



490 Woodward Avenue
Saint John, New Brunswick
E2K 5N3

August 13, 2019

Hon. Dominic Cardy, Minister
Education & Early Childhood Development
Place 2000, 250 King Street
Fredericton, NB E3B 9M9

Dear Minister Cardy:

At the June 12, 2019 meeting of the District Education Council, a motion was made and passed to write to you with regard to concerns about the current funding formula and process used for teacher allocation. During the Council meeting, we heard from the PSSC Chair from Deer Island Community School where they will have 51 students next year and each of their three classrooms will be triple grade classes.

In the last few years teacher staffing has been a challenge across our District with reductions in the number of teachers funded. Staff follow the maximum class size provisions for combined and single grade classrooms as per the NBTf Collective Agreement. The District attempts in very small schools to top up the administration time given to Principals, to ensure all have at least 0.4 or 0.5 dedicated to administrative work. ASD-S also supports alternate education programming for high school and in the past this has been taken from any flexibility the Superintendent had with the funding formula for teachers. This is becoming increasingly difficult. We are very appreciative of the additional teachers which came with the signing of the last Collective Agreement; these teachers must be assigned in addition to meeting our class size obligations under the Collective Agreement and tracked separately for reporting back to EECD.

We ask that you undertake a review of the current funding formula in hopes of better addressing current needs with small schools, grade 1 French Immersion offered at more schools, the need for alternate programming at high school, the presence of grade 4/5 combined Intensive French classrooms and the need to cover two music and three physical education classes at K-5 schools. The existing formula and process has been in place for a number of years.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,


Roger Nesbitt
Vice Chair

/cmm

copy: Rob Fowler, Chair, District Education Council
Zoë Watson, Superintendent ASD-S