

Agenda



Board of Education Meeting
November 15, 2016, 6:30 pm
Riverside College, 33919 Dewdney Trunk Road, Mission, BC

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Chair will acknowledge that this meeting is being held on Traditional Territory.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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4. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA MEETING - *Superintendent*

5. REPORTS

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6. CORRESPONDENCE Information 30

**Due to volume, correspondence will only be available in the electronic Agenda.*

7. COMMITTEE/TRUSTEES REPORTS

8. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions asked must be related to items discussed on the Agenda. Personnel, land, and legal issues will not be discussed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Board of Education Meeting

October 18, 2016 6:30 pm

École Christine Morrison Elementary, 32611 McRae Avenue, Mission, BC

Members Present:

Chair Rick McKamey
Vice-Chair Tracy Loffler
Trustee Randy Cairns
Trustee Shelley Carter

Staff Present:

Superintendent Angus Wilson
Secretary Treasurer Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent Larry Jepsen
Assistant Secretary Treasurer Derek Welsh
Executive Assistant Tracy Orobko (Recorder)

Attendance via Telephone

Trustee Jim Taylor

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm by the Board Chairperson. The Chair acknowledged that Mission School District falls within the Sto:lo Traditional Territory and within our boundaries have four bands: Kwantlen, Matsqui, Leq:a'mel and Scowlitz First Nations.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

One amendment was noted: Section 9 Question Period – “Parody” should read “Parity”.

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education meeting minutes of September 20, 2016, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. Reporting Out From In-Camera Meeting

The Superintendent stated at the October 18, 2016 In-Camera meeting of the Board, a variety of property, personnel and student matters were discussed.

Trustee Taylor joined the meeting via telephone at 6:46 pm.

5. Education

International Travel Application: Jim Pearce, Principal, MSS

This application was presented at the October 4th Education Committee meeting. The Board expressed appreciation to Kevin Matheny and his endeavours.

MOVED and Seconded that Mission Secondary School's international field trip for up to twenty-five (25) students in Grades 10 and 11 to travel to the Island Nation of Fiji June 28 to July 12, 2017 for a total of 14 days be approved.

CARRIED

Draft Board Meeting Proceedings Policy

The policy will return to the December Public Board meeting.

MOVED and Seconded that the draft Board Meeting Procedures policy be approved in Principle;

AND THAT the draft Board Meeting Procedures policy be referred to the public for comment;

AND THAT the public comments be referred to the Education Committee to be considered with the draft Board Meeting Procedures policy at the November 29, 2016 meeting;

AND THAT the final Board Meeting Procedures policy be returned to the Board for consideration at the December 13, 2016 Board meeting.

CARRIED

Draft Strategic Plan

The policy will return to the December Public Board meeting.

MOVED and Seconded that the draft Strategic Plan be approved in Principle; and

AND THAT the draft Strategic Plan be referred to the public for comment;

AND THAT the public comments be referred to the Education Committee to be considered with the draft Strategic Plan at the November 29, 2016 meeting;

AND THAT the final Strategic Plan be returned to the Board for consideration at the December 13, 2016 Board meeting.

CARRIED

Public Sector Executive Compensation Reporting

The Secretary Treasurer introduced the matter. The School District has met filing requirements and will be submitting to the Province.

MOVED and Seconded that the Public Sector Executive Compensation Report dated October 18, 2016 be approved; and

THAT the Public Sector Executive Compensation Report be submitted to the BC Public School Employers' Association.

CARRIED

Solar Arrays

Trustee Cairns read a statement.

The Superintendent reported on his conversation with a representative of Terratek Energy who will be inspect some school sites in November. This is an exploratory stage.

Concerns were expressed regarding use of the (new) staff time and timing with policies and initiatives currently underway.

MOVED and Seconded that a report with the following information be presented to the Board of Education for consideration early in the budget deliberation process:

- a) **Identification of the School District buildings that are best suited for solar energy retrofits;**
- b) **Design options for solar energy retrofits, such as photovoltaic panels and solar hot water or heat;**
- c) **The estimated cost and cost recovery / economic return for different options, including the identification of the most economical option.**

CARRIED

District Parent Advisory Council Update

The written report was attached to the Agenda.

6. Unfinished Business

BC School Trustees' Association ("BCSTA") – Withdrawal

Trustees Cairns read a statement in favour of the withdrawal and Trustee Carter read a statement in favour of defeating the motion. Trustees debated the pros and cons of BCSTA: Costs vs. transition assistance for new Trustees/Boards; legal support; branch representatives; is an association for Boards to participate in with voices.

MOVED and Seconded that the Board of Education approve the immediate withdrawal from membership in the British Columbia School Trustees' Association ("BCSTA").

MOTION FAILED (In Favour: Trustee Cairns and Taylor)

Facility Bookings – School District Staff

The Secretary Treasurer is in the process of renegotiating contracts. Discussion ensued around community groups; access to facilities; and customer (user group) satisfaction. The School District will continue with financial gain if the District of Mission continues with the bookings and building relationships.

MOVED and Seconded that any action on the motion approved on March 8, 2016, *THAT the Board of Education direct staff to bring back all bookings and use of School District facilities agreements under Mission Public Schools' District staff and process. Staff will implement and process to start September 2016 for the 2016/2017 school year. No new agreements or renewal of expired use and funding agreements on the use or operation of School District facilities will be initiated.* be postponed until the end of the 2016/2017 school year.

AND THAT during this postponement that the Secretary Treasurer review all existing *shared use of facilities, fields and equipment with the District of Mission* and return to the Board a recommendation for a long-term usage agreement that, considering the School District's primary objective of supporting education, would provide for community use of School District facilities, equipment and fields.

CARRIED

Trustee Taylor exited the meeting at 7:42 pm.

Long-Service Employee Recognition

The Board discussed merits of having a program.

MOVED and Seconded that staff draft an Employee Long-Service Recognition policy for employees that have been employed with the Mission Public School District for a minimum of 15 years;

AND THAT the draft policy be returned to a meeting in January for consideration.

CARRIED

Board Correspondence to Hon. Minister Bernier

A letter delivered to Hon. Minister Bernier was attached to the Agenda.

7. Correspondence

Ministry of Education, Honourable Minister, M. Bernier: October 4, 2016

Subject: Parent Engagement on Student Progress

Ministry of Education, M. Nyikes, Director, Standards and Construction Branch: September 27, 2016

Subject: Policy for Testing Lead Content in Drinking Water of School Facilities

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay): September 20, 2016

Subject: Submission Deadlines of September 30, 2016

School District No. 38 (Richmond): September 21, 2016

Subject: Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam): September 20, 2015

Subject: Budget 2017 Consultations

School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast): October 6, 2016

Subject: Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

School District No. 69 (Qualicum): October 4, 2016

Subject: Foundation Skills Assessment

Minutes



School District No. 69 (Qualicum): October 4, 2016
Subject: Select Standing Committee on Finance

Committee/Trustee Reports

Trustees reported on:

- Mural assembly at Albert McMahon – partnered with the University of the Fraser Valley Art Dept.;
- Orange Shirt Day - residential school awareness;
- Cross country races;
- Fraser Valley BC School Trustees' Association meeting;
- BCPSEA Symposium: Mental health in the workplace; FIPPA; legal landscape; Linda Duxbury;
- The Board Chair has been asked to assist with Fraser Cascade in building their relationships with local First Nations.

8. Question Period

Questions asked must be related to items discussed on the Agenda and related to the Agenda. Personnel, land and legal issues will not be discussed.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 8:03 pm.
CARRIED**

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer

ITEM 5.1 Action

TO: Board Policy Development Committee
FROM: Secretary Treasurer
SUBJECT: Draft Policy #180: Physical Restraint and Seclusion

Recommendation:

THAT the draft Physical Restraint and Seclusion policy be approved in Principle;
AND THAT the draft Physical Restraint and Seclusion policy be referred to the public for comment;
AND THAT the public comments be referred to the January 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting to be considered with the draft Physical Restraint and Seclusion policy;
AND THAT the final Physical Restraint and Seclusion policy be returned to the Board for consideration at the January 2017 Board meeting.

Executive Summary:

The attached new draft of a Physical Restraint and Seclusion policy is presented for the Board's consideration. The Province and the BCSTA provided information to school districts on the development of a policy to address the use of physical restraint of students. The policy was developed considering the guidance and research of these groups.

The new policy clarifies when physical restraint may be used, and the need for follow-up when restraint is used. A policy to assist with the implementation of this policy is currently under review, and will be finalized for use when the policy is adopted.

Background:

Effective policies provide the direction and guidelines necessary to deliver governance and services, through the actions of the Board, Staff, and Students. Policies also serve as sources of information and guidelines to all who may be interested in, or connected with, the operation of the School District.

Issues had been identified by the Province with the use of physical restraint in schools. Recommendations for policy development were provided to school districts by the Province and the BCSTA. Staff conducted additional research on policies being used in other school districts. Staff considered all this information, and the needs of the Mission Public School District, and put together a policy for consideration.

Analysis and Impact:

The new policy clarifies when physical restraint may be used to ensure the safety of staff, the student, or other students. The procedures that assist with implementing the policy will be finalized prior to final approval of the policy.

Strategic Priority:

The review aligns with the direction of the draft Strategic Plan which, if approved, directs the following action:

Review, revise and create policy and committee structures that contribute to effective governance and operational direction. Policies will be reviewed and revised ensuring transparent participation.

Policy, Regulation, Legislation:

The Ministry of Education has created guidelines to help Boards maintain safe learning environments for all children and adults. They were developed in consultation with an advisory committee whose members included representatives from Inclusion BC, the Family Support Institute, the BC Council of Parent Advisory Committees, the BC School Trustees' Association, the BC Association of School Psychologies and the BC Council of Administrators of Special Education. Further information is attached to the Agenda.

Public Consultation:

The policy will be referred to the public and partner groups for consideration prior to final approval.

