

April 20, 2021

Eleanor Roulston
Warden of the Municipality of East Hants
Box 230, Suite 170
15 Commerce Court
Elmsdale, NS B2S 3K5

Dear Ms. Roulston,

I am writing to you today as the chair of the School Advisory Committee for Hants East Rural High School as a follow up to a visit we had at HERH by the Education Minister Zach Churchill and Margaret Miller. The letter below is what was shared in response to the visit and the SAC felt it important to also share this with you for information purposes.

As a life-long resident of this community, a former student and a parent of children who attended HERH, I know that you have seen first hand the tireless work of the staff and community to make the school a welcoming space, where students are inspired to learn and develop into impactful young adults.

Unfortunately, the physical fabric of the school is not as welcoming, as it has long out-lived its original life span. Built in 1957, decades of repairs and make-shift solutions are no longer satisfactory and, in some cases, the building is a danger to the health and safety of the students and staff. It is a challenge to instill in students that their community and their province believes in them, when they have to learn in a building that does not reflect their potential and, in fact, impedes their success.

You will recall from your visit to the school some of our most pressing issues: our front entrance needs to be replaced (doors and crumbling stairs); the roof leaks (we have buckets throughout the school after rain or snow storms); our bathrooms need to be renovated (doors are broken and missing, plumbing is outdated and most are not accessible); the parking lot and driveway need to be paved; and ventilation is lacking, students are often forced to learn in extreme heat.

HERH will be unable to comply with the Province's goal of being fully accessible by 2030 if plans for significant upgrades are not made soon. All youth deserve equality and to learn in an environment that meets their needs.

While the school has been placed on the CCRCE Capital Construction list for significant work, we ask that our school be placed at the top of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's priority school replacement list and that a priority list of possible renovations begin in the interim. Our youth ought to attend a school that is built for the diverse learning needs of twenty-first century students.

The members of the HERH School Advisory Committee thank you for time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sherri Miles
(SAC Chair, HERH)