

December 15, 2022

The Hon. Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education
Office of the Minister, Education
228-Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister LaGrange:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) to request an increase to the operating reserve amount that school jurisdictions may keep without any balance in excess recovered by Alberta Education.

In May of 2021 and May of 2022, the Board has advocated for an increase in operating reserves to 8 per cent. In the normal course of operations, our Board expenses roughly 6 per cent a month in cash. This leaves little room for unexpected issues and could potentially create payment issues if revenues are delayed. Industry standard is to have at least three months of funds in reserves to ensure access to cash in case of an emergency. The Board's current system administrative percentage cap is 3.8 per cent, which equates to approximately \$2.5 million. On average, GYPSD expends \$5.25 million dollars a month and the current cap would not cover one month of payroll, which averages \$3.7 million per month.

The current reserve cap limits the autonomy of school jurisdictions to make financial decisions that best suit their individual needs and leaves little discretion for unexpected events, creating a level of unneeded risks for boards.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. We look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,


Dale Karpluk
Dale Karpluk (Dec 16, 2022 13:28 MST)

Dale Karpluk
Board Chair, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division

Cc: Board of Trustees, GYPSD
C. Lewis, Superintendent of Schools
S. Getson, MLA, Lac Ste. Anne - Parkland
M. Long MLA, West Yellowhead
ASBA
PSBAA

