



July 17, 2012

Honourable Dalton McGuinty  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Room 281  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier,

**Re: Capital funds to include Hub at Sacred Heart School**

First, let me take the time to acknowledge the positive move forward the Ministry of Education has taken with the release of memorandum 2012: B3. The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board is pleased to see the Ministry's commitment to the Best Start vision of child care space's within schools. As you may be aware, the Manitoulin – Sudbury District Services Board sent a letter in 2010, which is attached, concerning the need for capital for child care space within replacement schools. At that time, the Ministry of Education was not prepared to assist with capital for the child care centre. Attached, you will find a copy of the approval for capital funds, which includes the replacement of child care space. With this positive step forward, in achieving the Best Start vision comes a negative reality that the Hub space was not included. Since the Sacred Heart School contains a child care centre and a Best Start Hub, as per the Province's vision, we are saddened that the Hub was not included in capital planning.

Therefore, I am writing this letter to address the issue that the Hub space has been left out of the equation with the hope that the Province might consider the approval of capital funds. You will find, in the correspondence, from the Huron-Superior Catholic School Board, the details of the \$417,000 required to keep the Hub space within the plans for the replacement school. In order to achieve the Best Start vision, it is our hope that this will be considered and that the corresponding Ministry's will address this funding requirement.

As per the Best Start vision for the development of Best Start Hubs, local networks historically planned for Hubs to coordinate community-based children's services. As a

result, many agencies operating child care centres operate Hubs. These agencies, including Our Children Our Future specifically, deliver integrated early learning and child care services. These services include child care and the full spectrum of Hub services that the vision put forth. According to the vision, and along with child care site selection preference, schools were also designated as the preferred sites for Best Start Hubs. If the current Hub space is not funded to remain within the Sacred Heart School, and within proximity of the child care site, we feel this would be a shortfall in reaching the Best Start Vision.

The Provincial Government's recent discussion paper, "Modernizing Child Care in Ontario", states the long-term vision as: "Where possible, services will be located in or linked with schools to enhance seamlessness for children and families". In addition, the paper states "The Government of Ontario is committed to working with partners to modernize the child care system". To date, we have worked with the Best Start vision and have been able to locate the child care centre and Best Start Hub within the same school location. However, it has become a reality that, if the Province does not commit the capital required for the Best Start Hub as well, the vision of a seamless and coordinated early learning system will take a step back rather than forward.

It is our hope to continue to work with the Ministry's to follow in the Best Start Vision. I must also express the urgency of this request in order for Huron-Superior Catholic School Board to move forward on schedule with their plans and design for the replacement of the Sacred Heart School. With the approval of some capital funds for the school and child care centre, the next steps must be finalized by fall in order for the tenders to go out, and for the breaking of ground in the spring of 2013.

In order that the Best Start vision continue in its entirety, we would appreciate your timely response in reviewing this matter as it has the potential to negatively impact the larger Best Start vision and the work that has been accomplished to date.

Respectfully yours,



Les Gamble, Chair

cc. Hon. Laurel Broten, Minister of Education  
Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Children and Youth Services  
Huron-Superior Catholic School Board  
Our Children Our Future  
Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network



November 16, 2010

Mr. John Stadnyk  
Director of Education  
Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board  
90 Ontario Ave.  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario  
P6C 6G7

Dear Mr. Stadnyk:

**Re: Child Care Centre & Best Start Child & Family Centre - Letter of Support**

Since the onset of the Best Start initiative in 2004 it has been the Ontario Government's expectation that all new child care spaces created in the province will be opened in Ontario's publicly funded schools. The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has strongly supported child care centres located in schools. It has been proven that Child Care Centres in Schools acts as a feeder to the schools and assist children with their transition to education in a familiar setting. We have also heard that when parents register their child in a school, their main concern is that the school has a Child Care Centre for their younger siblings.

As of April 2010, Minister Laurel Broten with the Ministry of Children & Youth Services (MCYS), and Minister Leona Dombrowsky with the Ministry of Education jointly announced the transfer of child care from MCYS to the Ministry of Education. This transfer of all child care responsibility to Education also adheres to a vision of ensuring that children receive the best opportunities for learning, as well as care throughout their early years.

