

The Cathedral Area Community Association passed a motion at our AGM (CACA) to request that Connaught School stay open a minimum of a year from June 2014 and that the dual-track school be maintained in the community. We would like to invite the board to sit down with the community to develop a mutually acceptable plan for the future of our neighbourhood school.

Specifically, would ask you to join with our community in support of the following:

1. That the existing school building stay open for an additional school year. The proposed closure would cause unnecessary disruption to our school community and allow the school community to stay intact and undisturbed for more time to plan and implement a relocation plan that would allow for a smooth transition.
2. Meaningful community engagement to create a mutually acceptable renewal plan for Connaught that fairly considers redevelopment options that fit our mature neighbourhood in Cathedral.
3. We ask for your support for a joint Regina Board of Education Saskatchewan Ministry of Education and Community task team to develop a mutually acceptable renewal plan, finalized before the end of the coming school year.

The CACA recognizes that decision-making affects not only 237 school families, but also 3,000 Cathedral Area households. It directly impacts our Neighbourhood Plan, which is responsible for revitalizing our neighbourhood and for attracting homeowners, businesses and visitors to our community. This plan recognizes Connaught School as a significant heritage asset, and recommends that development along 13th Avenue – an important historic corridor for the City of Regina – should involve renovation as a first choice. This serves not only to ensure an attractive, walkable environment, but also generates a significant source of community pride and inspiring learning environment for school children and their families. Losing this dual-track school in Cathedral could cause families to relocate and may make it more difficult for us to attract young families to our neighbourhood in the future.

Speaking personally Connaught School's French Immersion program was a factor when my wife and I decided to purchase a home in the neighbourhood and we hope to send Finn to Connaught for Kindergarten in 2018. He may actually be part of the first class in the new Connaught. We would urge the Board and Ministry to ensure that a rebuilt or renovated Connaught stays within the boundaries of Cathedral. This ensures that families

like mine have a community school they can grow with and that our neighbourhood community continues to grow and renew.

We would like invite the school board to meet with us to learn more about our community's aspirations before deciding on a plan for what is a very important defining element of our neighbourhood.

We are looking forward to co-operating with the Board and joining in any future talks and consultations regarding the future of our school.

Thank you.