Implementation:

Initial review – Education Committee, November 1, 2016

Approval in Principle – Board meeting November 15, 2016

Public Consultation review period – November 16 – December 30, 2016

Committee of the Whole review – January 10, 2017

Final Approval – Board meeting January 24, 2017

Attachments:

- A. Draft Policy #180: Physical Restraint and Seclusion
- B. Draft Template Student Behaviour Incident Notice to Parents Report Form
- C. Draft Template Student Behaviour Incident Report Form

Physical Restraint and Seclusion

Policy #180

Purpose

To outline the responsibility of providing a safe work environment, and when necessary, to manage instances where physical aggression of a student poses a danger to staff and other students.

General Policy

The Mission Public School District is responsible to provide and maintain a safe, personally secure, and respectful environment for all students and staff.

The School District recognizes that preventing escalating aggressive behaviour is the best method of maintaining a safe, personally secure, and respectful environment. The School District will provide positive educational/behavioural interventions supports for all students in the least restrictive environment, which is considered to be “best practice” for reducing aggressive behavior. Every effort will be made to structure the learning environment and to provide learning supports that make seclusion or physical restraint unnecessary.

In order to meet the responsibility of providing a safe environment for all students and staff, it may be necessary in exceptional emergent circumstances to physically restraint and/or seclude a student. The use of physical restraint or seclusion should only occur where the student's behaviour poses imminent danger or serious physical harm to self or others. Only staff members who are trained in crisis intervention and the safe use of physical restraint and/or seclusion should conduct the physical restraint and seclusion. To support this, appropriate staff members will be trained in de-escalation, prevention, and intervention techniques.

The decision to use reasonable physical restraint or seclusion must be guided by professional judgment of staff only in exceptional emergent circumstances. Physical restraint or seclusion is not to be used as an intervention or treatment procedure. Appropriate School District staff, the Superintendent, and the parents will be informed in a timely manner of any use of physical restraint or seclusion.

The use of physical restraint and seclusion must be handled in accordance with relevant provincial legislation and the School District's administrative procedures.

See Administrative Procedure: 180-1

Date of Board Approval:

Date Amended:

Physical Restraint / Seclusion

Attachment B

Student Behaviour Incident Notice to Parent/Guardian

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Name of Student | School |
| Name of Parent/Guardian | Contact information for Parent/Guardian |
| Date of occurrence | Time of occurrence |
| Location of occurrence | |
| Description of the incident | |

Physical Restraint and Seclusion

Attachment C

Student Behaviour Incident Report

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Name of Student | School |
| Date of occurrence | Time of occurrence |
| Location of occurrence | |
| Name(s) and role(s) of staff members present: | |
| Name: | Role: |
| Name: | Role: |
| Name: | Role: |
| Description of the incident (e.g. the actions of the student and staff members involved, location) | |
| Results of occurrence (e.g. injuries to staff, injuries to students, damage to property) | |
| Name and Signature of Staff Member who completed the Incident Report | |
| _____ | _____ |
| Name | Signature |

| | |
|--|-------|
| <u>Principal Notification of Incident</u> | |
| Principal notified of the incident by: | |
| Date: | Time: |

Physical Restraint and Seclusion

Student Behaviour Incident Report

| <u>Incident Debriefing (staff)</u> | |
|--|-------|
| Date: | Time: |
| Name(s) and role(s) of staff members present | |
| Name: | Role: |
| Name: | Role: |
| Name: | Role: |

| <u>Parent/Guardian Notification of Incident</u> | |
|--|---|
| Name of parent/guardian: | Contact information for parent/guardian: |
| Student's parent/guardian notified of the incident by: | Method (phone, email, in-person meeting, mail): |
| Date: | Time: |

Completed student behaviour incident reports must be sent to:

[insert title and contact information of the person who is to receive the incident reports (e.g. Assistant Superintendent)]

| <u>For Board Office Use Only</u> |
|--|
| Date Received: |
| Description of the follow-up to the incident: |
| <hr/> Assistant Superintendent Signature |

ITEM 5.2 Action

TO: Board Policy Development Committee
FROM: Secretary Treasurer
SUBJECT: Draft Policy #300: Catchment Areas, Cross Boundary Applications, Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice

Recommendation:

THAT the draft Catchment Areas, Cross Boundary Applications, Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice policy be approved in Principle;

AND THAT the draft Catchment Areas, Cross Boundary Applications, Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice policy be referred to the public for comment;

AND THAT the public comments be referred to the January 2017 Committee of the Whole to be considered with the draft Catchment Areas, Cross Boundary Applications, Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice policy;

AND THAT the final Catchment Areas, Cross Boundary Applications, Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice policy be returned to the Board for consideration at the January Board meeting.

Executive Summary:

The attached draft Catchment Areas, Cross Boundary Applications, Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice policy is updated with the lens of making the document easier for the public to use and for staff to implement. Many of the procedure components of the policy are removed, and will be included in the administrative procedures. The draft policy is ready for review, and if approved in principle, ready for formal referral to partner groups and the public.

Background:

Effective policies provide the direction and guidelines necessary to deliver governance and services through the actions of the Board, Staff, and Students. Policies also serve as sources of information and guidelines to all who may be interested in, or connected with, the operation of the School District.

A number of issues were identified with the catchment area policy. Staff have reviewed the existing policy, and are recommending the changes to the policy. The revised draft policy is presented for the Board's consideration.

Analysis and Impact:

The revised policy is expected to clarify a few issues identified with the policy during the past few years. The administrative features of the current policy will also be moved into administrative procedures. These procedures will be updated prior to final approval of the policy.

Strategic Priority:

The review aligns with the direction of the draft Strategic Plan which, if approved, directs the following action:

Review, revise and create policy and committee structures that contribute to effective governance and operational direction. Policies will be reviewed and revised ensuring transparent participation.

Policy, Regulation, Legislation:

See Current Board Policy #17

Public Consultation:

The policy will be referred to the public and partner groups for consideration prior to final approval.

Implementation:

Initial review – Education Committee, November 1, 2016

Approval in Principle – Board meeting November 15, 2016

Public Consultation review period – November 16 – December 30, 2016

Committee of the Whole review – January 10, 2017

Final Approval – Board meeting January 24, 2017

Attachment:

- A. Draft Policy #300: Catchment Areas, Cross Boundary Applications, Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice

Catchment Areas, Cross Boundary Applications, Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice

Policy #300

Purpose

To provide guidelines for students to access public education at neighbourhood schools, and to establish the criteria for students to access public education through Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice.

Policy

Neighbourhood schools will generally be accessible to all school-age students in the neighbourhood, subject to enrolment capacity.

Neighbourhood schools may be accessible to school-age students outside of the neighbourhood, subject to a cross boundary school permit application process and enrolment space availability.

Schools of Choice and Programs of Choice will be available to all students in the district, subject to an application process and the enrolment space availability in the School or Program.

General Guidelines

In accordance with the *School Act*, schools will enroll students in the following descending order or priority:

- A catchment area student who, in the previous school year, attended the school.
- A student assigned by the Board to the school.
- A catchment area student.
- A non-catchment area student who, in the previous school year, attended the school.
- Siblings of non-catchment area students who, in the previous school year, attended the school.
- A non-catchment area student.
- A non-school district student.

Catchment Areas

An elementary school catchment area is a specified geographic area that surrounds a school. In determining a school catchment area, consideration will be given to the walk limits specified in Board Policy, and the number of students that would be attending the elementary school. The objective will be to consider the capacity of the schools and balance the enrolment amongst most elementary schools.

Information on the school catchment areas will be provided to parents and students, with additional information and details made available on the Mission Public School District website (www.mpsd.ca).

The School District may amend the catchment areas as needed.

Elementary Schools

The elementary school in each defined catchment area will be the neighbourhood school for that area. Residency in the elementary school catchment area qualifies an elementary school student to attend that school.

Middle Schools

The Middle School catchments are determined to equitably distribute the student population between the two middle schools. Elementary schools are assigned to a Middle School catchment as follows:

| Hatzic Middle School Catchment Schools | Heritage Park Middle School Catchment Schools |
|---|--|
| Albert McMahon Elementary | École Christine Morrison Elementary |
| Cherry Hill Elementary | Hillside Traditional Academy |
| Deroche Elementary | École Mission Central Elementary |
| Dewdney Elementary | West Heights Community School |
| Edwin S. Richards Elementary | Windebank Elementary |
| Hatzic Elementary | |
| Silverdale Elementary | |

Exceptions:

Students attending Edwin S. Richards 2012-2013 who live in the Windebank catchment area will have the choice to attend HPMS (Note: this clause would be obsolete in 2018-2019).

Cross Boundary

The School District will consider cross boundary school permit applications for students to attend a school outside of their catchment area. Applications for a cross boundary school permit must be submitted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure, by March 31 for the following school year.

The School District will use a fair and equitable approach when considering cross boundary school permit applications, as outlined in Administrative Procedure.

Approval considerations

Applications for a cross boundary school permit will be considered when sufficient enrollment space is available at the cross boundary school. Applicants will be notified of the decision regarding the cross boundary school permit application on or before June 30.

Applications for students that have been displaced by the closure of a school will be given priority for a cross boundary school permit for the school year immediately following the closure.

If approved, cross boundary school permits will be for one school year only.

School District Cross Boundary Placement

The School District may find it necessary to enroll a student in a school other than the neighbourhood school due to the availability of special programs or enrollment restrictions. While such placements shall be expected to remain for the duration of the current school year, whenever possible students will be returned to their neighbourhood school effective the start of the next school year.

Schools of Choice

A School of Choice means a school other than the neighbourhood school that parents choose to have the child(ren) attend. The School District has two Schools of Choice. These schools are not neighbourhood schools and do not have a defined catchment area. Any student may apply to attend a School of Choice. The Schools of Choice are:

- Edwin S. Richards – Arts-Based Curriculum
- Hillside Traditional Academy – Curricular outcomes in an environment based on traditional values.

The School District will use a fair and equitable approach when considering applications to attend a School of Choice, as outlined in Administrative Procedure.

