February 26, 2019

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 [Our File #: PRE/12/2019]

On February 4, 2019 the Premier’s Office received your request for access to the following records/information:

“Please provide all communications relating to the interior and exterior construction work on Bishop Feild Elementary School, including the issuing of any RFPs and tenders from the period of October 2017 to the present.”

Please be advised that a decision has been made by the Chief of Staff of the Premier’s Office to provide access to the information requested, with the exception of personal information, which has been removed in accordance with Section 40(1) of the Act, which states:

40.(1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party’s personal privacy.

You may appeal this decision by asking the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this response, as set out in section 42 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your appeal should identify your concerns with the response and why you are submitting the appeal. Contact information for the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John’s, NL A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive this response, pursuant to section 52 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference).
This response will be published as outlined on the Completed Access to Information Requests website. (http://atipp-search.gov.nl.ca/) If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (709)729-3570 or by e-mail at joybuckle@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Joy Buckle
ATIPP Coordinator
Enclosure
Access or correction complaint

42. (1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.

(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52(1) or 53(1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.

(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

(a) a request that is disregarded under section 21;

(b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23;

(c) a variation of a procedure under section 24; or

(d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26.

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.
Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52.(1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner’s refusal under subsection 45(2).
Thank you for your email to Premier Dwight Ball.

This is confirmation that your email has been received.

Kind regards,

Premier’s Correspondence Unit

Office of the Premier
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex
P.O. Box 8700, St. John’s NL A1B 4J6

709-729-3570 | premier@gov.nl.ca

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 12:42 PM
To: Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: Response to Communication to Parents and Guardians of Bishop Feild Elementary
Importance: High

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 10:29 AM
To: Minister, TW <twminister@gov.nl.ca>; Burden, Nancy <burdenn@gov.nl.ca>; Kirby, Dale <DaleKirby@gov.nl.ca>; inquiries, general <education@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Worthman, Matthew <MatthewWorthman@gov.nl.ca>; Harnum, Lisa <LisaHarnum@gov.nl.ca>; King, Tracy <TracyKing@gov.nl.ca>; Grandy, Cory <corygrandy@gov.nl.ca>; Dunford, Joe <JoeDunford@gov.nl.ca>; Transportation and Works <TW@gov.nl.ca>; Walsh, Ed <EdWalsh@gov.nl.ca>; Sexton, Maureen <maureen@sexton.gov.nl.ca>; Cormey, Janet <janetcormey@gov.nl.ca>; Connors, Kara <KaraConnors@gov.nl.ca>; Gardiner, Bob B <bobgardiner@gov.nl.ca>; Manuel, Sue <suemanuel@gov.nl.ca>; Pickard, Christopher <ChristopherPickard@gov.nl.ca>; Trimper, Perry <PerryTrimper@gov.nl.ca>; Michael, Lorraine <lorrainemichael@gov.nl.ca>; Rogers, Gerry <GerryRogers@gov.nl.ca>; Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail) <PADavis@gov.nl.ca>; johnsmith_sbt@nlesd.ca; peterwhittle_sbt@nlesd.ca; keithculeton_sbt@nlesd.ca; jenniferaspell_sbt@nlesd.ca; kevinryan_sbt@nlesd.ca; haywardblake_sbt@nlesd.ca; hilaryprimmer_sbt@nlesd.ca; coreyparsons_sbt@nlesd.ca; winstoncarter_sbt@nlesd.ca; johngeorge_sbt@nlesd.ca; thomaskendell_sbt@nlesd.ca; waynelee1_sbt@nlesd.ca; brucecluney_sbt@nlesd.ca; scottburden_sbt@nlesd.ca; lestersimmons_sbt@nlesd.ca; gordonwyprice@nlesd.ca; raymondbennett_sbt@nlesd.ca
Subject: Response to Communication to Parents and Guardians of Bishop Feild Elementary
Importance: High

Good Day
I am writing you all to express my concern regarding the communication sent yesterday to Parents and Guardians of Bishop Felid Elementary regarding the facilities issues ongoing since October 2017.

Firstly let me state that the initial response to the issue was exceptional under the circumstances. Although stressful for many, the move to the School for the Deaf was handled in an excellent manner from the communication to ensuring students were the top priority. I want to thank you all for your response.

Since the move however, I have been very disappointed in the Governments’ actions, from communication to lack of action to get our children back to their School and School community. This latest communication (attached) is simply an unacceptable response to us as Parents and Guardians, to the Staff and Administration of the School and most importantly to the students.

The memo states “with respect to the ongoing facilities issues, the Department of Transportation and Works has received from the consultant a proposal with respect to conducting the full assessment of the structure. At this time, the Department is considering this proposal before proceeding to undertake the assessment.” The Department has every right to consider the proposal and options, however this statement leads me to believe that this assessment may not even occur in the worst case or is just not a priority for the Department. This is simply an unacceptable response from Government and I am shocked that a statement as vague and arbitrary as this was allowed to be issued.

We need answers. We need a timeline. We need to know that these children, teachers and administrators are a priority, not a consideration. Anything else is simply not acceptable.

I appreciate your time and look forward to your response.

Regards
Dear Parents and Guardians:

We would like to provide you with an update on the status of Bishop Feild Elementary.

With respect to the ongoing facilities issues, the Department of Transportation and Works has received from the consultant a proposal with respect to conducting the full assessment of the structure. At this time, the Department is considering this proposal before proceeding to undertake the assessment.

Given the time of the school year, students will remain at the School for the Deaf location for an undetermined period of time beyond the Christmas break. We are committed to providing information as soon as we are advised by the Department of Transportation and Works.

We are extremely pleased with the efforts of the entire school community and staff to ensure a welcoming environment at the current location of the school. The District will continue to offer its support during this time and we appreciate the ongoing understanding and efforts of the entire school community.

Should you have any questions on this, please contact Debbie Martin, Senior Education Officer, at deborahmartin@nlesd.ca or 758-2377.

Sincerely,

Lucy Warren
Associate Director (Acting)
Programs and Operations
Thank you for your email to Premier Dwight Ball.

This is confirmation that your email has been received.

Kind regards,

Premier's Correspondence Unit

Office of the Premier
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6

709-729-3570 | premier@gov.nl.ca

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From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 12:42 PM
To: Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: Bishop Feild Elementary

Good afternoon,
I am writing as a parent of two children at Bishop Feild Elementary School. I understand through communication with the NL English School District that the matter of repairs to the school has been handed over to the Department of Transportation and Works. I am therefore writing to you with the following questions:

1. When will the full assessment of our school take place?
2. When will repairs begin?

I look forward to your response. I would also welcome the response from anyone else concerned who I have cc'd on this email.

Sincerely,
Thank you for your email to Premier Dwight Ball.

