

July 28, 2014

Mary Martin, Chair
Board of Trustees
Calgary Catholic School District

Dear Trustee Mary Martin:

By now, you would have received the Scenic Acres Community Association response to the CBE as reference regarding their letter to Honourable Jeff Johnson.


The Scenic Acres Community Association is disappointed with your letter of July 21st stating the CCSD's speculative position that community engagement impedes school management and planning, using the JUA as justification for this rationale. Robust capital plans and as a matter of fact, all business plans should leverage the ideas and views of all stakeholders at the frontend of the process in order to augment decision making and streamline execution. In this context, the JUA framework and governance remains unchanged.

We do not believe the best interests of Calgary are served locating a regional school centrally within a mature community and that the established procedures of the JUA are being misapplied and/or not being fully considered in context of this land situation. With respect to the re-assessment in June 2014, we contend that Conseil Scolaire FrancoSud Board has given cursory consideration to locate on a more appropriate site and focussed attention on perceived delays to school completion. Our thanks to you for providing two additional locations for the JUCC re-assessment that were considered satisfactory for the regional school. In addition, one of those community association presidents did reach out to us and state they would welcome the Francophone school! We contend these are not the behaviours of due diligence and furthermore are inconsistent to a public commitment the Conseil Scolaire FrancoSud Board made to the Scenic Acres Community at the May 21st Open House to seriously consider alternate sites.

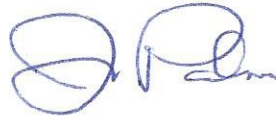
The CCSD's position that engagement would delay this project implies that this delay would be extensive. Based on our discussions with AB Infrastructure and commitment by City Planners to accelerate changes associated with land selection if that were to occur, the extent of the delay period is in question and would need to be determined. We have worked as a Community not just to oppose park development but to engage collaboratively with our elected officials and associated administrations to find a suitable alternative to avoid or at least minimize delays.

Scenic Acres believes there is no precedent set by engaging communities in school planning – it only challenges the Boards to sharpen existing capital planning methods and to apply the JUA correctly and holistically, considering school, stakeholder and demographic dynamics in the context of full land optimization. The CCSD Board is elected by its constituents, funded by them and should be accountable to them for thorough planning and optimal results.

Best Regards,



Dean Erickson
President Scenic Acres Community Association



Jim Palmer
Vice-President SA Community Association

- cc. Honourable Jeff Johnson, Minister of Education
Honourable Wayne Drysdale, Minister of Infrastructure
Honourable Greg Weadick, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Honourable Sandra Jansen, MLA, Calgary-North West
Mayor Naheed Nenshi, City of Calgary
Ward Sutherland, Councillor, Ward 1
Anne-Marie Boucher, Chair, Francophone Education Region
Mary Martin, Chair, Calgary Catholic School District
Serafino Scarpino, Trustee, Calgary Catholic School District
Scott Lockwood, City of Calgary, City Planning
Keath Parker, City of Calgary, City Planning
Kyle Ripley, City of Calgary, City Planning
Ruth Sorrentino, General Manager, Scenic Acres Community Association
Save Our Park Steering Committee