Programs of Choice

The School District offers Programs of Choice at four schools. Programs of Choice are a School District initiated program approved by the Board and designated to run in one or more school sites. Programs of Choice are offered in elementary schools as follows:

- French Immersion École Christine Morrison Elementary School
- French Immersion École Mission Central Elementary School

The elementary school Program of Choice catchment area is aligned with the neighbourhood catchment area for the elementary schools listed below. The catchment boundaries for the Programs of Choice will be reviewed annually to ensure that each school is being utilized to its potential for the regular programs and to ensure the dual-track schools meet the Board’s expectations.

| École Christine Morrison (West) | École Mission Central (East) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cherry Hill Elementary | Albert McMahon Elementary |
| West Heights Community School | Deroche Elementary |
| Silverdale Elementary | Dewdney Elementary |
| | Windebank Elementary |

Programs of Choice offered after elementary school, are as follows:

- French Immersion École Heritage Park Middle School
- French Immersion École Mission Senior Secondary

The School District will use a fair and equitable approach when considering applications to attend a Program of Choice, as outlined in Administrative Procedure.

Date of Board Approval: September 2008

Amended:

Legal Reference: School Act, Section 74

Cross Reference: [Transportation Services Policy #18](#)

[Administrative Procedures: 200-1](#)

DRAFT

ITEM 5.3 Action

TO: Business Committee
FROM: Secretary Treasurer
SUBJECT: Mastercard Program

Recommendation:

THAT the Mission Public School District No. 75 (“School District”) enter into an agreement with the Bank of Montreal (“BMO”) to provide the School District with credit by way of an Account up to the sum of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars (\$350,000), under which arrangement the School District may request that BMO issue cards on the Account, and the School District will be responsible for the payment of all accounts (including fees and interest) charged to the Account, the whole substantially on the terms and conditions set out in the draft corporate card agreement (the “Agreement”) submitted to, and hereby approved by, the Board;

AND THAT the Secretary Treasurer be authorized to sign the Agreement with BMO with such changes or modification as the Secretary Treasurer in her sole discretion deems appropriate, and to sign from time to time such other documents, agreements, amendments to, and restatements of, the Agreement and to do such other things they in her sole discretion deemed appropriate or advisable in connection with, or to give effect to, such Agreement and the program contemplated thereunder. The execution and delivery of any other agreements, instruments or documents ancillary or incidental to the documents referred to in this resolution which may have been executed or delivered prior to the enactment of this resolution, regardless of the officer or other employee of the School District who executed such arrangement, instrument or document, and regardless of any informality in such execution or delivery, are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed.

Executive Summary:

Staff has identified an opportunity to enter into an arrangement with the Bank of Montreal (“BMO”) to provide the District with credit by way of a corporate credit card account (an “Account”) that is part of a corporate program that will provide a dividend of approximately \$8,000 per year to the School District. In order to participate in the program, the School District must update the agreements.

Background:

The School District currently has a mastercard program with the Bank of Montreal however, this program is not part of a corporate card structure that provides a financial benefit to the School District. In researching options, staff identified a corporate card program through the Province that would provide a financial benefit to the School District.

Options:

Authorize entering into the new contracts, to receive a financial benefit.
Keep the program as is, with no financial benefits.

Analysis and Impact:

Staff has not identified any risks with the revised program.

Strategic Priority:

Receiving a financial benefit with the corporate program will assist with financial sustainability.

Policy, Regulation, Legislation:

No policies are in place to guide this decision.

Public Consultation:

No public consultation was undertaken for this initiative.

Implementation:

The contracts will be reviewed and signed in November.

ITEM 5.4 Action

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Secretary Treasurer
SUBJECT: Banking Resolution - Borrowing

Recommendation:

THAT the Mission Public School District (School District No. 75) borrow from the Scotia Bank for the 2016 / 2017 operating year:

- a) \$1,500,000 for an Operating Line of Credit
- b) \$750,000 for a revolving term / Scotia leasing

AND THAT the Banking Resolution between the Bank of Nova Scotia for general banking purposes approved September 20, 2016 be amended to include the following paragraph:

4. ***We may exercise every power to borrow money and otherwise obtain services from you and to receive repayment thereof and to secure our obligations to you arising out of our acquisition of services from you which is conferred upon us by our governing legislation. The persons and the required combination of those persons we verify, are the persons authorized and the combination of those persons required, to borrow money from you on our credit from time to time in the amounts and on the terms that those persons determine, and to grant security to you over any of our property from time to time. We will provide this verification by a certificate in writing given to you by any TWO of the officers set out below. The most recent certificate given to you will be the current certificate in effect:***

***Superintendent
Secretary Treasurer***

***Assistant Superintendent
Assistant Secretary Treasurer***

Background/Rationale:

The Bank of Nova Scotia requires an updated resolution for the operating line of credit and the leasing program.

The resolution from the bank at the time of signing the Banking Resolution included this paragraph, but the resolution approved in September was missing the paragraph. As such, the additional paragraph requires approval from the Board.

Attachment:

A. Banking Resolution

BANKING RESOLUTION

We, our and us mean SCHOOL DISTRICT #75 (MISSION) (FULL LEGAL NAME)

which carries on all or part of its business under the trading name(s):

Blank lines for trading name(s)

(IF APPLICABLE)

You and your mean Scotiabank, The Bank of Nova Scotia.

Resolved that:

- 1. We appoint you as our banker and agree to the terms set out in the Scotiabank Financial Services Agreement, or where applicable, the Scotiabank Financial Services Agreement section of the Business Banking Services Agreement.

Blank lines for resolution 1

- 2. Any TWO of the following persons are authorized to sign and deliver the Scotiabank Financial Services Agreement, any service requests and any other banking agreements with you:

SUPERINTENDENT ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
SECRETARY TREASURER ASSISTANT SECRETARY TREASURER

STATE TITLES RATHER THAN NAMES

- 3. The persons and the required combination of those persons we verify, are the persons authorized, and the combination of those persons required, to give instructions, verifications and approvals on our behalf from time to time. We will provide this verification by a certificate in writing given to you by any TWO of the officers set out below. The most recent certificate given to you will be the current certificate in effect:

SUPERINTENDENT ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
SECRETARY TREASURER ASSISTANT SECRETARY TREASURER

STATE TITLES RATHER THAN NAMES

- 4. We may exercise every power to borrow money and otherwise obtain services from you and to receive repayment thereof and to secure our obligations to you arising out of our acquisition of services from you which is conferred upon us by our governing legislation. The persons and the required combination of those persons we verify, are the persons authorized, and the combination of those persons required, to borrow money from you on our credit from time to time in the amounts and on the terms that those persons determine, and to grant security to you over any of our property from time to time. We will provide this verification by a certificate in writing given to you by any TWO of the officers set out below. The most recent certificate given to you will be the current certificate in effect:

SUPERINTENDENT ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
SECRETARY TREASURER ASSISTANT SECRETARY TREASURER

- 5. All instructions, agreements and documents which we sign, make, draw, accept, endorse or complete and which are signed by the persons we have authorized from time to time are valid and are binding on us. Our seal is not required on any written document to make it valid or to show consideration.
6. This Resolution remains in effect until we cancel it by written notice to you and you have acknowledged receiving the notice.

CERTIFICATE

By signing below, our directors/officers/members certify for us that:

- there are no provisions in our incorporating documents or by-laws or in any unanimous shareholders agreement which impair in any way the powers of our directors or officers to borrow money or grant security.
• our directors/shareholders/members have full power to pass this Resolution and to bind us in all respects.
• the above Resolution was properly passed by our directors or members in compliance with all applicable legislation and continues in effect.

CORIEN BECKER
NAME OF AUTHORIZED DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OR MEMBER

SIGNATURE: [Signature]
Title (print): SECRETARY TREASURER

ANGUS WILSON
NAME OF AUTHORIZED DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OR MEMBER

SIGNATURE: [Signature]
Title (print): SUPERINTENDENT

NAME OF MEMBER OTHER THAN MEMBERS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN FOR THE ORGANIZATION

SIGNATURE:
Title (print):

09/20/2016
DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

DATE RECEIVED
RECORDED
APPROVED
E.O. AUDITOR
1317113 (08/12)

ITEM 5.5 Information

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Secretary Treasurer
SUBJECT: Exempt Staff Compensation Scale – Transition Plan

Executive Summary:

Further to the Board's approval of the Mission Public School District Exempt Staff / Principal / Vice-Principal Compensation Transition Plan in September 2016, BCPSEA advised that the transition plan was approved by the Public Sector Employers Council.

With approval in place, the first phase of the salary transition has been implemented.

Background:

BCPSEA developed a salary model to maintain equity and alignment with the salaries of teachers, principals and vice principals. The new scales provide compensation to exempt staff that is similar to the compensation provided in other Fraser Valley school districts, and the compensation to principals and vice principals that is the same as the compensation provided in other Fraser Valley school districts.

In August 2016, BCPSEA provided authorization for School Districts to move to the new salary models. BCPSEA provided approval following the Public Sector Employers Council ("PSEC") approval of the new salary grids; the approved salary grid for the principals and vice principals reflect the 2% adjustments as the original grid was developed prior to the implementation of these increases. The salary scales are expected to be in effect for approximately three years before any cost of living adjustments are made to the scales.

The transition plan brings all excluded employees to earning a salary that is at least at the start of the scale. This plan does not contemplate any increases for exempt employees or principals and vice principals that are earning greater than the start of the grid, or for advancing employees within the grid structure.

The following motions were approved at the September 20, 2016 Regular Board meeting:

THAT the Salary Ranges for Principals and Vice Principals, Effective August 1st, 2016 be approved; and

THAT the Salary Ranges for Excluded Staff, Effective July 1st, 2016 be approved; and

THAT the Exempt Staff Compensation Transition Plan Option #3 for Mission Public School District be submitted to BCPSEA for review and approval.

On November 1, 2016, BCPSEA confirmed receipt of communication from PSEC with respect to our School District's submission indicating that our submission has been approved and that the School District may commence implementation.

Board of Education Meeting (Regular) October 18, 2016



ITEM 5.6 Information

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Trustee Carter
SUBJECT: BC School Trustees' Association – Provincial Council

The BC School Trustees' Association ("BCSTA") held a Provincial Council meeting on October 28 and 29, 2016 in Vancouver.

As BCSTA School District representative, Trustee Carter attended the meeting on behalf of the School District and Board Chair McKamey attended as an observer.

