

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) the School Board is considering today is certainly different from the document we all thought would be developed when this process began earlier this year. COVID-19 brought with it the weight of a great deal of uncertainty around finances, enrollment as well as our daily operations. That uncertainty is unlikely to go away in the near term and the strains upon our school division are likely to grow. We must work as a community to find innovative and efficient uses of space and money looking at both operational and capital solutions. Unfortunately, the strain from COVID-19 is going to make it even more challenging to ensure we have adequate seats for students across our system and a need to ensure our school buildings are refreshed and maintained to provide equitable learning environments. The 2021 CIP as proposed provides a reasoned and logical interim approach to addressing our most immediate capital needs. More specifically, we appreciate the focus on providing planning funds for seats at all school levels. We recommend that identifying a path forward to ensure not only that we have seats at all levels, but that we have seats in the right places to ensure no part of the county is bearing an unfair burden when it comes to capacity issues.