Special Advisor on Early Learning, Dr. Charles Pascal was asked to make recommendations on "how to build on the success of Ontario's Best Start strategy for a comprehensive, continuous, and integrated system for children from birth to age 12 and their families". His number one recommendation was 'The Province should create a continuum of early learning, child care and family supports for children from the prenatal period through to adolescence, under the leadership of the Minister of Education'. This recommendation certainly supports that it is in the best interest of the child for Child Care Centres and Best Start Child & Family Centres to be located in school.

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Sacred Heart presently houses a licensed Child Care Centre and a Best Start Child & Family Centre operated by Our Children Our Future (OCOF). We understand the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will be building a new school at the Sacred Heart site. We would like to advocate on behalf of the families in the LaCloche area presently utilizing the Child Care Centre and Best Start Child & Family Centre located in Sacred Heart School. We would strongly encourage the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board to include both these programs as part of the new building plans. Not having a Child Care Centre incorporated in your new school could have a negative impact on the school population and may affect the availability of licensed child care in the LaCloche area if OCOF is unable to locate a suitable site for their Child Care Centre.

As the Service System Manager for Child Care in the LaCloche area, we are responsible for providing funding to all licensed Child Care Centres and Best Start Child & Family Centres within the LaCloche area. We understand that, based on early estimates, the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board will require approximately \$600,000 in capital funding to include the existing Child Care Centre and Best Start Child & Family Centre in the new school. The funding received by this DSB from the province does not include capital dollars that would allow us to consider a request of this magnitude.

Since the Ministry of Education will soon be transferred the responsibility for funding Child Care Centres, I believe they are in the best position to support and fund your request.

Sincerely,



Fern Dominelli  
CAO, Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB

C.c. Honorable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education  
Honorable Mike Brown, MPP Algoma-Manitoulin  
Stewart Meikleham, School Council Chair, Sacred Heart School  
Syndy Withers, Principal Sacred Heart School

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Assistant Deputy Minister  
Business & Finance Division  
20th Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint  
Division des opérations et des finances  
20<sup>e</sup> étage, Édifice Mowat  
900, rue Bay  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



June 12, 2012

Mr. John Stadnyk  
Director of Education  
Huron Superior Catholic District School Board  
90 Ontario Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 6G7

Dear Mr. Stadnyk,

The Ministry of Education has undertaken a detailed review of your school board's request for capital funding to support the replacement of child care spaces located in a school that is scheduled to be rebuilt, as requested in **Memorandum 2012: B3**.

I am pleased to confirm that based on the request submitted by your board, the ministry has approved \$559,136 to fund the replacement of 26 child care spaces at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Espanola. This funding approval can only be used to address capital costs related to the replacement of child care spaces to serve children under 3.8 years of age.

The total ministry grants provided to date to construct the new Sacred Heart Catholic School are identified in the table below.

|                              | <b>Capital Priorities Funding</b> | <b>Full Day Kindergarten (Year 3)</b> | <b>Child Care Replacement</b> | <b>Total Funding Available</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sacred Heart Catholic School | \$3,388,109                       | \$506,269                             | \$559,136                     | \$4,453,514                    |

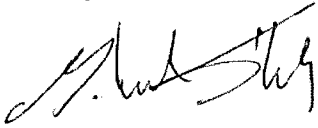
This approval is conditional, subject to amendments to the regulations governing the Grants for Student Needs and approval by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Also note that an Approval to Proceed with the capital project is required before the board proceeds to tender the construction of the new school. Further, should the board not choose to proceed with the replacement of Sacred Heart Catholic School, please be aware that the \$559,136 approved for the child care replacement cannot be used to fund other costs related to the project.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your assistance and support throughout this process.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Cameron Whitehead at (416) 325-4297 or via email at [Cameron.Whitehead@ontario.ca](mailto:Cameron.Whitehead@ontario.ca)

Sincerely,



Gabriel F. Sékaly  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Business and Finance Division

cc: Chris Spina, Superintendent of Business  
Ray Hannah, Children's Program Supervisor, Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board  
Nancy Whynot, Director, Capital Programs Branch  
Andrew Davis, Director, Financial Analysis and Accountability Branch  
Grant Osborn, Director, Capital Policy Branch  
Jill Worthy, Education Officer Coordinator, Early Learning and Child Care Implementation Branch