This is confirmation that your email has been received.

Kind regards,

Premier’s Correspondence Unit

Office of the Premier
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex
P.O. Box 8700, St. John’s NL A1B 4K6

709-729-3570 | premier@gov.nl.ca

Buckle, Joy

From: Premier of NL 40(1)
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 4:22 PM
To: RE: Bishop Field Elementary

Good afternoon,
I am writing as a parent of a child at Bishop Feild Elementary School. I understand through communication with the NL English School District that the matter of repairs to the school has been handed over to the Department of Transportation and Works.

It has been a month since the section of ceiling fell, and 2 weeks since the school board met with Transportation and Works. At this point, we need to know why there is such a long delay and if this is a priority for the government. The minister of Transportation and Works, the Minister of Education, and the Premier need to answer these questions. We need to know the timeline for this report. We need to know if our children are a priority for this government. We need to know the reason for this delay. Our children need to know when they will return to their school. Bring the children back to their community. Many of us have chosen to live within walking distance of Bishop Feild, and our children now have to lose an hour of their day riding on a bus to Topsail Road.

I am therefore writing to you with the following questions:

1. When will the full assessment of our school take place?

2. When will repairs begin?

Sincerely,
Thank you for your email to Premier Dwight Ball.

This is confirmation that your email has been received.

Kind regards,

Premier's Correspondence Unit

Office of the Premier
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6

709-729-3570 | premier@gov.nl.ca

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 4:59 PM
To: Premier of NL <premier@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: Request of status - Bishop Feild Elementary

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 4:58 PM
To: Minister, TW <twминистр@gov.nl.ca>; Burden, Nancy <burden@gov.nl.ca>; Kirby, Dale <DaleKirby@gov.nl.ca>; inquiries, general <education@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Worthman, Matthew <MatthewWorthman@gov.nl.ca>; Harnum, Lisa <LisaHarnum@gov.nl.ca>; King, Tracy <TracyKing@gov.nl.ca>; Grandy, Cory <corygrandy@gov.nl.ca>; Dunford, Joe <JoeDunford@gov.nl.ca>; Transportation and Works <TW@gov.nl.ca>; Walsh, Ed <EdWalsh@gov.nl.ca>; Sexton, Maureen <maureenSexton@gov.nl.ca>; Cormey, Janet <janetcormey@gov.nl.ca>; Connors, Kara <KaraConnors@gov.nl.ca>; Gardiner, Bob B <bobgardiner@gov.nl.ca>; Manuel, Sue <suemanuel@gov.nl.ca>; Pickard, Christopher <ChristopherPickard@gov.nl.ca>; Trimper, Perry <PerryTrimper@gov.nl.ca>; Michael, Lorraine <lorainemichael@gov.nl.ca>; Rogers, Gerry <GerryRogers@gov.nl.ca>; Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail) <PADavis@gov.nl.ca>; johnsmith_sbt@nlesd.ca; peterwhittle_sbt@nlesd.ca; keithculleton_sbt@nlesd.ca; jenniferaspell_sbt@nlesd.ca; kevinryan_sbt@nlesd.ca; haywardblake_sbt@nlesd.ca; hilaryprimmer_sbt@nlesd.ca; coreyparsons_sbt@nlesd.ca; winstoncarter_sbt@nlesd.ca; johngeorge_sbt@nlesd.ca; thomaskendell_sbt@nlesd.ca; waynelle1_sbt@nlesd.ca; brucecluney_sbt@nlesd.ca; scottburden_sbt@nlesd.ca; lestersimmons_sbt@nlesd.ca; gordonwyprice@nlesd.ca; raymondbennett_sbt@nlesd.ca; AnthonyStack@nlesd.ca; lucywarren@nlesd.ca; jiimsinnott@nlesd.ca
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Request of status - Bishop Feild Elementary
Good evening,

I am writing as a parent of children at Bishop Feild Elementary School. I understand through communication with the NL English School District that the matter of repairs to the school has been handed over to the Department of Transportation and Works. I am therefore writing to you with the following questions:

1. When will the full assessment of our school take place?
2. When will repairs begin?

I look forward to your response. I would also welcome the response from anyone else concerned who I have cc'd on this email.

Sincerely,
**** My apologies to all; I hit SEND accidentally. I am resending with my name and phone number, and my complete thoughts. ****

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

Good morning,

I am a parent with a child who attends Bishop Feild Elementary School. I understand through communication with the NL English School District that the matter of repairs to the school has been handed over to the Department of Transportation and Works. I am therefore writing to you with the following questions:

1. When will the full assessment of our school take place?

2. When will repairs begin?

While I understand that there are protocols and procedures to be followed in order to proceed with the repair of our school, it has been two months since a portion of the ceiling fell, and two weeks since we were informed by the NLESQ that the matter was currently in the hands of the Department of Transportation and Works. Our children and our community - at the school, in the neighbourhood and city, and in the province - are of vital importance to the social, economic, and cultural future of our society, and myself and many other parents look to our government to prove that it understands that.
I look forward to your response. I would also welcome the response from anyone else concerned who I have cc'd on this email.

With respect,
Good morning,

I am a parent with a child who attends Bishop Feild Elementary School. I understand through communication with the NL English School District that the matter of repairs to the school has been handed over to the Department of Transportation and Works. I am therefore writing to you with the following questions:

1. When will the full assessment of our school take place?

2. When will repairs begin?

While I understand that there are protocols and procedures to be followed in

I look forward to your response. I would also welcome the response from anyone else concerned who I have cc'd on this email.

Sincerely,
Dear Premier Ball, Minister Crocker, Minister Kirby, et al:

I am writing as the parent of a grade one student at Bishop Feild Elementary regarding the lack of communication surrounding plans to repair and re-open the building on Bond Street.

Like many in the Bishop Feild community, I was shocked and disheartened to learn in the communication from the Department of Transportation and Works dated November 27, 2017 that a structural assessment of 46 Bond Street has yet to be undertaken. According to that communication, "...the Department of TW has received a proposal from the Consultant with respect to conducting the full assessment of the structure. At this time, the Department is considering this proposal before proceeding to undertake the assessment." What does that mean? What are the factors under consideration? What is the timeline for making the decision to do the assessment and, assuming it is in fact completed, for deciding whether or not to do necessary repairs? If the Department decides NOT to undertake the assessment or the repairs, what is the plan for the students at Bishop Feild?

We all gratefully acknowledge the enormous effort involved in relocating the school’s population to the Newfoundland School for the Deaf and in setting up an excellent bus service. However, the vague communication and apparent lack of action in recent weeks is beyond troubling and leaves many of us wondering if this issue is a priority for the government.

