



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

August 27, 2018

The Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education
Ontario Ministry of Education
Mowat Block 22nd Floor, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Thompson,

RE: AMO follow up

On behalf of The Town of Wasaga Beach and its citizens I am writing to thank you for the time that you made to meet with myself and the delegation from Wasaga Beach in Ottawa at AMO about the matter of a high school (or 7-12 school) for Wasaga Beach. As discussed, our business case is documented in correspondence sent to the Ministry on October 18 and 24, 2017. We have the support of our MPP, the Hon. Jim Wilson, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, and the unanimous support of Simcoe County Council.

I was encouraged by your level of interest during our discussion, and as requested, I am enclosing the following supporting documents for your consideration:

- 1) Letter of support from previous Minister of Education;
- 2) Copy of letter from Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) to Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) regarding the fact that the ministry will provide the SCDSB with the funding to purchase the property for a high school in Wasaga Beach;
- 3) Copy of the Altus Report;
- 4) Copy of report on course distribution between schools;
- 5) Letter from the County of Simcoe expressing unanimous support for a high school (or more appropriate grade designation, 7-12) for Wasaga Beach.

As our new Minister of Education, it is my hope that the town and council of Wasaga Beach can count on you to honour the commitments made by the previous Minister, which are supported by our local MPP Jim Wilson and the County of Simcoe.

I look forward to having a follow up discussion with you and I am happy to travel to Queen's Park to meet with you in Toronto at your earliest convenience. I have asked my EA to reach out to your office and to coordinate with MPP Wilson on planning a meeting in September. There is a sense of urgency to move forward as I'm sure you can imagine.

Respectfully yours,

Brian Smith, Mayor
Town of Wasaga Beach

Enclosures (5)

Cc: The Hon. Jim Wilson, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Charles (Andy) Beaudoin, Chair, Wasaga Beach High School Task Force
Andrew McNeill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Town of Wasaga Beach
Gerry Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Wasaga Beach

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

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January 26, 2018

Brian Smith
Mayor, Town of Wasaga Beach
30 Lewis Street
Wasaga Beach, ON, L9Z 1A1

Dear Mayor Smith,

I would like to thank you for your correspondence of October 24th, requesting that the Ministry of Education ask that the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) submit a proposal for a grade 7-12 school in the Town of Wasaga Beach. I am pleased to be able to reply.

It was a pleasure to meet at ROMA with representatives of the Town of Wasaga Beach and the High School Task Force on the question of a future secondary school. I would like to thank you for the time and dedication you have taken on this important issue.

As has been discussed previously, provincial legislation sets out that decisions regarding pupil accommodation are the responsibility of locally-elected school boards. As such, the Ministry does not direct specific accommodation proposals from boards.

However, I strongly believe that Wasaga Beach would be an ideal home for a future secondary school. Given the community's growing elementary population, as well as growth in the adjacent communities, I understand that the SCDSB will need to plan for additional secondary capacity in the foreseeable future.

It is my understanding that the school board currently has a property designated for a secondary school in the development lands of the Town of Wasaga Beach and that this plan has not yet been registered with the Town. The Ministry is prepared to provide the SCDSB with provincial funding to assist with the acquisition of this designated secondary school site as soon as it is ready. It is my request that the town and the board take all necessary planning steps to secure the site forthwith.

It is my hope that planning for a future secondary school can be an open and collaborative discussion between the SCDSB and the Town of Wasaga Beach.

Further, I understand that Wasaga Beach's growing elementary population will not be able to be accommodated by the current school sites. In order to accommodate this growth, the Ministry will be supporting the board's proposal for a new elementary school. It is my hope that the board and municipality will work together to make this new school a reality for the students of Wasaga Beach as soon as possible.

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The passion and dedication to quality education in the growing Town of Wasaga Beach is self-evident. As Minister, I am pleased to be able to support this growth through the acquisition of a secondary site and the construction of a new elementary school. Continued progress will require all partners to work together in a spirit of openness and collaboration.

I look forward to continuing our ongoing dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Indira Naidoo-Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Indira Naidoo-Harris
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care

- c. Peter Beacock, Chair, Simcoe County District School Board
Steven Blake, Director, Simcoe County District School Board