

March 3, 2016

A Message from the Superintendent to Bayside Staff and Parents

Planning for Bayside Middle School Roof Replacement:

The prospect for full replacement of the Bayside roof took a big step forward on [March 2, 2016](#) with the Minister's statement of commitment to the replacement of the entire roof. Thank you so much to the Bayside parents and the PAC executive for your strong advocacy over the past few weeks. It has made a world of difference, both in terms of media coverage and in terms of your direct involvement with our MLA and the Minister.

As well, thank you to the Bayside staff for 24 years of tolerating an intolerable situation. You and your students have been clearing away water, putting out buckets, and dodging drips and puddles for far too long, and that appears to be coming to an end. Thanks as well go to our maintenance crew who have over the past ten years completed 128 work orders, many of them substantial and all of them important. During those ten years we have applied non-stop for roof replacement under one capital program or another, and done \$380,000 worth of work that took us from 38 leaks in 2007 down to four, but even that was four too many. And now we are back up to 40 leaks during downpours, and finally we have hope for a new roof. Again, thank you.

As you know, prior to the Minister's statement we submitted preliminary cost estimates of \$2.6 million for the roof alone based on engineering from previous years, and were working with Ministry of Education staff to prepare a Project Development Report. That report, similar in format to what is required for seismic projects, requires engineering, design, a cost consultant estimate, assessment of risks to be managed, costing of those risks, procurement method, cash-flow estimates and more. Given the scope of this project and Ministry timelines for capital approvals, our target for that work to be completed was mid-April, but as I have mentioned, we are committed to providing the Ministry with whatever they need within two weeks to move things along.

Overall this is an extensive undertaking to prepare the project development report, move to a project agreement for signature by the Board and the Minister as required, tender the project, and then start construction. Through it all we must align our planning with very specific and detailed requirements of the Ministry and Treasury Board. This is an extensive and complex process of planning and engineering, and it does take time, but we remain committed to the ambitious timeline of having required costing information to the Ministry within two weeks and the project development report done by April. Then comes project approval for tendering in May and commencement of the four month construction project in July.

With appreciation and optimism,

Keven Elder, Superintendent of Schools