Trustee Carter will provide a verbal report at the Regular Board meeting.

ITEM 5.7 Information

TO: Education Committee
FROM: District Parent Advisory Council ("DPAC")
SUBJECT: District Parent Advisory Council Update

Attachment:

A. October DPAC Meeting Report

DPAC Meeting, October 24th 2016 Location: Heritage Park Middle School

Attendees Present: 22 Parents from 12 schools, as well as HPMS Principal Linda Ziefflie, Superintendent Angus Wilson, Trustees Randy Cairns & Shelley Carter.

Reports:

Superintendent's Report: Discussed Student Safety and when Police get involved on school property. New Enrollment numbers are in with increases, and bus reimbursement should be coming when the District has been paid.

Chair's Report: Went over Sept 27th Meeting and discussed the potential creation of a single committee to replace a few smaller ones to increase reporting and stakeholder involvement. Mentioned that the Buses at no-charge may be a one year deal. There has not been any discussion of this matter to continue to the New Year. Cross boundary attendance has also filled the buses quicker. Discussed the possibility of adding another bus to the district but there needs to be funding.

Treasurer's Report:

Receiving checks for last year's good dinosaur movie and for this year: for movie licenses. Checking account balance is \$2264.23; Gaming \$3064.08. Have not received this year's gaming grant but we are moving forward with the contacts to find out when we are getting it

Just because we did not spend all the money last year does not mean we will not get it this year.

Communications Report:

Emails can be stopped at any time, simply request removal by emailing Clare. Clown issue, an announcement was placed online regarding this recent issue. Clare working to establish a Facebook group for DPAC so parents can PM the members directly on Facebook for questions or find out when the meetings are. This is in the baby steps stage and there will be more information available by the next meeting.

Education committee Report:

Donna Archibald gave a presentation. Jim Pearson gave an application for students to Fiji, fundraising will be happening. Government and policy position meeting, this will go to feedback, board meetings to be passed. Solar energy in some of our schools proposed.

International 158 students update: 15 more than last year. Curriculum updated for grades 10 to 12 and how they can attack the day. Long service employee recognition is being discussed but nothing new at this time

New Items:

Amendment to the constitution was passed to allow equal voting/and rewording to include the newly established Middle Schools in the constitution. Changes will be available online.

Next DPAC meeting: November 21st, 2016 at 7:00pm at E.R. Richards Elementary

Attendance: Edwin S. Richards: Sheneal Anthony (DPAC Member at Large), Laurena Gagno, ESR parent Raymond Kwong (DPAC Member at Large); Dewdney: Destiny Cunningham (DPAC Member At Large), Raven Arcand; Albert McMahon: Niki Rosde, Kristine Matthyssen; Heritage Park Middle School: Linda Ziefflie (Principal), Tanya Konings, Karah McLean (DPAC Secretary); École Christine Morrison: Karen Thompson, Meg Kruger; West Heights: Ilona Schmidt; Hatzic Middle School: Dionne Hairsine & Lori McComish; Hatzic Elementary: Heather Burke; Early Childhood Committee/ Riverside parent: Laura Wilson; HTA parent Jessica Weismiller (DPAC Treasurer), Justin Wagner; École Mission Secondary: MSS Parent Frank Gundermann, Clare Seeley (DPAC Communications Coordinator), Trisha Hansen-Bell; MTU representative Ann Titford; Superintendent of Schools Angus Wilson; Silverdale Elementary: Deanna Zgrablitz, Trustee Randy Cairns, Trustee Shelley Carter.

ITEM 5.8 Information

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Secretary Treasurer
SUBJECT: Windebank Elementary School – Capital Project Funding

The Province of BC approved \$375,000 of additional School Enhancement Program funding for mechanical equipment upgrades at the Windebank Elementary School. The upgrade must be completed by March 31, 2017.

This is a capital improvement that had been identified as a priority project.

Attachment:

A. Ministry of Education News Release: *“Mission Students will Benefit from new HVAC System”*

Attachment A

British Columbia News

Mission students will benefit from new HVAC system<https://news.gov.bc.ca/12649>

Wednesday, November 2, 2016 7:10 AM

Mission - Students, teachers and staff at Windebank Elementary school in the Mission school district will benefit from \$375,000 in provincial School Enhancement Program funding.

Simon Gibson, MLA for Abbotsford-Mission announced today, on behalf of Education Minister Mike Bernier, that the district will use the new funding to replace the school's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system.

Government announced an extra \$20 million in funding under the program in September 2016. As a result, 217 school improvement projects have been approved to proceed throughout the province.

Out of the 217 approved projects, 122 schools will use the funding to upgrade their plumbing lines and fixtures. A number of districts will benefit from new or repaired roofs or upgraded fire response systems. For this round of funding, the Ministry of Education expanded the scope of eligible projects to include flooring upgrades and 30 schools will benefit from improved flooring.

As a result of B.C.'s fiscal discipline and balanced budget, government is able to support student learning, community development and local jobs through key investments like the School Enhancement Program.

Quote:

Simon Gibson, MLA for Abbotsford-Mission –

“It’s important to ensure that school facilities like Windebank Elementary school receive regular upgrades. This ensures that students and faculty enjoy a comfortable and healthy learning environment, and this results in positive outcomes.”

Quick Facts:

- The School Enhancement Program is aimed at helping school districts extend the life of their facilities through a wide range of improvement projects, including:
 - plumbing, boiler and other mechanical upgrades;
 - heating and ventilation upgrades;
 - roof repairs or replacement;
 - windows, lighting and electrical system upgrades;
 - safety enhancements including fire protection; and
 - flooring upgrades.
- Districts applied for funding to the Ministry of Education in September 2016. Successful projects were chosen based on need, priority and how well they support student learning and safety.
- To be eligible, projects must cost between \$100,000 and \$3 million and be substantially complete by March 31, 2017.
- Budget 2016 provides \$1.7 billion in capital funding over three years to replace aging facilities, build more student spaces in growing communities and improve school seismic

Learn More:

B.C.'s School Enhancement Program: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/resource-management/capital-planning/school-enhancement-program>

Media Contacts

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

ITEM 5.9 Information

TO: Board of Education
 FROM: Secretary Treasurer
 SUBJECT: Amended Budget – Staff Increases

Preliminary calculations are underway for the 2016/17 amended budget. This work includes determining the revised funding based on the number of students and special needs assessments. Additional instruction and support resource requests have been reviewed by senior management. Some of the additional support requests are being recruited for, due to student needs. To date, many enrolment based staffing adjustments have been made for teaching, support positions, and busing needs. These requests include additional Learning Support Teachers, Education Assistants, and noon hour supervisors.

Supplemental information is being gathered for review and summarization by management for other support needs. This information will include staffing for support functions in facilities and the Board Office, as well as funding for technology upgrades. Management will be prioritizing the additional funding requests and submitting recommendations for the boards consideration. All recommendations will consider the goals and actions outlined in the strategic plan.

As per the following schedule, the information with recommendations will be presented to the board for consideration in January.

| Date | Action | Responsibility |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|
| October 7, 2016 | Final enrolment numbers for 2016/2017 confirmed | Principals |
| October | Revenue projections updated | Derek |
| November | Teacher salary expenditure updated | Derek |
| November | Other expenditures updated as needed | Derek |
| November | Surplus / deficit identified | Derek |
| November | Management meeting to discuss options | Corien |
| December | Finalize amended budget, with options | Derek / Corien / Angus |
| January 2017 | Management meeting to review document/report/options | Corien |
| January | Board meeting – Committee of the Whole - partner groups invited to the meeting - review draft with options - Board to provide direction to management, considering options, and input from partner groups and public) | Angus / Corien |
| January | Board meeting – first two readings of Amending Budget Bylaw | Corien |
| February | Board meeting – Approval of Amending Budget Bylaw | Corien |
| February 28 | Amending Budget Bylaw to the Ministry of Education | Derek |

ITEM 6 Information

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Secretary Treasurer
SUBJECT: Correspondence

****Due to volume, please note that it will only be available in the electronic Agenda only.***

Attachments:

- 6.1 Teresa Rezansoff, President, BCSTA: Correspondence to Hon. Minister, M. Bernier, Ministry of Education (September 30, 2016);
- 6.2 School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen) – *Funding* (October 6, 2016);
- 6.3 School District No. 72 (Campbell River) – *Budget 2017 Considerations* (October 6, 2016);
- 6.4 School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) – *Consistent Expectations and Effects for All School Districts* (October 7, 2016);
- 6.5 School District 67 (Okanagan Skaha) – *Funding of Exempt Staff* (October 7, 2016)
- 6.6 School District No. 37 (Delta) – Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (October 14, 2016);
- 6.7 School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) – *Funding to Specialized Ed. Schools* (October 14, 2016);
- 6.8 School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) – *Needs Budget* (October 14, 2016);
- 6.9 School District No. 53 – *Stable and Predictable Funding / Funding for Exempt Staff Increases* (October 17, 2016);
- 6.10 School District No. 74 (Gold Trail) – *Exempt Staff Compensation* (October 17, 2016);
- 6.11 School District No. 74 (Gold Trail) – *Government Appointed Official Trustee Concern* (October 18, 2016)
- 6.12 School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) – *Exempt Staff Compensation* (October 19, 2016)
- 6.13 School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) – *Firing of VSB* (October 26, 2016)
- 6.14 Hon. Minister M. Bernier, Ministry of Education: Correspondence to Teresa Rezansoff, President BCSTA (October 28, 2016)
- 6.15 School District No. 61 (Victoria) – *Support for Elected Boards* (October 28, 2016)
- 6.16 BCSTA – Thompson Okanagan Branch - October 30, 2016
- 6.17 BCTF: Correspondence to Dep. Minister, D. Byng (October 28, 2016)
- 6.18 School District 70 (Alberni) – *Funding* (November 1, 2016)
- 6.19 School District 70 (Alberni) – *Transportation Funding* (November 1, 2016)
- 6.20 M. Nyikes, Director, Ministry of Education: Youth Trades Capital

Board of Education Meeting (Regular)

October 18, 2016



ITEM 6 Information

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Secretary Treasurer
SUBJECT: Correspondence

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- 6.17 School District 70 (Alberni) – *Funding* (November 1, 2016)
- 6.18 School District 70 (Alberni) – *Transportation Funding* (November 1, 2016)
- 6.19 Deputy Minister, D. Byng – *Aboriginal Funding Carry Forward* (November 1, 2016)

- 6.20 George Farkas, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education – *Rural Education* (November 1, 2016) **Feedback Requested for Consideration**
- 6.21 M. Nyikes, Director, Ministry of Education: Youth Trades Capital Equipment Program (November 2, 2016)
- 6.22 Hon. Minister M. Bernier, Ministry of Education: Correspondence to Teresa Rezansoff, President BCSTA (November 2, 2016)

September 30, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8V 9E2

RE: Consistent expectations and effects for all school districts

Dear Minister Bernier,

In follow-up to discussions earlier this week, we are writing on behalf of the members of BCSTA, BCSSA and BCASBO to reiterate our joint concerns and request for consistent expectations and effects arising from Ministry of Education and broader government decisions. We do appreciate your willingness to both hear our concerns and to discuss the need for greater stability moving forward.

