



# Memorandum

**Date:** March 29, 2024  
**To:** Planning and Facilities Committee  
**Prepared by:** Rob Drew, Director of Operations  
(on behalf of Trustee Julia Fraser)

**Information:** **BCSTA Board Motion Update**

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## 1.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

Planning and Facilities Committee Outcome – February 7, 2024

The Planning and Facilities Committee recommended to the Board:

THAT: The BCSTA advocate to the Ministry of Finance/Treasury Board to increase the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Annual Facilities Grant so that school districts can address billions in deferred maintenance to: improve accessibility; ensure student safety; enhance learning environments; extend facility lifespan and ensure long-term fiscal responsibility.

Public Board Meeting – February 14, 2024

Main Motion 24P-015

THAT: The Board of Education send the following motion to the BCSTA Legislative Committee for consideration in the upcoming 2024 BCSTA AGM:

THAT: The BCSTA advocate to the Ministry of Finance/Treasury Board to increase the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Annual Facilities Grant so that school districts can address billions in deferred maintenance to: improve accessibility; ensure student safety; enhance learning environments; extend facility lifespan and ensure long-term fiscal responsibility.

## 2.0 INFORMATION STATEMENT

The BCSTA Legislative Committee has approved the Motion to come forward to the 2024 BCSTA AGM in April 2024 with the following rationale:

Increasing the Annual Facilities Grant is a crucial step for boards of education when school districts are burdened with millions (billions provincially) in deferred maintenance. This investment would allow boards of education to allocate funds specifically to tackle this backlog. Here are several considerations for the necessity of investing in this fund.

*Ensuring Student Safety and Well-Being:* Deferred maintenance often involves critical repairs related to safety, such as fixing electrical systems, addressing structural issues, or dealing with health hazards. A well-maintained school environment is essential for the safety and well-being of students, teachers, and staff.

*Enhancing Learning Environments:* Adequate funding for maintenance and facilities improvement contributes to a better learning environment. Updated and well-maintained facilities can positively impact student engagement, motivation, and overall academic performance.

*Extending Facility Lifespan:* Regular maintenance and timely repairs extend the lifespan of facilities and infrastructure. By addressing deferred maintenance, the district can prevent further deterioration and ultimately reduce long-term costs associated with major repairs or replacements.

*Increasing Energy Efficiency:* Investing in facility improvements can include implementing energy-efficient upgrades. These upgrades not only reduce the environmental footprint but also lead to cost savings in the long run, thus optimizing resource allocation.

*Enhancing Community Relations:* Having well-maintained and modern school facilities positively impacts the community's perception of the district. It demonstrates a commitment to providing a quality education and a safe environment for students, fostering a positive relationship between the district and the community.

*Attracting and Retaining Staff:* Upgraded facilities can help in attracting and retaining staff. A positive work environment can be a deciding factor for educators considering employment in the district, ultimately benefiting the quality of education provided.

*Meeting Regulatory Standards:* Adequate funding for facilities is essential to ensure compliance with local, provincial, and national building codes and regulations. Noncompliance can result in legal and financial consequences, making it imperative to allocate sufficient funds for maintenance and upgrades.

*Long-Term Fiscal Responsibility:* Addressing deferred maintenance and investing in facility improvements now can result in substantial cost savings over time. Proactive maintenance is often more cost-effective than addressing larger issues that arise from neglect.

*Environmental Standards:* Addressing the need for fire-hardening of our schools.

*Cost Efficiency:* The future costs do not include inflation. The increased costs of supply, transportation, labour, etc. could end up doubling the original estimate of work. It is a better use of tax dollars and more prudent to do the work immediately instead of deferring it to the future.

### **3.0 NEXT STEPS**

The Motion will be presented at the 2024 BCSTA AGM being held in April 2024.

### **4.0 APPENDIX**

None