



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43 - Kemptville, Ontario - K0G 1J0
Phone: 613-258-7757 Toll-Free: 1-800-443-4562 Fax: 613-258-7134
www.cdsbeo.on.ca



November 12, 2019

Debi LucasSwitzer
Chief Administrative Officer
Township of South Stormont
Box 84, 2 Mille Roches Rd.
Long Sault, ON
K0C 1P0

Dear Ms. LucasSwitzer and Councillors of the Township of South Stormont,

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario would like to formally thank you for the outstanding partnership you have maintained with us over many years. Your support and cooperation are of great value to us and directly impact the families in the community of St. Andrew's and beyond.

St. Andrew's Catholic Elementary school has been located at 17283 Post Road since 1848. This is one of the oldest schools in the CDSBEO that has welcomed families and educated generations of individuals in South Stormont. Because of our partnership, the school has been able to evolve, change and accommodate new students year after year. Our shared property has allowed our students to enjoy the Heritage library over the years.

We have been made aware that you are now contemplating what next steps are to be taken regarding the Heritage building. We want to assure you that we want to continue to partner with you in making the best decisions possible for this building and for the students of the St. Andrew's community. We understand that the building needs great repair and that some options have been proposed to Council.

During our meeting of November 6, 2019, you inquired as to whether the CDSBEO had any interest in acquiring the Heritage Centre Building. Unfortunately, although the CDSBEO has interest in the land the building sits on, the Board does not have funds available to it to acquire the building and to pay for its subsequent demolition. We would however like to share with you that we have concerns regarding the sale of this building to an alternate third party. As the building is located on the highest point of our school yard with no access unless utilizing school property, this becomes a safety concern for our students. In the eventuality that the building is sold, the Township would need to ensure that both safety requirements and a level of appropriateness for a buyer be maintained. CDSBEO does have policies and procedures regarding outside individuals accessing school property, for example, there is a requirement for a criminal record check for any individuals that have access to students. We understand that you are also considering leaving the building as is and securing it with a fence. We agree, at least for the immediate term, that a high enough fence be erected around the complete building to ensure on-going student and staff safety. We would like to ensure that the building does not pose a threat to the well-being of students as they play around it throughout the school year. The CDSBEO is also willing to do a general exterior visual inspection daily to ensure that there are no safety concerns identified.

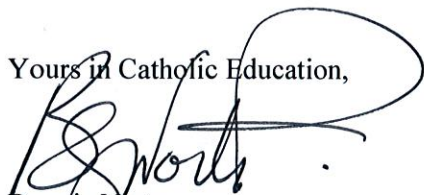
In the eventuality that you decide to demolish the building, which is the Board's preferred course of action, we would be more than happy to work with you to create and memorialize the area with benches,

some of the spiritual statues from the building and possibly a garden. This would allow for both students and families in the community to enjoy the area. Many tourists come to St. Andrew's to visit the cemetery and its great historical significance. An area for people to sit and admire the cemetery, where the first Premier of Canada was buried, would be of great use to the Township, as you continue to promote this area.

As we navigate through the coming months, please rest assured that we will continue to support the Township to make the best decisions possible for the school, our students and our future families of St. Andrew's and the surrounding area. St. Andrew's Catholic Elementary School is a valued and important part of this community. Parents will move to the area when given strong educational options. We are committed to continuing to offer quality programming in the best facility and greenspace possible.

If you require any other information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please continue to keep us informed as you move forward with this consultation and a decision on next steps.

Yours in Catholic Education,



Bonnie Norton
Associate Director of Education & Treasurer



Natalie Cameron
Superintendent of School Effectiveness