As you are no doubt aware, Bishop Feild is home to a vibrant and diverse school community and plays an important role in the vitality and livability of the downtown core. I look forward to receiving answers to the questions above and hope for clearer and more detailed future communications regarding plans for the school.
Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Good evening,

I am writing as a parent of a child at Bishop Feild Elementary School. I understand through communication with the NL English School District that the matter of repairs to the school has been handed over to the Department of Transportation and Works. I am therefore writing to you in the hopes of getting some clarity on where you are at in the process. Here are my questions:

1. Has the contract been awarded for the full engineering assessment?
2. When will work on the full assessment begin?
3. When will the final report be completed?

I look forward to your response. I would also welcome the response from anyone else concerned who I have cc'd on this email. Our school is important to us, to our community, and to our city. I am very grateful for the work the NL English School District has done to date with respect to keeping our kids together and getting them into the School for the Deaf and working with our council to communicate info as it became available. I hope the Department of Transportation and Works work just as efficiently to keep the process moving forward.

Kind regards,
Thank you for your email to Premier Dwight Ball.

This is confirmation that your email has been received.

Kind regards,

Premier's Correspondence Unit

Office of the Premier
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4H6
709-729-3570 | premier@gov.nl.ca

Buckle, Joy

From: Premier of NL
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 3:47 PM
To: Bishop Feild
Subject: Bishop Feild is a priority. We need answers please.

Dear Premier Ball, Minister Crocker, Minister Kirby et al,
I write as a parent of one primary child who attends Bishop Feild Elementary regarding the delay in the process for returning our children to their neighbourhood school. Concern amongst families has escalated since receiving a letter dated November 27, 2017 from the NLESĐ.
Lathe and plaster fell from the gym ceiling on October 23rd. We were initially told that our children could be back in our neighbourhood school after Christmas, in January 2018. A very preliminary report by Nova Consulting Inc, dated October 26th recommended that “a more comprehensive structural review” is warranted. We were told that structural assessment would take place.

On November 27th we learned that no work has started: The structural assessment has not been arranged, and it can be concluded that no repairs have commenced to the building. We are advised that this is now in the hands of the Department of Transportation & Works.

This delay leaves parents asking: Are our children a priority for this government?

I am therefore seeking answers to the following questions:

We need clarification on the following phrase from the NLESD letter of November 27th: “the Department of TW has received a proposal from the Consultant with respect to conducting the full assessment of the structure. At this time, the Department is considering this proposal before proceeding to undertake the assessment.”

What does this mean? Is a structural assessment of the building to be completed or not? Is the consultant Nova Consulting Inc, the same company that did the preliminary report?

Presuming the structural evaluation will take place: What are the Terms of Reference for it? And what is the scope of the work requested?

What is the timeline for the assessment? What is the deadline for the report?

If funding for repairs is to be sought in the 2018 budget the cost of the work should be known by February 2018. Can you assure us that the assessment & necessary costs will be prepared well in advance of the budget process?

When it is determined what repairs are required for Bishop Feild, will that work be put to tender, and if so, how long will that process take? Or will it be done by government employees?

Bishop Feild Elementary is a vibrant neighbourhood school with a strong, rich and diverse community. We gratefully acknowledge the major efforts that went into setting our school up at its temporary location at NSD and the implementation of an excellent bus service. The children have transitioned well. However, this delay and lack of action is very troubling for families. Families need to know the plan and a timeline for our return to 46 Bond Street.

I look forward to receiving answers to the above questions.

Yours Sincerely,
Thank you for your email to Premier Dwight Ball.

This is confirmation that your email has been received.

Kind regards,

Premier’s Correspondence Unit

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 11:26 PM
To: Minister, TW <twminister@gov.nl.ca>; Burden, Nancy <burdenn@gov.nl.ca>; Kirby, Dale <DaleKirby@gov.nl.ca>; inquiries, general <education@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Worthman, Matthew <MatthewWorthman@gov.nl.ca>; Harnum, Lisa <LisaHarnum@gov.nl.ca>; King, Tracy <TracyKing@gov.nl.ca>; Grandy, Cory <corygrandy@gov.nl.ca>; Dunford, Joe <JoeDunford@gov.nl.ca>; Transportation and Works <TW@gov.nl.ca>; Walsh, Ed <EdWalsh@gov.nl.ca>; Sexton, Maureen <maureensexton@gov.nl.ca>; Cormey, Janet <janetcormey@gov.nl.ca>; Connors, Kara <KaraConnors@gov.nl.ca>; Gardiner, Bob B <bobgardiner@gov.nl.ca>; Manuel, Sue <suemanuel@gov.nl.ca>; Pickard, Christopher <ChristopherPickard@gov.nl.ca>; Trimper, Perry <PerryTrimper@gov.nl.ca>; Michael, Lorraine <lorrainemichael@gov.nl.ca>; Rogers, Gerry <GerryRogers@gov.nl.ca>; Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail) <PADavis@gov.nl.ca>; johnsmith_sbt@nlesd.ca; peterwhittle_sbt@nlesd.ca; keithculleton_sbt@nlesd.ca; jenniferaspell_sbt@nlesd.ca; kevinryan_sbt@nlesd.ca; haywardblake_sbt@nlesd.ca; hilaryprimmer_sbt@nlesd.ca; coreyparsons_sbt@nlesd.ca; winstoncarter_sbt@nlesd.ca; johngeorge_sbt@nlesd.ca; thomaskendell_sbt@nlesd.ca; waynelee1_sbt@nlesd.ca; brucecluney_sbt@nlesd.ca; scottburden_sbt@nlesd.ca; lestersimmons_sbt@nlesd.ca; goronmyprice@nlesd.ca; raymondbennett_sbt@nlesd.ca; AnthonyStack@nlesd.ca; lucywarren@nlesd.ca; jimssinnott@nlesd.ca; deborahmartin@nlesd.ca; [redacted]
Subject: Bishop Feild Elementary

Good evening,

I am a parent of a child at Bishop Feild Elementary. I have been very involved in that school community for the past 8 years. As you are aware we have received a letter from the ESDNL advising us that our children will remain at the School For The Deaf for an undetermined period of time. We have also been advised that Transportation and Works is currently considering a proposal for a full assessment of the structure before proceeding to undertake the assessment. This has been a difficult time for the students and parents at the school. We have been waiting for answers and this letter has only raised questions.

1. What are the terms of reference for the proposed assessment and what is the scope of the work that has been requested?

2. What is the timeline for the assessment to begin and how long will that assessment take?
3. When it is determined what repairs are needed at the school, what is the process for completing the work? Will it have to go through a tender process?

