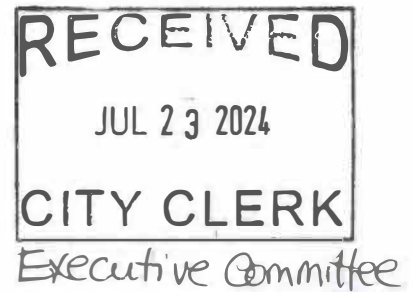


July 23, 2024

Mayor Greg Dionne,  
Council members  
City of Prince Albert  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan



Re : New francophone school

On behalf of the conseil-école (parents' council) at l'École Valois, I wish to express some of our concerns over delays in the planning and construction of the new francophone school in our school district, in particular with regards to allocation of a suitable building site for said school. We will start with the history of the school and project and then move into the present and work on finding a way our school can obtain a 10-acre parcel of land so that we are able to move forward with the project and get our students the school they need!

In 1994-95 École Valois opened its doors in the former St. Margaret Catholic School under the management of the newly-formed Conseil des écoles fransaskoises (francophone school board)

In 2013 the provincial government was made aware of the need for additional space at École Valois due to increasing enrolments, to the implementation of a complete high school program and to the inadequate and ageing facility for our students. The same year our community organizations even gave up their spaces to accommodate the school's short-term needs.

In 2018, then Minister of Education, Gord Wyant and local MLA's visited the school and concurred that the facility did not meet required standards.

In March 2019, the entire Fransaskois community was happy to learn that an MOU had been signed between the Ministry and the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises, for the construction of three new schools including a replacement school for École Valois.

That announcement led simultaneously over the next two years to efforts to find a suitable building site on municipal lands and to discussions, cost analyses, feasibility studies, engineering reports and consultations involving the provincial government, the CEF and our entire community pertaining to the acquisition of Rivier Academy.

During that period, many meetings were held between francophone community and City representatives, including Mayor Dionne, to share information and seek support for the Rivier project. Formal City support was never provided. Without knowing the behind the scenes it appears that our city was much quicker to formally support similar development

projects brought forward first by the Métis Nation and then a private, denominational group in the same building.

We are continuing to work with City of Prince Albert officials to identify a suitable building site for our new facility. We have a particular site we think would be suitable for our school and francophone community center, it is at the east end of Marquis Road where it is just field.

Up till today, as far as I know the City maintains that our choices of building sites have not fallen within the present terms of its Overall Community Development Plan and seems unwilling to amend its plan. I would like to highlight schools built in Warman in 2017, Holy Trinity and Traditions Elementary, they were built in a field waiting for the city to grow around them this is exactly what we are able to do in Prince Albert, with allocated public reserve in a new area we would be able to be ahead of the curve and allow the city to grow around out school.

From our vantage point, our childrens' educational rights and our community's development are very important to us and we would like to work at having all levels government work with us and help us achieve our goals to have our children get the education they deserve in a space they will thrive in.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to quickly resolve this matter by working with us on finding a suitable location where our kids can grow, and cooperating with the Ministry of Education building on that proposed 10 acre building site. It is our hope that in the next couple of years all our children will be enjoying their education at the new school and francophone community center here in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Best regards,

Roger Boucher  
President, Conseil-École  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

660 - 20th Street West  
Prince Albert, Sk S6V4H3

**Recommended  
Disposition:**

Refer to  
Community  
Development