

Stephen Leacock Public School Council
25 Leacock Drive
Kanata ON K2K 1S2
sc-stephenleacockps@ocdsb.ca

October 17, 2024

Karen McCrimmon
Member of Provincial Parliament – Kanata-Carleton
555 Legget Drive, Suite 109
Kanata ON K2K 2X3

Dear Ms. McCrimmon:

We are writing to ask you to collaborate with your Queen's Park colleagues on a long-term solution to overcrowding at Earl of March Secondary School. As parents and caregivers of Stephen Leacock Public School students, we have a personal stake in the situation at Earl of March since most of our students go on to attend grades 7 to 12 there.

While we welcomed the recent announcement of funding for an addition to Earl of March, this is only a band-aid solution to the longstanding problem of overcrowding at the school. Currently the school is operating at over 150% capacity, with 36 portables in use. This overcrowding means reduced access to specialized spaces like science labs as well as significant strains on essential amenities like washrooms.

Compounding the problem is the fact that the two other English public high schools in Kanata – West Carleton Secondary School and A.Y. Jackson Secondary School — are also bursting at the seams. Because of this, redrawing attendance boundaries will not solve overcrowding. The only long-term solution is the construction of a new English public high school in Kanata.

With this in mind, we urge you to call upon Minister of Education Jill Dunlop to prioritize funding for the construction of a new English public high school in Kanata. Your advocacy is crucial to ensuring that Kanata students receive the quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We await your reply outlining the concrete actions you will be taking to address overcrowding at Earl of March Secondary School.

Sincerely,

Melissa Hyde, on behalf of
Stephen Leacock Public School Council