November 30, 2021

The Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Education
228 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
Email: education.minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Minister LaGrange:

The Town of Okotoks agrees with concerns raised by Christ the Redeemer (CTR) Catholic School Division with regard to the overall condition of Ecole Good Shepherd School (EGSS), and supports a new build rather than renovating EGSS.

The Town acknowledges budgets and funding are tight and limited at all levels of government, and understands that at the end of the day there is only one taxpayer. However, the Town supports a comprehensive plan for spending funds that will result in a structure that is solid and will last well into the future, versus a short-term solution that will still need future contributions. The analysis provided by CTR for remediation of EGSS costing $19.78 million and the cost of a new build being $21.9 million illustrates that the best and most cost effective solution is the construction of a new school at D'Arcy Ranch which is less than two kilometres from EGSS.
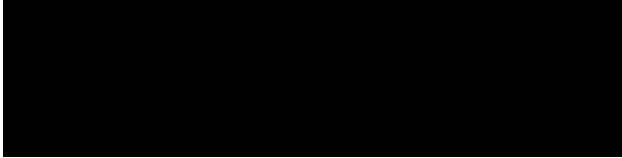
Okotoks has given conditional support to keep using the Sprung structure as a gym for EGSS for the period of time it will take to have the longer term solution of a new school built at D'Arcy Ranch. To further highlight the Town's support, if a new school build was approved, immediate access to this shovel ready site is available and would be provided.

As immediate needs would be met by a new school in D'Arcy, Okotoks would support the demolition of EGSS and the site restored to green space for two to five years. Okotoks supports CTR's vision and request as detailed in their letter to you, as Minister of Education, dated March 29, 2021.

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Town of Okotoks, P.O. Box 20, Stn. Main, 5 Elizabeth Street, Okotoks, Alberta, T1S 1K1   Phone: (403) 938-4404   Fax: (403) 938-7387

I would be happy to discuss Okotoks' support of the request from CTR and our vision for EGSS and a new school build in our community.

Sincerely,

Tanya Thorn
Mayor

c: Dr. Morrison, Superintendent,
        Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools

        R.J. Sigurdson, MLA for Highwood