
From: Pascale Shaw, Trustee
Topic: **Amended Trustee Motion for BCSTA AGM: Review of Modular Plan and Costing to Meet Area Standards for Modular Additions**

BACKGROUND

In September 2024 the Ministry of Education and Child Care announced a \$133.5 million investment of 89 new classrooms, equivalent to 2,185 new seats, to 10 school districts. Additional modular commitments have been made in a further seven school districts with a total of 7,900 new student spaces.

RATIONALE

As the number of diverse learners continues to grow, school districts are having to find creative ways to meet their needs. Supply closets, paper rooms, hallways, stages, corners of the library and every single available space, many of which were never intended to house students or staff, are used daily in our school district for both students and staff.

The need for new schools has long since reached its tipping point. School districts do not have the money to build new schools but desperately need additional space for students. Schools in multiple districts around the province no longer have space on school grounds to add more portables. The announcement of modular units was expected to be a welcome relief, and we are optimistic that the cost will be fully funded. The funding has dictated that these modulars contain the bare minimum in terms of space, classroom and washrooms and do not address the additional needs of our students and staff. Inflation, tariffs and project delays are contributing to the additional costs school district are seeing with modular installations.

While classroom and washrooms may have been sufficient a few decades ago, we now have a much more diverse student population with many more needs. We also have a responsibility as per the Accessibility B.C. Act, which came into law September 1st, 2022. Not all children can be safe and successful in the classroom. Alternate learning spaces, sensory rooms, and spaces for support teachers, physiologist, occupational therapist and counsellors are required. Our commitment to Indigenous spaces and learning requires space. Increasing number of English Language Learner students, Strong Start and spaces for food preparation and storage for our food programs are also needed. The increase in student population these modular units create directly increases the need for more ancillary spaces.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND REGARDING AMENDMENT

The motion presented in this memo has BCSTA Fraser Valley Branch co-sponsorship and is substantively the same in intent and scope as the version approved by the Board on January 14, 2026. The revised motion includes a small clarification to improve clarity and consistency.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive, for information, the following motion submitted to the 2026 B.C. School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting, reflecting the amendment to the version approved by the Board on January 14, 2026, as proposed for co-sponsorship by the BCSTA Fraser Valley Branch at its January 19, 2026 AGM:

"BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the BCSTA request the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Education and Child Care to complete a review of the current modular plan and costing, to ensure sufficient funding is available to apply the same area standards to modular additions with respect to both classroom and ancillary areas as is standard in new school construction;

And that the review give particular consideration to alternate learning spaces and support spaces required for diverse learners.”