage, Édifice Mowat  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



March 13, 2018

Jennifer Adams

Director of Education

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

133 Greenbank Road

Nepean ON K2H 6L3

Dear Dr. Adams,

I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Education has completed its detailed review of the business case(s) your school board submitted for consideration under the 2017-18 Capital Priorities Grant funding program. As outlined in **Memorandum 2017:B7 – Request for Capital Priorities Project Funding Submissions**, business cases could have included requests for school capital funding, including funding for joint-use schools and community hub space, as well as capital funding to support the creation of new or renovated licensed child care spaces and EarlyON (child and family program) centres in schools as part of the larger school capital project.

Demand for funding through the 2017-18 Capital Priorities Program was significant. Altogether, 55 school boards submitted over 250 requests for funding consideration for school capital projects valued at approximately \$3.3 billion. In addition, 45 school boards submitted 180 requests for early years capital funding for the creation of 407 new or renovated child care rooms and 102 EarlyON centres.

I am pleased to inform you that the ministry has approved funding to support the following project(s) for your school board, as outlined in the table below:

Funding Allocation					
Project	Capital Priorities	Full Day Kindergarten	Child Care	EarlyON	Total
Unnamed Secondary - Stittsville	\$37,571,821				\$37,571,821
Elmdale PS	\$3,606,116				\$3,606,116
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,177,937</b>				<b>\$41,177,937</b>

Please note that for the project(s) listed in the table above, the ministry has increased its funding benchmarks by two percent to recognize rising construction costs. This increase does not apply to any previously approved projects.

Your funding approval is conditional upon amendments to the 2017-18 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) regulation by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Please see Appendix A for a complete list of the Capital Priorities project(s) submitted by your board along with the ministry's decision(s). Although the ministry recognizes that each project has unique circumstances, we have attempted to summarize our rationale for each decision through a high-level description. Your ministry Capital Analyst will contact board staff in the coming weeks to review the ministry's rationale and address any questions you may have.

Appendix B provides a table showing how funding was determined for the approved project(s).

### **Accountability Measures for Approved Projects**

The funding approved for your board through the 2017-18 Capital Priorities Program represents a significant investment in school infrastructure by the Government of Ontario. Your board is responsible and will be held accountable for measures to ensure that the cost and scope of any approved projects are within the approved funding amounts.

As noted in **Memorandum 2018:B3: Capital Priorities – New Reporting and Accountability Requirements**, the ministry is also introducing new high-level reporting and accountability requirements for school boards, including the School Board Capital Attestation Form (see Appendix C) and quarterly project reports. Your board is required to complete the School Board Attestation Form and email it to your ministry Capital Analyst by April 27, 2018. The ministry will communicate additional information about the quarterly project reports in the near future.

### **Site Acquisition, Demolition and Unique Site Costs**

The ministry has funding available to address costs related to site acquisition and preparation for project construction costs that are not included in the Ministry's Capital funding benchmark. Additional funding will be provided to boards based upon submission of a detailed estimates with supporting engineering reports. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to the following:

- the acquisition of a site for new school construction;
- the acquisition of lots adjacent to existing schools for school expansion, including child care centres and community hubs;
- site improvements to make the sites suitable for construction, such as soil remediation, additional fill or demolition of existing structures, and
- addressing extraordinary municipal requirements.

### **Payment**

The Capital Priorities Grant, Full Day Kindergarten, Community Hubs Replacement Space, and all associated child care and EarlyON funding will operate on a modified grant payment process, where cash flow is based on school board spending. There are two annual reporting periods for these programs:

- For the period of September 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, all related expenditures are recorded in the board's March Report; and,
- For the period of April 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>, all related expenditures are recorded in the board's financial statements.

School boards will also be funded for the short-term interest costs related to these capital programs reflecting that cash flows will occur on a semi-annual basis. The short-term interest payments will be calculated in a manner similar to how they have been calculated for other eligible capital programs.

### **Change in Project Scope**

If your board chooses to amend the project scope approved through the 2017-18 Capital Priorities Program at a later date, you will be required to inform your Capital Analyst prior to engaging your architect regarding the new scope. If your project requires additional ministry funding, the board may be required to forfeit its project approval and re-submit a revised Capital Priorities business case with the alternative project scope.

### **Projects Not Approved for Funding**

I understand that your school board may have questions about any project(s) submitted and not approved through the 2017-18 Capital Priorities Program. Your ministry Capital Analyst will contact board staff in the coming weeks to review the ministry's rationale and consider potential next steps.

Ministry staff are committed to working collaboratively with your school board to provide guidance and respond to questions as your board considers the development of future capital plans, including requests for Capital Priorities funding.

Should you have any Capital Priorities questions, please contact your Capital Analyst, Catherine Roy at 416-325-6670 or via email at [Catherine.Roy@ontario.ca](mailto:Catherine.Roy@ontario.ca).

Please refer to the Appendix D - Communications Protocol, for detailed requirements regarding public communications, events and signage related to the project. Should you have any communications-related questions, please contact Dylan Franks at 416-325-2947 or via email at [Dylan.Franks@ontario.ca](mailto:Dylan.Franks@ontario.ca).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your assistance and support throughout this process, and look forward to continuing to work with your board.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

Joshua Paul  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Capital and Business Support Division

Attached:

Appendix A – Complete List of Submissions

Appendix B – Details of Approved Projects

Appendix C – School Board Attestation Form

Appendix D – Communication Protocol Requirements: Public Communications and Events

cc: Paul Bloye, Director, Capital Program Branch  
Colleen Hogan, Director, Capital Policy Branch  
Michael Carson, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer, Ottawa-Carleton DSB