Whether you are a board or the senior staff of a small rural school district or a large metro school district, you should be able to expect consistent and equitable application of Ministry policy decisions and School Act requirements. Knowing the direction and expectations of government as well as being able to rely on the knowledge that every school district will be treated equitably are key to creating confidence and trust in our mutual roles as governors and leaders of the public education system.

Conversely, occasions where there is a perceived inequity or application of a differing set of standards creates distrust and a lack of stability for everyone concerned. While we may differ somewhat in our opinion as to what the expectations and responsibilities of each party might be, we strongly agree that transparent and fair application of all of the 'rules' to everyone is vitally important.

Boards of education and senior staff rely on a knowledge of the parameters under which we are to operate as well as confidence in the consistent application of those expectations and responsibilities in order to best lead our school districts. Just as parents, students and staff expect predictability and reliability from us, we look to government for the same. Inequities, perceived or real, in the way in which we are treated or see our colleagues treated breaks down the trust and consistency we require to perform our roles properly.

Your willingness to discuss our concerns and to consider how best to move forward is appreciated. Just as trustees and staff members are faced with many varied and difficult decisions, we appreciate that you and your colleagues deal with the same. We expect to be held accountable for the decisions we make for the greater good of our students and the education system that serves them. Belief that we, individually and collectively, are all 'doing the right things for the right reasons' will serve us all well in the end and ensure continued public confidence in our education system.

Thank you for your consideration of this significant issue for BC school districts.

Sincerely,



Teresa Rezanoff
President
BCSTA

Sherry Elwood
President
BCSSA

Kelvin Stretch
President
BCASBO

cc: Dave Byng, Deputy Minister of Education
BC School Trustees Association - Member Boards of Education
BC School Superintendents' Association - members
BC Association of School Business Officials - members



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Stephen McNiven, B.Ed., M.A., Superintendent of Schools
Kevin Black, C.P.A., C.G.A., Secretary Treasurer

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161, Fax: (250) 378-6263

October 6, 2016

Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
PO Box 9150, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9H1

Dear Minister Bernier:

School District No. 58 is pleased to report that similar to many other districts across the province we are experiencing a modest increase in student enrolment. The increase in enrolment is not only good news for the school districts, but also good news for the Province as it is reflection of an overall population increase. An increase that should result in greater tax revenue to help support programs and services. The increased enrolment, recent funding announcements as well as discussions with our local MLA, Jackie Tegart confirming an increase in Provincial revenue has provided us with optimism; however, we cannot overstate the current financial challenges we face.

During the past five years the Board has made a number of reductions and changes to programs and services to balance the budget. Schools have been closed, staffing has been reduced, discretionary budgets have been cut, school supply dollars reduced and transportation audits have taken place to help find savings. Prudent measures to protect the financial health of the District have taken place; however, even with these actions taken our 2016-2017 budget deficit is currently projected to be \$1.489 million.

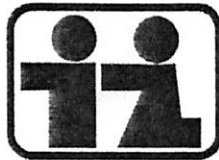
Adding to our financial concerns is the possibility of additional compensation increases on the horizon. These increases are no doubt warranted as many of our staff had been frozen for a substantial period of time; however, not funding these increases will place more financial pressure on the District. In order to help maintain programs and services for students it is the Boards' request that any additional compensation increases be fully funded on an ongoing basis.

In closing we would once again like to thank the Ministry for the recent funding allocations; however we respectfully ask that the funding be ongoing and that any additional compensation increases be fully supported.

Sincerely,

Gordon Comeau
Board Chair

GC:sc



School District 72

Campbell River, B.C.

425 Pinecrest Road, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 3P2 • Tel: 250.830.2300 • Fax: 250.287.2616 • www.sd72.bc.ca

October 6, 2016

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
c/o Parliamentary Committees Office
Room 224, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Re: Budget 2017 Considerations

Dear Committee Members,

This letter is our formal written submission to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services from the Board of Education, School District 72 (Campbell River). We appreciate the opportunity to provide information into the Budget Process for 2017. We present four concerns and recommendations for your consideration.

Concerns

1. Unpredictability of Changes to Government Funding

Since spring 2015, School District 72 has encountered the following changes in funding:

- Reduction of Administrative Savings;
- Return of year two of Administrative Savings for 2016;
- Rural Education Enhancement Fund application;
- Student Transportation Fund application;
- Coding and computers for the classroom;
- Additional School Enhancement Fund; and
- No funding for approved administrative wage increases.

Learning to Be Our Best

Unpredictable funding undermines the careful, collaborative planning and decisions made by the school district during the annual budgeting process.

While the return or additions to funding were welcome, each of these changes required extra work and time of senior management above and beyond the thorough, consultative, time-consuming annual district budget process. Usually these changes involved a short response time, creating time pressures, shifting expectations, and not necessarily addressing our district's highest priorities.

2. Lack of Funding to School District to Cover Government Mandated Expenses

Current outstanding issue of funding long overdue exempt staff compensation; factors include cost, morale, recruitment and retention.

Insufficient funding to support provincially negotiated collective agreements has created an ever-increasing shortfall of compounded increased and underfunded benefit costs.

Each year the school district continues to face cost increases like Hydro, health benefits, as well as other hard goods inflationary increases.

When releasing our most recent audit report, the local auditor pointed out that in order to balance our budget in the last three years, we have needed to budget a draw on **surplus / reserves** of \$880,000 each year. This situation is not desirable and not sustainable.

3. Mental Health Support Funding

We support the concept of integration with other agencies to provide direct support for children and families. While the school district does its best to support students dealing with anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues, capacity challenges sometimes prevent timely and adequate intervention. The link between mental health and student progress and outcome is clear. Poverty is also an issue for many students and families in our district; food is provided at school but often the families have no access to other community supports. We encourage the government to seek ways to increase the integration of agencies to provide better support for vulnerable students and their families.

4. Targeted Funding

While extra funds are always appreciated, the current method of funding does not address the issue of various districts having different needs and priorities. As mentioned above, targeted funding with application consumes staff time and does not address our priorities for improving service. It effectively erodes local autonomy and the responsibilities of the board.

Recommendations

1. Stable, predictable, adequate funding of the public school system.

2. Expenses mandated by government should be funded by government, including the approved administrative wage increases, benefits, and utility costs.
3. We encourage the government to seek ways to provide more support for students with mental health issues by increasing funding and seeking ways to integrate educational, social and health agencies, such as sharing information and resources.
4. Some or all of the new grants should be rolled into the student amount. This allows for individual districts to set and address their priorities.

Conclusion

These changes would allow School District 72 to plan more effectively long term, create stability, better serve all students by providing mental health support, allow our district to address local priorities, and minimize extra work for staff.

The future of our province is determined by our investment in the students of today.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Wilson, Chair
Board of Education, School District 72 (Campbell River)
425 Pinecrest Road
Campbell River, BC V9W 3P2
susan.wilson@sd72.bc.ca

c: BCSTA for distribution to all BC Boards of Education
Claire Trevena, North Island MLA



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)**

425 Jermyn Avenue
Penticton, BC, Canada V2A 1Z4

Telephone: 250-770-7700
Fax: 250-770-7722
E-mail: lvanalphen@summer.com
Website: www.sd67.bc.ca

Office of the Chair of the Board

File No.: 00470
OPR: SECTR

October 7, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8V 9E2

Re: Consistent Expectations and Effects for All School Districts

Dear Minister Bernier,

The Board of Education for School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) is writing this letter in support of the joint letter dated September 30, 2016 from the BCSTA, BCSSA and BCASBO associations that requests consistent and equitable application of Ministry policy decisions and *School Act* requirements for all districts.

The Board sincerely appreciates your consideration of this important matter for all school districts throughout British Columbia.

Yours truly,

Linda Van Alphen
Chair
Board of Education

LVA:kk



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)**

425 Jermyn Avenue
Penticton, BC, Canada V2A 1Z4

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E-mail: lvanalphen@summer.com
Website: www.sd67.bc.ca

Office of the Chair of the Board

File No.: 00470
OPR: SECTR

October 7, 2016

The Honourable Mike de Jong
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8V 9E2

Re: Request for Funding of Principal and Vice-Principal Compensation Improvements

Dear Minister de Jong,

As you are aware, Boards of Education currently must provide for any wage increases for the educational leaders in our schools, our Principals and Vice-Principals. With no provincial funding for compensation improvements, Boards are forced to use current funding and budget to cover these added costs in order to properly compensate these hard working and dedicated individuals. Unfortunately, this gives the public perception that valuable resource dollars that could be used for student programs are being diverted to senior staff pay cheques. School Districts need your support; therefore, at our regular Board of Education meeting held on October 3, 2016, the following motion was carried:

That the Board of Education writes a letter to the Minister of Finance expressing support for compensation funding for principals and vice-principals.