4. Is this issue, which is very important to the community, a priority for the government?

I have spent the past month keeping the parents and students informed, and trying to answer their questions as much as possible. This has been a very difficult time for the over 300 children at Bishop Feild and their families. They are concerned about the length of time this process has been taking and about the continuing uncertainty. I would greatly appreciate answers to the above questions so that I can ease the fears of our community.

Sincerely

[Redacted]
On Tue, Nov 28, 2017 at 11:25 PM, [mailto:johngeorge@nlesd.ca] wrote:

Good evening,

I am a parent of a child at Bishop Feild Elementary. [Redacted] have been very involved in that school community for the past 8 years. As you are aware we have received a letter from the ESDNL advising us that our children will remain at the School For The Deaf for an undetermined period of time. We have also been advised that Transportation and Works is currently considering a proposal for a full assessment of the structure before proceeding to undertake the assessment. This has been a difficult time for the students and parents at the school. We have been waiting for answers and this letter has only raised questions.

1. What are the terms of reference for the proposed assessment and what is the scope of the work that has been requested?

2. What is the timeline for the assessment to begin and how long will that assessment take?
3. When it is determined what repairs are needed at the school, what is the process for completing the work? Will it have to go through a tender process?

4. Is this issue, which is very important to the community, a priority for the government?

I have spent the past month keeping the parents and students informed, and trying to answer their questions as much as possible. This has been a very difficult time for the over 300 children at Bishop Feild and their families. They are concerned about the length of time this process has been taking and about the continuing uncertainty. I would greatly appreciate answers to the above questions so that I can ease the fears of our community.

Sincerely

[Redacted]

Confidentiality Warning: This message and any attachments are intended for the sole use of the intended recipient(s), and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not an intended recipient, any review, retransmission, conversion to hard copy, copying, circulation or other use of this message and any attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete the message and attachments immediately and notify the sender by return email. Thank you.

avis de confidentialité: Ce courriel, ainsi que tout renseignement ci-inclus, est destiné uniquement au(x) destinataire(s) susmentionné(s) et peut contenir de l'information confidentielle. Si vous n'êtes pas le destinataire prévu, tout examen, copie, impression, reproduction, distribution ou autre utilisation de ce courriel est strictement interdit. Si vous avez reçu ce message par erreur, veuillez en aviser immédiatement l'expéditeur par retour de ce courriel et veuillez supprimer immédiatement cette communication. Merci.
Thank you for your email to Premier Dwight Ball.

This is confirmation that your email has been received.

Kind regards,

Premier's Correspondence Unit

Office of the Premier
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6
709-779-3570 | premier@gov.nl.ca

From: [Redacted] Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 2:14 PM
To: Minister, TW <twminister@gov.nl.ca>; Burden, Nancy <burdenn@gov.nl.ca>; Kirby, Dale <DaleKirby@gov.nl.ca>; inquiries, general <education@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Worthman, Matthew <MatthewWorthman@gov.nl.ca>; Harnum, Lisa <LisaHarnum@gov.nl.ca>; King, Tracy <TracyKing@gov.nl.ca>; Grandy, Cory <corygrandy@gov.nl.ca>; Dunford, Joe <JoeDunford@gov.nl.ca>; Transportation and Works <TW@gov.nl.ca>; Walsh, Ed <EdWalsh@gov.nl.ca>; Sexton, Maureen <maureensexton@gov.nl.ca>; Cormey, Janet <janetcormey@gov.nl.ca>; Connors, Kara <KaraConnors@gov.nl.ca>; Gardiner, Bob B <bobgardiner@gov.nl.ca>; Manuel, Sue <suemanuel@gov.nl.ca>; Pickard, Christopher <ChristopherPickard@gov.nl.ca>; Trimper, Perry <PerryTrimper@gov.nl.ca>; Michael, Lorraine <lorrainemichael@gov.nl.ca>; Rogers, Gerry <GerryRogers@gov.nl.ca>; Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail) <PADavis@gov.nl.ca>; johnsmith_sbt@nlesd.ca; peterwhittle_sbt@nlesd.ca; keithculleton_sbt@nlesd.ca; jenniferspell_sbt@nlesd.ca; kevinryan_sbt@nlesd.ca; haywardblake_sbt@nlesd.ca; hilaryprimmer_sbt@nlesd.ca; coreyparsons_sbt@nlesd.ca; winstoncarter_sbt@nlesd.ca; johngarrege_sbt@nlesd.ca; thomaskendell_sbt@nlesd.ca; waynelee1_sbt@nlesd.ca; brucecluney_sbt@nlesd.ca; scottburden_sbt@nlesd.ca; lestersimmons_sbt@nlesd.ca; goronwyprice@nlesd.ca; raymondbennett_sbt@nlesd.ca; AnthonyStack@nlesd.ca; lucywrenn@nlesd.ca; jimshinnett@nlesd.ca; deborahmartin@nlesd.ca; Crocker, Steve <SteveCrocker@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Bishop Feild Elementary Delays

Dear Premier Ball, Minister Crocker, Minister Kirby et al,

I write as a parent of two primary children who attend Bishop Feild Elementary and as a member of the Bishop Feild School Council, regarding the delay in the process for returning our children to their neighbourhood
school. Concern amongst families has escalated since receiving a letter dated November 27, 2017 from the NLESĐ.

Late and plaster fell from the gym ceiling on October 23rd. We were initially told that our children could be back in our neighbourhood school after Christmas, in January 2018. A very preliminary report by Nova Consulting Inc, dated October 26th recommended that "a more comprehensive structural review" is warranted. We were told that structural assessment would take place.

On November 27th we learned that no work has started: The structural assessment has not been arranged, and it can be concluded that no repairs have commenced to the building. We are advised that this is now in the hands of the Department of Transportation & Works.

This delay leaves parents asking: Are our children a priority for this government?

I am therefore seeking answers to the following questions:

1. We need clarification on the following phrase from the NLESĐ letter of November 27th: “The Department of Transportation and Works has received a proposal from the consultant with respect to conducting the full assessment of the structure. At this time, the Department is considering this proposal before proceeding to undertake the assessment.” What does this mean? Is a structural assessment of the building to be completed or not? Is the consultant to be Nova Consulting Inc, the same company that did the preliminary report?

2. Presuming the structural evaluation will take place: What are the Terms of Reference for it? And what is the scope of the work requested?

3. What is the timeline for the assessment? What is the deadline for the report?

4. If funding for repairs is to be sought in the 2018 budget the cost of the work should be known by February 2018. Can you assure us that the assessment & necessary costs will be prepared well in advance of the budget process?

5. When it is determined what repairs are required for Bishop Field, will that work be put to tender, and if so, how long will that process take? Or will it be done by government employees?

