MOTION REGARDING CONNAUGHT SCHOOL RENEWAL

WHEREAS the potential uprooting of a school population and destruction of a highly valued heritage school requires evidence-based decision-making;

AND WHEREAS the Regina Board of Education has received reports recommending structural testing be carried out prior to decision-making on Connaught School renewal;

AND WHEREAS the expertise and scientific equipment required to undertake structural testing are available at no cost to the Board of Education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education cooperate with Save Our Connaught Heritage and allow specialists to enter Connaught School for the purpose of conducting non-destructive structural testing;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when a Request for Proposals is issued for Connaught School renewal, it shall be for both renovation and replacement options.

DEFEATED

BACKGROUND

"…prior to any decision regarding proceeding with a renewal process, we recommend that a more detailed investigation program be undertaken to assess the condition of the building structure." - JC Kenyon, May 23, 2012.

"Without considerable more investigation than this report allows (determine actual reinforcing) we must assume the floor structure is under reinforced…" – BBK Structural Engineers, Aug. 27, 2013.

"No analysis of the structure or testing was performed." – JC Kenyon, stated in all quarterly reports from Sept. 12, 2012 to Jan. 7, 2013.

The board continues to order visual assessments that, by their nature, cannot be conclusive on major structural questions. Members of the school community propose to sponsor specific structural tests to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and help prepare a wider range of options for ensuring the continued safety and security of our children. The following list of proposed tests was provided to the board on Jan. 13, 2014:

Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR)

- This test involves setting up a grid on which a GPR machine will be passed over the grid pattern at approximately a 4 inch interval. The machine scans the thickness of the material and indicates what objects are contained in that area at that location and what depth the object is located.
- This test will confirm the structural integrity of the slabs and confirm whether or not there is reinforcing steel in the concrete, the size of the steel, and mesh pattern.

- Walls will also be tested in the basement area, allowing for visualization of the foundation's footing and its condition and size.

Moisture testing
- This test involves placing the probes of a moisture meter against the various surfaces to determine moisture content and recording this information by location and material.
- This will confirm the moisture content of masonry and wood roofing numbers.

Efflorescence Analysis/Mortar Scrapes
- This test involves scraping the white efflorescence off the wall and then testing the scrapings using various test strips which will indicate the type of salts moving through the masonry units.
- This will determine what salts are moving through the masonry units (brick and stone) and how this movement is affecting the masonry materials.

Interior Survey
- This test involves setting up a grid system on each of the floors and establishing a benchmark. Marks or datum points will be located on the walls and will be used to indicate deflection in the floor based on the predetermined benchmark.
- This test will allow measurement and calculation of any deflection in the floor system, providing a numerical value of how much movement there is in the floor.

Scoping
- This test involves inserting a baroscope into openings in the building components. This will allow a visual inspection of the area without damaging the structural components.
- This will allow the group to see inside cavities to determine what is happening in the system.

Testing can be carried out after school hours with no disruption to student learning. It would involve specialists with specific experience in older masonry construction.