We believe that this group of employees are just as important to education as are the classroom teachers and that the province should be funding these compensation increases no differently than the funding provided to cover the teachers collective agreements including the recent economic dividends. Further, the province has just announced a substantial budget surplus; indications from Premier Clark suggest that our economy is leading the nation and that this surplus is comprised of new tax revenue, suggesting that it will be sustainable over time. The amount of funding

required to satisfy these compensation needs are small in the big picture, but would allow Boards of Education to continue to pass balanced budgets. We know that government's greatest investment in the future is education and this small investment in our educational leaders ensures that British Columbia remains one of the strongest systems in the nation and the world.

In conclusion, The Board of Education for School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) strongly urges government for 100% funding for compensation improvements for principals and vice-principals.

Thank you for your consideration of this significant issue for all school districts.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Van Alphen".

Linda Van Alphen
Chair
Board of Education

LVA:kk

6.6

October 14, 2016

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
c/o Parliamentary Committees Office
Room 224, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Sent by email

Dear Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services,

The Delta Board of Education thanks the Select Standing Committee for its “Report on the 2016 Budget Consultations” in particular for the recommendations on funding for K-12 Education. We believe these recommendations are as applicable today as they were one year ago, in particular, the recommendation on administrative staff compensation.

In our October 2015 submission to the Select Standing Committee, we spoke to research showing the benefits to global communities of higher levels of education and how our District Vision reflects that belief. We also advised of the strong alignment between the changing BC Curriculum and our District Goals arising from our Vision. These Goals are centered on three main Vision themes; Student Engagement, Student Sense of Belonging and Connectivity, and Preparing Learners for their Future. In the first half of 2016 we undertook a Re-Visioning initiative to assess the continuing relevance of our Vision, including our successes and where we need to work harder. Trustees, staff, students, parents and the community at large participated. The results showed continued support for our Vision, identified where we have made progress and helped to identify where we still have more work to do. We currently have the energy and desire to deeply engage in this work, and connect and embed it into the Provincial Education Transformation initiatives.

In our October 2015 submission, we also spoke to the sources of funding, in particular, enrolment holdback funding and International Student Program funding, to fund learning improvement initiatives in Delta and how that learning contributes as we make strides towards our District Vision. Subsequent to that submission, we learned that, as a result of increasing provincial student enrolment, there was no holdback funding in 2015/16, and likely none for 2016/17 or potentially the foreseeable future. This creates additional pressures not only for Delta as we work towards our Vision, but the resulting reduction in resources means we have had to curtail some of our plans to meet our District Goals at the very time investment is most needed.

2/.....

With regard to administrative staff compensation, we request that funding be provided to cover the cost of compensation increases for all staff on a go forward basis. While teacher compensation increases have been funded, there have been unfunded increases for both support staff and exempt staff in recent years. Although only teachers are covered by a provincial collective agreement, the reality is that teacher salaries have a significant impact on the compensation of all other employee groups, especially the compensation required to attract teachers to the administrative roles of Vice-Principal and Principal. While British Columbia has one of the top education systems in the world, funding of increases to support staff and exempt staff will free up funds to do even more.

We are in the middle of one of the most significant transformations in education ever undertaken in our District and in this Province. We are excited to be working with the Ministry of Education on our shared goals for our students so they fulfill their full potential as well-educated and well-trained citizens. The Delta Board of Education believes our public education system is the wisest investment we as a society can make for our collective future prosperity. Our request, through the Select Standing Committee, is that in order for our Board of Education to be able to continue to make multi-year goals and properly sustain them, a practice which is consistent with the recommendations in the recent May 2016 report *"Improving Budgeting and Expenditure Management in the Public Education System"* from the Auditor General, the Delta Board of Education Trustees require stable, predictable ongoing funding. We are doing everything we can to ensure that our goals are achieved in Delta but we urge the Select Standing Committee recommend that the Ministry of Education be provided with the budget required to ensure that we can achieve our shared goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Sincerely,



Laura Dixon
Chairperson, Delta Board of Education
P: 604-999-2053
E: ldixon@deltasd.bc.ca

cc: Mr. Scott Hamilton, MLA - Delta North
Ms. Vicki Huntington, MLA - Delta South
CUPE Local 1091
Delta Teachers' Association
Delta Parent Advisory Council
Association of Delta School Administrators
BCSTA for circulation to all Boards of Education



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

October 14th, 2016

Honourable Christy Clark
Premier, Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Honourable Michael De Jong
Minister of Finance and Government House Leader
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Premier Clark and Ministers De Jong and Bernier:

RE: \$1 Million Funding to “Specialized Education Schools”

At the School District 5 (SD5) Southeast Kootenay Public Board Meeting on October 11th, our Board carried the following motion:

That the Board send a letter to the Premier, Minister of Finance & Minister of Education, cc'd to regular stakeholders and inclusion/equitable access advocates re: Government commitment to funding of an additional \$1 million to Specialized Education Schools, with zero special education funding increases for public school districts, and follow-up with a media release.

This motion is in response to government's October 4th 2016 funding announcement of a \$1 million investment in private education “to boost its support for special needs students attending specialized independent schools in B.C....more than doubling the number of designated Special Education Schools (SES) from six to 15, and providing \$2,000 to support each qualified student”.

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• Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen

In the government's media release, Minister Bernier is quoted saying "*All students in our province deserve a learning environment that helps them succeed.*" Our Board agrees with this statement but finds Minister Bernier's use of this sentiment most disingenuous given government's choice to fund the 6,262 special needs students whose parents Can Afford to pay private school tuition fees while underfunding the 58,000 students currently identified as special needs in the public education system.

Our Board recently sent to government our District's Needs Budget for 2016/17. This document outlines those line items for which SD5 does NOT have funding, but of which are necessary to fund if our District is to provide equal, accessible and adequate education to ALL students in our District. This year's Needs Budget totals over \$6.5 million. **More than \$800,000 of that shortfall represents monies needed –but not provided—to deliver the necessary supports to our Special Needs students.**

To say that "*expanded support for special education schools is expanding choice for parents and support for some of our most vulnerable children,*" when, every day in this province, tens of thousands of our most vulnerable children continue to go without these "*tailored and specialized learning programs that help bring countless benefits to these children and their families*", is simply incorrect.

"Choice" based on the disproportionate ability of a higher income family over an average –or low income—family to pay for these superior, tax-payer subsidized educational services is not a "choice" for most British Columbians, negating the ideal of **equal opportunity**.

Yet, government has a history of increasing the percentage of private education over that of public funding, as illustrated by the 61.7% funding increase independent schools have received since 2005, in comparison to the paltry 19.7% increase provided to public education during that same period.

While government "justifies" private education funding increases given that private institutions are "only" funded at 50% the FTE of public education, our Board would argue that, having satisfied its obligation to provide the *essential service of universal, public education* to the citizens of BC, the provincial government has **zero obligation to fund alternate forms of education, i.e. private education.**

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• Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen

In fact our Board would argue that the concept of ANY level of government funding for private education abrogates equal benefit of law, as access to education with lower class sizes, higher teacher-to-student ratios, increased services for special needs students etc. becomes circumstantial of a family's economic situation and therefore *provides benefit only to those individuals who can afford it.*

And, given that one in five children in this province currently lives in poverty, this condition automatically disqualifies 20% of BC students from receiving the lower class sizes, higher teacher-to-student ratios, increased services for special needs students etc. of which their own parents' tax dollars help support.

Our Board respectfully asks that government reconcile their prejudicially exclusive funding of "Specialized Education Schools" and provide **the same \$2000 increase in funding to ALL students in the public education system that have been designated as special needs.** Additionally, our Board would appreciate a timely response to this most important concern.

Sincerely,



Frank Lento, Board Chair, SD5

Cc*: Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East BC
John Horgan, Leader, BC New Democratic Party
Rob Fleming, Education Critic, BC New Democratic Party
Teresa Rezasnoff, President, BCSTA
BCSTA for distribution to member Boards of Education
Mike Lombardi, Chair, Vancouver School Board
Glen Hansman, President BC Teachers' Federation
John Bird, President, BCCPAC
Shelley Balfour & Christina Smith, CFTA Co-Chairs
Debbie Therrien, DPAC Chair
Aaron Thorn, President, SD5 Administrators' Association
Charley Beresford, Columbia Institute
Catherine Shaw, FACE BC Vancouver
Media

*This correspondence is public and transparent. Please feel free to share and/or respond with comment.

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Jacqueline Blumhagen • Gail Brown
• Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

October 14th, 2016

Honourable Michael De Jong
 Minister of Finance and Government House Leader
 PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt
 Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Honourable Mike Bernier
 Minister of Education
 PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Govt
 Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Ministers De Jong and Bernier:

RE: SD5 Needs Budget for 2016/17

Please find attached the School District 5 (SD5) Southeast Kootenay Needs Budget for 2016/17. As per Board policy, this budget is sent to your Ministry each year following our legislated, balanced budget.

As you will note, our District is once again short of the funding necessary to provide adequate education to ALL students – this year by over \$6.5 million. We would also like to point out that over \$800,000 of that shortfall represents monies needed – but not provided - to deliver the necessary supports to our Special Needs students.

We would like to remind government that the NEED for increased spending to education is an Ongoing Theme of the Select Standing Committee on Government Finances and Services (SSCGFS) recommendations *each year*. Most recently, in their 2016 report the Committee clearly indicated that education constituted a *significant portion* of the public's budget input and that *no other area of expense exceeded K-12 education as a public spending priority*.

Despite these bipartisan findings, K-12 education continues to be significantly underfunded and the SSCFGS recommendations unheeded while Boards scramble to fund yearly inflationary costs like Hydro and MSP, the new MyEdBC

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Jacqueline Blumhagen • Gail Brown
 • Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen

program, the training and resources required to implement the renewed curriculum, PVP/exempt staff compensation etc., over and above basic funding categories.

And, while our Board acknowledges that government has provided limited funding envelopes to address *some* capital concerns such as transportation and minor building upgrades, this funding does not address Boards' ongoing need for **stable, predictable and adequate funding**.

Our Board cannot understand why, despite BC's AAA credit rating and one of the lowest debts among provinces, the BC government continues to choose to pay down debt faster than scheduled in last year's budget rather than invest that money in such an essential service as education.

Nor can we understand why, given the funding challenges faced by all 60 Boards of Education across the province, government is still focused on a \$100 million "Prosperity Fund" whose "lead priority" is debt retirement.