Bishop Field Elementary is a vibrant neighbourhood school with a strong, rich and diverse community. We gratefully acknowledge the major efforts that went into setting our school up at its temporary location at NSD and the implementation of an excellent bus service. The children have transitioned well. However, this delay and lack of action is very troubling for families. Families need to know the plan and a timeline for our return to 46 Bond Street.

I look forward to receiving answers to the above questions.

Addendum:
I sent this letter to Premier Ball, Minister Crocker and Minister Kirby and some of their staff last night and I have not yet received any acknowledgement. Unfortunately, this compounds the impression that the issue of our children’s neighbourhood school is not a priority. I am now sending this letter to a broader range of people who are invested in this issue, and I welcome a response from any of you. I trust that we will receive acknowledgement and answers in a timely fashion.

Yours Sincerely,
Good morning,

I am a parent with a child who is in Kindergarten at Bishop Feild Elementary School. I understand through communication with the NL English School District that the matter of repairs to the school has been handed over to the Department of Transportation and Works. I am therefore writing to you with the following questions:

1. When will the full assessment of our school take place?
2. When will repairs begin?

While I understand that there are protocols and procedures to be followed in order to proceed with the repair of our school, it has been two months since a portion of the ceiling fell, and two weeks since we were informed by the NLES District that the matter was currently in the hands of the Department of Transportation and Works. Our children and our community - at the school, in the neighbourhood and city, and in the province - are of vital importance to the social, economic, and cultural future of our society, and myself and many other parents look to our government to prove that it understands that.

It is essential for the downtown community that Bishop Feild is reopened on Bond Street.

I look forward to your response. I would also welcome the response from anyone else concerned who I have cc'd on this email.

With respect,
Hi guys,

Can one of you call me at [redacted] to discuss the attached file?

Best Regards,

Jason
Proposed Response to Correspondence Regarding Bishop Feild School
November 30, 2017

Dear X,

Thank you for your E-mail. The Provincial Government shares your concerns regarding Bishop Feild Elementary School and is working to resolve the matter in partnership with the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District.

Please know that ensuring the safety of the children, teachers and staff at the school and continuing the education of students without interruption are our government’s foremost priorities in this matter. This is why the Provincial Government and the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District acted quickly to place students at the former School for the Deaf while issues with Bishop Feild school are addressed.

Currently, the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is engaging an engineering firm to complete a preliminary review of the school. Based on the results of this review, the provincial Department of Transportation and Works and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will be meeting with the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District to discuss timelines and the scope of the assessment as soon as possible.

The Provincial Government will endeavor to make information available on progress as early and often as possible.

Best Regards,

Office of the Premier
See revised. One paragraph replaced. Attached is our own letter.

Hi guys,

Can one of you call me at [redacted] to discuss the attached file?

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Late last week, the Department of Transportation and Works received a proposal from a structural engineering firm to assess the structure of the school. They are currently reviewing the proposal and in discussion with the structural engineers to ensure a thorough inspection of the school is completed. This will ensure all necessary steps are taken before allowing students, teachers or staff to return to the school.

As we know more about costs and timelines, we will advise the school district for their broader communication to the school community.

The Provincial Government will endeavor to make information available on progress as early and often as possible.

Best Regards,

Office of the Premier
Thank you for your email on Bishop Field School.

Having children, teachers and staff safely return to the school is a top priority for the Department of Transportation and Works.

Late last week, our department received a proposal from a structural engineering firm to assess the structure of the school. We are currently reviewing the proposal and in discussion with the structural engineers to ensure a thorough inspection of the school is completed. This will ensure all necessary steps are taken before allowing students, teachers or staff to return to the school.

As we know more about costs and timelines, we will advise the school district for their broader communication to the school community.

Thank you for your patience.
FYI: Please see the attached files.

See revised. One paragraph replaced. Attached is our own letter.

Hi guys,

Can one of you call me at [redacted] to discuss the attached file?

Best Regards,

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As we know more about costs and timelines, we will advise the school district for their broader communication to the school community.

Thank you for your patience.
Buckle, Joy

From: Premier of NL
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 3:45 PM
To: RE: Concerned parent
Subject:

Dear [Name]

Thank you for your e-mail. The Provincial Government shares your concerns regarding Bishop Feild Elementary School and is working to resolve the matter in partnership with the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District.

Please know that ensuring the safety of the children, teachers and staff at the school and continuing the education of students without interruption are the Provincial Government’s foremost priorities in this matter. This is why the Provincial Government and the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District acted quickly to place students at the former School for the Deaf while issues with Bishop Feild school are addressed.

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As we know more about costs and timelines, we will advise the school district for their broader communication to the school community.

The Provincial Government will endeavour to make information available on progress as early and often as possible.

Kind regards,

Virginia Connors
Director of Information Management
Office of the Premier
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex
P.O. Box 8700, St. John’s NL A1B 416
709-729-3570 | premier@gov.nl.ca

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From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 2:13 PM
To: Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: Concerned parent

From: [Name]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Concerned parent

Hello
It has been a month since the section of ceiling fell and 2 weeks since the school board met with Transportation and Works. At this point, we need to know why there is such a long delay and if this is a priority for the government. The minister of Transportation and Works, the Minister of Education, and the Premier need to answer these questions. We need to know the timeline for this report. We need to know if our children are a priority for this government. We need to know the reason for this delay. And our children need to know when they will return to their school. We need a timeline for these repairs or if repairs are even going to happen...an "undetermined period of time" is not an acceptable answer to when we will be returning to our school. This is our right to know. This is our children's school... We deserve answers. Not this sugar coated delays. What is the hold up what is there to consider... either the inspection is going to happen and repairs start or the school is closing and we need to know what's the next move. This isn't good enough. How hard is it to answer some simple questions the parents have a right to have answered.

Thank you

40(1)
Concerned Parents and Guardians of Bishop Feild Elementary School

Re: Bishop Feild School

Dear Concerned Parents and Guardians:

Thank you for your correspondence on Bishop Feild School.

Having children, teachers and staff safely return to the school is a top priority for the Department of Transportation and Works.

Late last week, our department received a proposal to assess the structure of the school. We are currently reviewing the proposal and in discussion with the structural engineers to ensure a thorough inspection of the school is completed. This will ensure all necessary steps are taken before allowing students, teachers or staff to return to the school.

As we know more about costs and timelines, we will advise the school district for their broader communication to the school community.

Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

STEVE CROCKER, MHA

Carbonear-Trinity-Bay de Verde

Minister
“Safety – A small investment for a rich future”
I think neighbourhood primary and elementary schools are the heart of many communities.

The bottom line for me at this point is safety. There has been no decision to close Bishop Field. That would be speculation or opinion.

2017 marked the conclusion of a 14 year advocacy piece that saw a new neighbourhood school open on Middleton Street and the catchment Zone adjusted to ensure neighbourhood children within the 1.6 km Parental Responsibility Zone are no longer bused to another school. In many ways I have been where you are.

I tell you this because there is no conspiracy to close Bishop Field. However, until a structural engineer can provide a report that eliminates structural safety concerns, I can not in all good conscious support a return. This is a serious situation that needs to be properly assessed. There is no looking the other way. I look forward to this work being completed as professionally, efficiently and expeditiously as possible.

It is my genuine hope that the old structure has many years of viability as a school ahead of it.
Good afternoon to you all,
I am writing today, regarding the current and ongoing situation with Bishop Feild Elementary. I am, and have been a parent at the school for twelve years now.

I am highly dissatisfied with the poor communication, and lack of clarity that the parent population has had to endure since we have been forced to move from our neighbourhood school on Bond Street. While I understand the need to assess the damage, I am upset at the lack of movement towards repairing or replacing the ceilings in our school, to allow for our children's speedy return. We are almost two months displaced, with no clear commitment or schedule, and even correspondence from board, government etc continues to be weak at best. I am however, hardly surprised at the lack of commitment to return us to Bond Street post haste, since history is telling in the appetite to offload our neighbourhood schools. I am aware of attempts some fifteen years back, to close our school and relocate the student population, and I suspect it is front and center in many minds again today.

From the very second that the section of plaster and lath (not roof, as media keeps misreporting) fell from the gymnasium ceiling, and we were forced out of our community, I have had a gnawing feeling that this was not an unhappy day for all those higher ups. In the many weeks since, while we families await responses and updates, which in the end contain no useful information, but instead mere jargon in the hopes to appease and stall us, I have heard rumblings from other school administrations, that the decision has already been made to close Bishop Feild, and rezone our children in the year to come. This move, if the statements are accurate, would be short sighted in the most *typical* of Newfoundland political fashion. Foresight has never been a strong suit in Newfoundland politics, so I guess why should we expect anything different now? So, to the point, is there truth that Bishop Feild's fate is already decided? Considering that such comments were overheard from other school administrations, I find it difficult to dismiss this as complete rumour. I can't help but wonder if it holds water. My expectation is, as a result, that in this upcoming structural assessment, officials will seek to find the answers they desire, for the outcome they desire.

Bishop Feild, our neighbourhood school, is the foundation of our community. Families, including ourselves, have moved to, and invested in our downtown neighbourhood to be within walking distance of the school. We live in the neighbourhood, and our children should go to school in our neighbourhood. With families moving into the downtown comes home improvement and rise in property value (remember that they are our houses that are used in your NL tourism commercials!), safer neighbourhoods, sustainability of businesses in the area, and sense of pride and place in our community. Few of you I expect, live in our neighbourhood, or have your children enrolled in our school, or one even remotely characteristic of Bishop Feild. You may not understand first hand the importance of our neighbourhood school, and how it affects, improves and strengthens every aspect of our community.

What we want and deserve as a school body, and as voters and citizens of this province, is to be given a firm commitment for our return to Bishop Feild on Bond Street, and direct and honest
answers to our concerns (and please, not the usual form letters that so many parents have been receiving). We want a timeline as to when we can expect to see repairs begun and completed, and students returning to their rightful neighbourhood school.

This prolonged upheaval has left the lives of our children and families very unsettled. We need to know when our children will return to their community school, so that life for us all can return to normal. Our school on Bond Street, laying empty, with no clear movement, or commitment from our government on repairs, leaves me upset, and suspicious of intentions. I am clearly not alone. We at Bishop Feild are a neighbourhood and a community, and we will stand as one.

To those of you who have been supportive of our community, and are working with us to obtain answers in this stressful time, I offer our most sincere thanks.

I would greatly appreciate a personal response.

Regards,

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From: Minister, TW
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:34 PM
To: Premier of NL; Kirby, Dale
Cc: RE: Bishop Feild Elementary
Attachments: Brophy_06305.pdf

COR/2017/06305 - ICOR2017/4799

Re: Bishop Feild Elementary

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your correspondence to Premier Ball, Minister Kirby and I regarding the engineering assessment for the Bishop Feild School and the overall future of the building.

An assessment of Bishop Feild School by Nova Consultants has begun and will finish by the end of February. To perform a thorough assessment, engineers must tear out ceilings throughout the school to assess the structure of the building. Given the amount of time that would be required to rehabilitate the school following the assessment, the Department of Transportation and Works has informed the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District that the school will likely be closed for the remainder of the school year.

I appreciate the frustration and concerns from some parents, however safety is paramount and we have to ensure the safety of the building before we can proceed.

Thank you for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

STEVE CROCKER, MHA
Carbonear-Trinity-Bay de Verde
Minister

“At work at play, let safety lead the way.”

cc. Premier Dwight Ball
Hon. Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
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To those of you who have been supportive of our community, and are working with us to obtain answers in this stressful time, I offer our most sincere thanks.

I would greatly appreciate a personal response.

Regards.

[40(1)]

[blank line]
Hi Nancy,

Attached is an email from [redacted] regarding Bishop Field Elementary.

Please have Minister Crocker copy Premier Ball on his response and email a copy to Premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

------< HPE Records Manager record Information >------

Record Number: ICOR2017/4799
Title : Email from [redacted] re: Bishop Field Elementary

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Re: Bishop Feild Elementary

Dear [Name],

Thank you for your correspondence to Premier Ball, Minister Kirby and I regarding the engineering assessment for the Bishop Feild School and the overall future of the building.

An assessment of Bishop Feild School by Nova Consultants has begun and will finish by the end of February. To perform a thorough assessment, engineers must tear out ceilings throughout the school to assess the structure of the building. Given the amount of time that would be required to rehabilitate the school following the assessment, the Department of Transportation and Works has informed the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District that the school will likely be closed for the remainder of the school year.

I appreciate the frustration and concerns from some parents, however safety is paramount and we have to ensure the safety of the building before we can proceed.

Thank you for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

STEVE CROCKER, MHA
Carbonear-Trinity-Bay de Verde
Minister

“At work at play, let safety lead the way.”

cc. Premier Dwight Ball
Hon. Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Hi Nancy,

Attached is an email from [REDACTED] to Minister Crocker regarding Bishop Field School.

Please have the Premier copied on the Minister's response to [REDACTED] and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >------

Record Number: ICOR2017/4780
Title: Email from [REDACTED] regarding Bishop Field School
Hello Everyone,

As I strolled my neighbourhood earlier this evening, I again found myself staring at a darkened and all too quiet heritage core DT school- My son’s school, the important community school. I wrote my first letters shortly after this began. For those letters, I received no reply whatsoever.