Most difficult to understand however, is why government continues to choose investment in private over public education year over year as illustrated by the 61.7% funding increase independent schools have received since 2005, in comparison to the paltry 19.7% increase provided to public education during that same period.

Once again, our Board urges your government to listen to the taxpayers of British Columbia –as per the findings of multiple SSCFGS reports — and make a real and significant investment in public education.

Sincerely,



Frank Lento, Board Chair,
SD5

*Cc: Christy Clark, Premier
Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East BC
John Horgan, Leader, BC New Democratic Party
Rob Fleming, Education Critic, BC New Democratic Party
Wm. Scott Hamilton, Chair, Select Standing Committee on Finances and
Government Services
Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Jacqueline Blumhagen • Gail Brown
• Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen

Teresa Rezasnoff, President, BCSTA
BCSTA for distribution to member Boards of Education
Mike Lombardi, Chair, Vancouver School Board
Glen Hansman, President BC Teachers' Federation
John Bird, President, BCCPAC
Shelley Balfour & Christina Smith, CFTA Co-Chairs
Debbie Therrien, DPAC Chair
Aaron Thorn, President, SD5 Administrators' Association
Charley Beresford, Columbia Institute
Catherine Shaw, FACE BC Vancouver
Media

*This correspondence is public and transparent. Please feel free to share and/or respond with comment.

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Jacqueline Blumhagen • Gail Brown
• Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen

940 Industrial Road #1, Cranbrook BC, V1C 4C6 • Tel: 250.417.2055 • Fax: 250.489.5460 • www.sd5.bc.ca

SD5 Needs for Budget 2016/17

Select Standing committee recommendation

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Staff</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Teacher Librarians Elem | 7.6 | 775,200 |
| Teacher Librarians Sec | 3.2 | 326,400 |
| Resource Center - Teacher | 0.5 | 51,000 |
| Secondary offerings - Teachers | 4.0 | 408,000 |
| Fine Arts and Band - Teachers | 3.0 | 306,000 |
| Learning thru the Arts - Teacher | 1.0 | 102,000 |
| Science Helping - Teachers | 2.0 | 204,000 |
| District Psychologist | 1.0 | 102,000 |
| ELL teacher coordinator | 1.0 | 102,000 |
| Speech language pathologists | 2.0 | 204,000 |
| Counsellors - Teachers | 2.0 | 204,000 |
| Physical Literacy | 2.0 | 204,000 |
| Steeple .4 Vice Principal | 0.4 | 40,800 |
| Reduce Class size - Teachers | 17.0 | 1,734,000 |
| Administration time - Teachers | 3.0 | 306,000 |
| Early Years Coordinator | 1.0 | 102,000 |
| Coding support - Hardware/software | | 30,000 |
| Shops Equipment | | 100,000 |
| Training for Specialist | | 10,000 |
| IEP meeting improvement | | 30,000 |
| EA support for K - Sept | | 66,000 |
| MyEd training | | 40,000 |
| Operations - Mgmt | 1.0 | 94,000 |
| Education Assistants | 3.0 | 120,000 |
| Elem School Supplies | | 30,000 |
| PVP/Exempt compensation | | 200,000 |
| Local capital program | | 250,000 |
| Technology | | 100,000 |
| MYEd Technologist | | 75,000 |
| New Curriculum Implementation | | 30,000 |
| IT Technician | | 66,000 |
| PVP Mentoring | | 10,000 |
| School Professional Learning rounds | | 40,000 |
| School Transition Meetings | | 10,000 |
| PARTY program | | 10,000 |
| District Science Fair | | 5,000 |
| Violent Threat Risk Assessment | | 30,000 |
| Total | | 6,517,400 |

**Southeast Kootenay School District 5 Education Advocacy on Student Services
for the Select Standing Committee (October 2016)**

Overview of our District's Student Services staffing for 2016-17

- Student Services Teacher = 25.2 FTE (up from 23.9)
- Education Assistants = 75 elementary (down two); 43 secondary (down 3)
- Student Services Coordinators = 1.9 FTE
- School Psychologist = 0.9 FTE
- Vision Resource Teacher = 1 FTE
- Hearing Resource Teacher = 1 FTE
- Speech Language Pathologists = 5 FTE
- Youth Care Workers = 11

And funding for 2016-17

- Generated funding generated from Level 1, 2, 3 = \$7.67 million for school level services
 - 10 students who are physical dependent (up one)
 - 101 students who have moderate to profound intellectual disabilities, chronic health or physical disabilities, visual or hearing impairments (down ten)
 - 113 students on the autism spectrum (up seven)
 - 156 students who require intensive supports for mental illness or externalized behavior (down 13)
- Basic Allocation from District = \$1.73 million for school level services
 - Additional 373 students on an Individual Education Plan
- Community LINK funding = \$373,000
- Additional \$1 million in Education Fund and Support Learning Improvement Fund

There are additional funds that support School Counsellors and Aboriginal Education Support Workers.

There are many additional program supports in place including the Breakfast and Lunch programs, Friends program, Mind-Up Program, positive mental wellness plans, meetings with parents, school community and outside agencies for kids needing more intensive supports.



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
(OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN)

Box 1770, 6161 Okanagan Street
Oliver BC V0H 1T0
Phone: 250-498-3481
Fax: 250-498-4070
Website: www.sd53.bc.ca

October 17, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
PO BOX 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8V 9E2

Dear Minister Bernier:

RE: Stable and Predictable Funding and Funding for Principal/Vice-Principal Salary Increases

School District No. 53 (Okanagan-Similkameen) is a small rural district with unique needs and demographics that affect funding pressures. The Board of Education for School District No. 53 would like to thank you for the new funding dollars recently announced including REEF and the transportation fund, both of which our district applied for. We also appreciate the additional opportunities to apply for capital funds to improve our aging facilities. This has helped us not just to deliver a balanced budget but to also keep all of our schools open in the district. Although this has been very positive, we are hopeful that this is not just one-time funding but that these additional dollars will now become part of the consistent, stable and predictable long-term funding that we will be able to rely on. Our communities, parents, students and staff rely on us to deliver quality programs and we are expected to be predictable and reliable when we set goals and five year plans; for us to be able to provide this we need predictable, stable and sustainable funding especially in an environment of ever increasing costs.

A major concern that this Board now faces is the unfunded salary increases for principals and vice-principals. This group of employees is as important as teachers and support staff and their compensation increases should be funded in the same way as other employee groups are. Our district has set aside \$75,000 in our current budget; however, our obligation for the compensation increases is \$150,000. This has been another cost that has been approved but not funded by the government and the district will have to find these funds in an already stretched budget.

We have heard from Premier Clark that our economy is leading the nation and that this surplus is comprised of new tax revenue which suggests that the surplus will be sustainable over time. Investing in classrooms and educational leaders, we believe, will ensure the continued success of our students. This will allow Boards of Education to invest extra dollars in the implementation of the new BC curriculum and also fund innovative local and provincial initiatives.

We are hopeful that our continued advocacy will result in improved predictable long-term funding for the education of all students in BC as we believe this is the best investment any government can make.

Yours sincerely,

Marieze Tarr, Chair

- c. Trustees, SD53
BCSTA for all Boards of Education
B. Young, Superintendent of Schools
L. Minnabarriet, Secretary Treasurer
S. Paliappa, Assistant Secretary Treasurer



October 18, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier, MLA
 Minister of Education
 Room 310
 Parliament Buildings
 Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Bernier,

Re: Government Appointed Official Trustee Concern

With regard to your letter dated October 17, 2016, the Gold Trail Board of Education wishes to express its gravest concern that one of the largest school districts in BC is now being run by one person; your appointed official trustee. As this is now the second board in BC currently being run by an individual person and not by a democratically elected Board, we urge you to begin the by-election process to ensure that the communities, schools and students in School District No. 39 (Vancouver) and School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) have a voice in who governs their districts.

If the Minister of Education and/or the Province of BC does not begin the process in the immediate future, it will reflect poorly on the government. Too much time has already passed for School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) with no indication that a by-election is imminent. The Board does not wish to see a school district run by an individual for the same extended period of time as in School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley).

The Board is unanimous in requesting the Ministry and Government show confidence in Canadian and British Columbian democratic processes and when a Board of Education is fired, to set an election date for local trustees for **no more than six months** following any appointment of a non-elected trustee by the provincial government.

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

VALERIE ADRIAN
 Co-Chair

CARMEN RANTA
 Co-Chair

Cc Honourable Christy Clark, MLA Premier of BC
 Jackie Tegart, MLA (Fraser-Nicola)
 BC Boards of Education



October 18, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier, MLA
Minister of Education
Room 310
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Bernier,

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The Board is unanimous in requesting the Ministry and Government show confidence in Canadian and British Columbian democratic processes and when a Board of Education is fired, to set an election date for local trustees for **no more than six months** following any appointment of a non-elected trustee by the provincial government.

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Valerie Adrian".

VALERIE ADRIAN
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carmen Ranta".

CARMEN RANTA
Co-Chair

Cc Honourable Christy Clark, MLA Premier of BC
Jackie Tegart, MLA (Fraser-Nicola)
BC Boards of Education



BOARD OF EDUCATION

"Together We Learn"

October 19, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Honourable Minister Bernier and Honourable Minister de Jong:

RE: Principals and Vice-Principals – Funding for Approved Compensation Increases

At the September 28, 2016 Public Board Meeting, the Central Okanagan Board of Education passed the following Motion:

THAT: The Board of Education write a letter to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education requesting that funding be provided to Provincial School Districts for the recently approved compensation improvements for Principals and Vice-Principals.

The lengthy salary freeze for Principals and Vice-Principals, combined with the government supported contract settlement with the Teachers, had resulted in significant compensation and inversion challenges for the Principal and Vice-Principal group. The recently approved compensation improvements for Principals and Vice-Principals and the plan to move to step A on the new scales, while welcomed and appreciated, will cause significant challenges to Boards of Educations' budgets.