I have been patiently following the updates but frankly the updates are lacking clear direction and commitment. Coinciding with this are the copy paste responses from various departments received by fellow parents throughout the week. These copied replies are doing little but to reinforce this lack of priority and lack of commitment.

When exactly is the assessment and the subsequent repairs to commence? The public is familiar with the lengthy tender process for government projects; however that overly long tender process does not need to be the case and should not be the case for situations like this. Proposals can be written, received, reviewed and determined in good time (efficiently & effectively) if made a priority.
Is the repair of BFE, the students of BFE and downtown community living a priority for each of your offices?

It goes without saying that everyone wants and expects children, staff and visitors to be safe so it is not necessary to cite that angle for delays in the news.

What is expected now at this point is a clear path to commitment; commencing the necessary work and transparently working with the BFE community and the DT community towards the safe repair of this treasured and all important DT heritage school.

I respectfully request that there be no further copy paste noncommittal answers dancing around the questions posed by myself or others.
It’s December, this is a priority issue and it is time for action. Bishop Feild Elementary is something to be proud of in our city and obviously it is tremendously important on a multitude of levels that does not require listing.

I thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Sent from my iPhone
Re: Bishop Feild School Assessment and Repairs

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the engineering assessment for the Bishop Feild School.

An assessment of the Bishop Feild School by Nova Consultants has begun and will be completed by the end of February. To perform a thorough assessment, engineers must remove ceilings throughout the school to evaluate the structure of the building. Given the amount of time that would be required to rehabilitate the school following the assessment, the Department of Transportation and Works has informed the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District that the school will likely be closed for the remainder of the school year.

I appreciate the frustration and concerns from some parents, however, safety is paramount and we have to ensure the safety of the building before we can proceed.

Thank you for sharing your concerns.

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Carbonear-Trinity-Bay de Verde
Minister

"At work at play, let safety lead the way."

cc. Premier Dwight Ball
Hon. Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Tracy King, Deputy Minister, Transportation and Works
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STEVE CROCKER, MHA
Carbonear-Trinity-Bay de Verde
Minister

“At work at play, let safety lead the way.”

cc. Premier Dwight Ball
Hon. Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Tracy King, Deputy Minister, Transportation and Works
Cory Grandy, Assistant Deputy Minister Infrastructure
Re: Status of Bishop Feild School

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the status of the Bishop Feild School.

An assessment of the Bishop Feild School by Nova Consultants has begun and will be completed by the end of February. To perform a thorough assessment, engineers must remove ceilings throughout the school to evaluate the structure of the building. Given the amount of time that would be required to rehabilitate the school following the assessment, the Department of Transportation and Works has informed the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District that the school will likely be closed for the remainder of the school year.

I appreciate the frustration and concerns from some parents, however, safety is paramount and we have to ensure the safety of the building before we can proceed.

Thank you for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

STEVE CROCKER, MHA
Carbonear-Trinity-Bay de Verde
Minister

"At work at play, let safety lead the way."

cc. Premier Dwight Ball
Hon. Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Hon. Tom Osborne, Minister of Finance
Seamus O'Regan, MP St. John's South-Mount Pearl
Nick Whalen, MP St. John's East
Anthony Stack, Newfoundland English School District
Paul Davis, Leader of the Opposition
Gerry Rogers, MHA St. John’s Centre
Lorraine Michael, MHA St. John’s East-Quidi Vidi

From: [Contact Information]
Sent: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 12:00 AM
To: Minister, TW; Kirby, Dale; Ball, Dwight; anthonystack@nlesd.ca; Minister, Finance
Cc: Rogers, Gerry; Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail); Michael, Lorraine; nick.whalen@parl.gc.ca; seamus.oregan@parl.gc.ca
Subject: Reopen Bishop Feild

Good afternoon,

I'm the parent of a Bishop Feild student. Today, she informed me that when the wrecking ball came to take down her school, she would stand in front of it.

I could tell her such a thing wouldn't happen, but it's hard to do when adults told her she'd be back in her school after Christmas, and then retreated into some bureaucratic fog that she and her friends don't understand. I don't understand it either.

Needless to say, but I will say it, I am extremely disappointed with how the NLESĐ is handling all of this. Or should I say, not handling it? [Redacted] and can clearly see that no one official has been near it. I expect better.

We are exactly the kind of professional people this province needs to attract to survive. The chance to be part of a close-knit downtown community with Bishop Feild at the centre. Otherwise, we wouldn't be here. That's a fact.

Get it together and reopen Bishop Feild. Your silence gives life to the rumours that developers are circling like vultures. We don't need more ugly condos, we need our school.

If the wrecking ball comes, my daughter doesn't have to stand in front of it because I'll already be there.

Sincerely,

[Contact Information]
Re: Status of Bishop Feild School

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the status of the Bishop Feild School.

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cc. Premier Dwight Ball
Hon. Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Hon. Tom Osbourne, Minister of Finance
Seamus O'Regan, MP St. John's South-Mount Pearl
Hello Mr. Whittle,

Thank you for your reply some time ago, and I apologize for my delayed response.

I am sure there is no conspiracy as such, to close Bishop Feild, however I maintain that there is an agenda on the part of government and school board.

For starters, the structural engineering firm that was hired to undertake the initial assessment, and who then called for the need for a further 'complete structural assessment', was the very firm that was granted the job. I don’t recall the contract for the full structural assessment ever going to public tender. Clear conflict of interest there wouldn’t you say? Also, many points in the initial report were completely outside the scope of concern, and in many cases were moot and unjustified (for example, mention of accessibility, lack of air exchanger, and parking - accessibility regulations were grandfathered in because it is a historic building, the building breathes naturally thus the need for an air exchanger is moot, and parking is not an issue). While I understand further points may be made in assessments, these appeared to be included for no other reason than to bulk up perceived areas of concern, and had no bearing on the safety issue being assessed.
Also, just before Christmas break, just two months after our situation arose, a large section of concrete fell from the gymnasium ceiling in Brookside Elementary, in Portugal Cove/St. Phillip’s, in the middle of a volleyball tournament! Why wasn’t a brand new school, in a similar situation, treated in the same manner as Bishop Feild? That incident occurred on a Friday after school, and students were in class again on Monday. Where was their full structural assessment? It didn’t even make the media.

With regards to East Point Elementary on Middleton Street, I am aware that the zoning was meant to include some students from the Mary Queen of Peace population, but these families resisted the move, and the board relented. Now from what I understand, East Point is under populated. Enter the Bishop Feild situation. Some of our students are bussed from areas that border the catchment for East Point. You don’t need to entertain conspiracy theories to see the desired end to that equation.

The solution for all would be simple. Repair Bishop Feild ceilings, and return us to our neighbourhood school, and revise the catchment area so that the population who actually live in the area, can attend it. As it stands now, and as it has been for many years, families who can practically see the school, and are actually within walking distance, are zoned for a school that they have to be bussed to.

Clearly, as a parent I am concerned for the safety of the children, and agree that the building needs to be made safe, but I do not appreciate apparent attempts to hoodwink our school community. We are still in the dark on any progress being made. We have had no communication regarding the assessment for quite some time now. As a member of the community, I am also concerned for the neighbourhood. The school is a vital part of the downtown.

Our school, one of the last true community schools in the city, needs to be repaired, and the students returned to Bond Street.

Thank you very much for your time,

On 2017-12-05, at 5:58 PM, Peter Whittle (Trustee) wrote:

I think neighbourhood primary and elementary schools are the heart of many communities.

The bottom line for me at this point is safety. There has been no decision to close Bishop field. That would be speculation or opinion.

2017 marked the conclusion of a 14 year advocacy piece that saw a new neighbourhood school open on Middleton Street and the catchment Zone adjusted to ensure neighbourhood children
within the 1.6 km Parental Responsibility Zone are no longer bused to another school. In many ways I have been where you are.

I tell you this because there is no conspiracy to close Bishop Field. However, until a structural engineer can provide a report that eliminates structural safety concerns, I can not in all good conscious support a return. This is a serious situation that needs to be properly assessed. There is no looking the other way. I look forward to this work being completed as professionally, efficiently and expeditiously as possible.

It is my genuine hope that the old structure has many years of viability as a school ahead of it.

THINK LOCAL, ACT VOCAL!!
Trustee Zone 16
NLESD
709 697 1998

On Dec 5, 2017, at 4:10 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon to you all,
I am writing today, regarding the current and ongoing situation with Bishop Feild Elementary. I am, and have been a parent at the school for twelve years now.

I am highly dissatisfied with the poor communication, and lack of clarity that the parent population has had to endure since we have been forced to move from our neighbourhood school on Bond Street. While I understand the need to assess the damage, I am upset at the lack of movement towards repairing or replacing the ceilings in our school, to allow for our children's speedy return. We are almost two months displaced, with no clear commitment or schedule, and even correspondence from board, government etc continues to be weak at best. I am however, hardly surprised at the lack of commitment to return us to Bond Street post haste, since history is telling in the appetite to offload our neighbourhood schools. I am aware of attempts some fifteen years back, to close our school and relocate the student population, and I suspect it is front and center in many minds again today.

From the very second that the section of plaster and lath (not roof, as media keeps misreporting) fell from the gymnasium ceiling, and we were forced out of our community, I have had a gnawing feeling that this was not an unhappy day for all those higher ups. In the many weeks since, while we families await responses and updates, which in the end contain no useful information, but instead mere jargon in the hopes to appease and stall us, I have heard rumblings from other school administrations, that the decision has already been made to close Bishop Feild, and rezone our children in the year to come. This move, if the statements are accurate, would be short sighted in the most *typical* of Newfoundland political fashion. Foresight has never been a strong suit in Newfoundland politics, so I guess why should we expect anything different now? So, to the point, is there truth that Bishop Feild's fate is already decided? Considering that such comments were overheard from other school administrations, I find it difficult to dismiss this
as complete rumour. I can't help but wonder if it holds water. My expectation is, as a result, that in this upcoming structural assessment, officials will seek to find the answers they desire, for the outcome they desire.

Bishop Feild, our neighbourhood school, is the foundation of our community. Families, including ourselves, have moved to, and invested in our downtown neighbourhood to be within walking distance of the school. We live in the neighbourhood, and our children should go to school in our neighbourhood. With families moving into the downtown comes home improvement and rise in property value (remember that they are our houses that are used in your NL tourism commercials!), safer neighbourhoods, sustainability of businesses in the area, and sense of pride and place in our community. Few of you I expect, live in our neighbourhood, or have your children enrolled in our school, or one even remotely characteristic of Bishop Feild. You may not understand first hand the importance of our neighbourhood school, and how it affects, improves and strengthens every aspect of our community.

What we want and deserve as a school body, and as voters and citizens of this province, is to be given a firm commitment for our return to Bishop Feild on Bond Street, and direct and honest answers to our concerns (and please, not the usual form letters that so many parents have been receiving). We want a timeline as to when we can expect to see repairs begun and completed, and students returning to their rightful neighbourhood school.

This prolonged upheaval has left the lives of our children and families very unsettled. We need to know when our children will return to their community school, so that life for us all can return to normal. Our school on Bond Street, laying empty, with no clear movement, or commitment from our government on repairs, leaves me upset, and suspicious of intentions. I am clearly not alone. We at Bishop Feild are a neighbourhood and a community, and we will stand as one.

To those of you who have been supportive of our community, and are working with us to obtain answers in this stressful time, I offer our most sincere thanks.

I would greatly appreciate a personal response.

Regards,
Hi Janet,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is an email from [REDacted] to Premier Ball regarding Bishop Field Elementary - Engineering assessment and final report.

Please copy the Premier on the Minister's response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca within 10 business days.

Thank you,
Kaitlyn

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >------

Record Number: ICOR2017/4799-05
Title: Email from [REDacted] to Premier Ball regarding Bishop Field Elementary - Engineering assessment and final report
With reference to the above ICOR number, response to [REDACTED] will be prepared by TW and copied to Premier.

Thanks Janet

Janet Cormey
Secretary to Minister
Department of Education
and Early Childhood Development
P. O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
Phone: 709-729-5040
Fax: 709-729-0414

-----Original Message-----
From: Burden, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 11:12 AM
To: Smith, Paul C
Subject: RE: HPE Records Manager records

Thanks Paul. Yes we will respond to [REDACTED]. I’ve catalogued and sent this one through the system. We’ll copy the Premier.
Nancy

-----Original Message-----
From: Smith, Paul C
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 11:10 AM
To: Burden, Nancy
Subject: HPE Records Manager records

Hi Nancy,

Will TW be responding to the attached correspondence, consistent with similar past inquiries re Bishop Field? Note as well the request from Premier’s Office.

Thanks
Paul
Good Afternoon,

I am writing once again, to enquire about the status of the engineering assessment and the final report, on Bishop Feild Elementary. We were lead to believe that the assessment would be completed by now, even with the last delay, and we are most eager now, to know what is detailed in the final report. Our school community, families and neighbourhood have been in limbo for months, and we would greatly appreciate new information. The school year is quickly drawing to a close, and we deserve to know what will be done to repair the school, at what cost, and the timeline of those repairs, for our return. Family’s lives have been disrupted, and we need to know when things will return to normal. While we understand and agree that safety is an important consideration in this process, with the final days of this school year approaching, we deserve to know the intention of board and government, regarding the repair and return of our neighbourhood school.

Kind Regards,