The financial pressures on school districts is a direct result of government actions and the Central Okanagan Board of Education is of the opinion that the government should recognize these additional costs to the system and financially support school districts. Budget

.../2

Board of Education - Trustees

Moyra Baxter

Deb Butler

Rolli Cacchioni

Julia Fraser

Christopher L. Gorman

Lee Mossman

Lee-Ann Tiede

reductions have already placed significant pressure on school districts to maintain programs for students. Providing funding for the increased compensation for Principals and Vice-Principals will support the ongoing excellence in our public education system.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Moyra Baxter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Moyra Baxter
Board Chair

copy: Central Okanagan Board of Education Trustees
The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
Dan Ashton, MLA
The Honourable Norm Letnick, MLA
The Honourable Steve Thomson, MLA
Central Okanagan Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association
All Boards of Education c/o BCSTA



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

October 26th, 2016

Teresa Rezansoff, President
 British Columbia School Trustees Association
 4th floor - 1580 West Broadway
 Vancouver, BC V6J 5K9

Dear Teresa:

RE: BCSTA Media Release re: Government Firing of Vancouver School Board

The School District 5 (SD5), Southeast Kootenay Board of Education is extremely dismayed with the lack of action taken by the BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) Board of Directors (BoD) with regard to the recent firing by government of the Vancouver School Board (VSB).

As you must be aware, the firing of the VSB *impacts all Boards of Education* as it is an **outright challenge to the right of democratically elected Boards to advocate on behalf of their constituents, and a challenge to the right of citizens to be duly represented.**

Given the obvious and escalating conflict between the two parties –especially following the request by some VSB trustees for intervention by a Government that is *also one of the parties involved in the conflict*, our Board believes the BoD had a duty and obligation to its existing membership to intervene with at least a *suggestion* that mediation take place between the MoE and the VSB.

Our Board was also extremely disappointed to read the BCSTA media release of Monday, October 17th, 2016 regarding government's firing of the VSB.

While our Board recognizes that the BoD has the power to take positions on emergent issues, we feel that power was misplaced. We believe our membership deserved a more thoughtful and careful response –one that indicated concern over the situation *and* a desire to review information and consult with the membership **before** stating a position –especially given an issue as serious as a Board of the second largest district in our province being summarily fired.

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Jacqueline Blumhagen • Gail Brown
 • Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen

We would like to remind the BoD of its response to our Board's letter of March 9th, 2016, re: concerns over the provincial budget and the BCSTA strategic plan: media/communications, in which you stated in a letter of April 27th, 2016 the following:

"Let me begin by first expressing how much the BCSTA Board of Directors values member input and reflection. It is critical to our organization that the voices of all member boards are both heard and considered by the directors whenever any action is contemplated...As with the resolutions passed at our recent Annual General Meeting, we look to member boards for input as to how we bring forward and address common concerns."

Our Board therefore respectfully requests that the BCSTA Board of Directors seek input from member boards on this important issue and, **only upon exercising their due diligence**, issue a second media release that more fully and accurately reflects the views and reactions of the BCSTA membership to the firing of the VSB.

We also request that the BCSTA work with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to implement processes and procedures geared toward resolving conflicts between a Board of Education and the MoE while respecting differences *and* the democratic process. We further request this process involve equal representation by both co-governance partners, the MoE and the BCSTA (as represented by elected Trustees *from across the province*).

We look forward to a timely response regarding our concerns and requests regarding this most important issue.

Sincerely,



Frank Lento, Board Chair,
SD5


Cc*: For distribution to all BCSTA member Boards of Education

*This correspondence is open and transparent to all Boards of Education in BC.
Please feel free to provide feedback.

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Jacqueline Blumhagen • Gail Brown
• Curtis Helgesen • Chris Johns • Doug McPhee • Patricia Whalen

Again, thank you for taking the time to bring these important issues to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bernier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mike Bernier
Minister



BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Chair: Edith Loring-Kuhanga Vice-Chair: Diane McNally
Trustees: Tom Ferris, Elaine Leonard, Deborah Nohr, Peg Orchernton
Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters, Ann Whiteaker*

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)
556 BOLESKINE ROAD, VICTORIA, BC V8Z 1E8
PHONE (250) 475-4106 FAX (250) 475-4112**

October 28, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

RE: SD61 Support of elected Boards of Education

Dear Minister Bernier,

At our regular meeting of October 24, 2016 the Board passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write to the Minister of Education expressing their support of the democratic right of the public to an elected Board of Education. Therefore, the Board of Education call on the Minister of Education to amend the School Act to require the Lieutenant Governor in Council to order an election be held within six months in the event that an "official trustee" has been appointed to a District Board of Education.

It is the Board's opinion that democratically elected Boards of Education are fundamental to the success of public education. Furthermore, as the Ministry is committed to a "co-governance" model of public education, the lack of democratically elected Boards of Education undermines the basis of our joint governance..

Let me be clear that the Board is not supporting the firing of democratically elected Boards in BC. However in the event that you decide to fire democratically elected boards, we are encouraging changes to the *School Act* that would enshrine the requirement to call elections within six months of a Board being fired.

Since Boards of Education (and previously School Boards) have been a fundamental building block of Canadian democracy since prior to confederation, we believe that the election should be called in a timely manner. School Districts have a right to be guided by the public that it serves. Finally, the lack of a democratically elected Board undermines the decisions of a District and also undermines public education more broadly.

We look forward to a timely response to our request. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edith Loring-Kuhanga".

Edith Loring-Kuhanga
Chair, Board of the Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

Cc: Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Schools
Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
Board of Trustees
All BC School Boards, c/o BCSTA



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

THOMPSON OKANAGAN BRANCH

October 30, 2016

The Honourable Mr. Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
Room 310, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Bernier,

At the fall meeting of the Thompson Okanagan Branch, trustees expressed deep concern over the considerable length of time residents of SD83 (North Okanagan Shuswap) will be without a locally elected Board of Education.

Democratically elected local trustees are the best representatives for their communities. They know the needs and challenges specific to their communities. Trustees who live and work in the district know the aspirations their communities have for their children. An appointed 'Official Trustee', no matter how dedicated, could not have the same depth of knowledge of the area or accountability to its residents.

Trustees from all nine districts in the Thompson Okanagan Branch request that if a district has their Board of Education removed, that a local by-election date be set for no later than six months from said removal.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ginny Manning", written in a cursive style.

Ginny Manning
President, Thompson Okanagan Branch

cc. All Boards of Education c/o BCSTA



British Columbia Teachers' Federation A Union of Professionals
100-550 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2 bctf.ca
604-871-2283 1-800-663-9163 TTY 604-871-2185 (deaf and hard of hearing) 
Executive Offices fax: 604-871-2290

By email: Dave.Byng@gov.bc.ca

October 28, 2016

Dave Byng
Deputy Minister of Education
PO Box 9179
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9H8

Dear Deputy Minister:

On behalf of the 41,000 members of the BC Teachers' Federation, I am writing to urge your Ministry once again to delay the implementation of the Grades 10–12 curriculum.

As per the concerns the Federation articulated last spring about where things might be at this fall, much of the Grades 10–12 curriculum on the Ministry's website remains in draft form. And yet, this is the very material that secondary schools are relying upon right now this month in order to shape their course calendar for the following school year.

This course calendar typically gets released in January or early February in school districts around the province, and the preparation of it involves a tremendous amount of work in all our secondary schools across the province. Unfortunately, because the 10–12 curriculum mostly still exists in draft form, all the course calendar work going on right now is simply guess work. The drafts might change, the content of the courses might change, and the very structure of some of the courses still might change. This would put schools in the position of having to redo what is not an insignificant amount of work.

Teachers, our members, do not need additional, unnecessary amounts of work in what is already an extremely challenging school year given the number of changes and given working conditions in general.

Our understanding is that the meetings for several of the curriculum teams have been cancelled and other curriculum teams have no meeting planned at this time, which perhaps means that it could still be a while until finalized versions of the 10–12 curriculum are completed. This further compounds the already-existing problem.

Dave Byng
October 28, 2016

Let's work together to ensure that implementation of the 10–12 curriculum can be done at a pace that is reasonable, with all the information and supports necessary ready for secondary school departments, individual teachers, school administration, and districts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hansman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Glen Hansman
President

pc: Teresa Rezansoff, President, BC School Trustees Association
Sherry Elwood, President, BC School Superintendents Association
Kevin Reimer, President, BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association
PSA Council

GH:vw:tfu

November 1, 2016

The Honourable Mr. Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bernier:

On behalf of the Board of Education for School District 70 (Alberni) I write to express our extreme disappointment at the recent announcement of an additional \$1 million to fund special needs students attending BC independent schools. Public Boards of Education across British Columbia continue to grapple with chronic underfunding of public education and remain dismayed at the allocation of public dollars to fund private education.

Trustees in SD70 firmly believe that all students with unique or special needs can be included in neighbourhood public schools and that adequate funding should be provided to public schools to ensure student success within the public school system. Further, trustees note that “tailored and specialized programs” provided by “highly trained teachers and specialists” at low teacher to student ratios are also important attributes of inclusive education in public schools, and that all public schools should be considered for additional funding for special needs students.

Rather than an increase in funding limited to Specialized Education Services independent schools, then, the Board of Education for SD70 (Alberni) urges government to direct additional funds to all public schools to provide the programs, services and personnel necessary to educate vulnerable learners in neighbourhood public schools.

Sincerely,



Pam Craig
Board Chair

Cc: SD 70 Board of Education
BCSTA for all Boards of Education
G. Smyth, Superintendent of Schools
L. Cheetham, Secretary-Treasurer

November 1, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bernier:

In the 2012/13 school year School District 70 (Alberni) received a 68% reduction in transportation funding equalling approximately \$950 000. No other school district incurred as significant a reduction as SD70. At the time, SD70 raised its concerns with both Ministry officials and the Technical Review Committee about the Ministry of Education's revised student location factor and how the reduced transportation amount failed to capture the actual student transportation needs of the district. While sympathetic to the district's concerns, trustees and staff were advised that no significant changes to the transportation allocation were forthcoming especially since the district was projected to remain in funding protection for years to come.

In 2016/17, the school district is no longer in funding protection yet continues to feel the long term impact of reduced transportation funding. While grateful for the \$71 717 transportation funding adjustment received on August 10, 2016, the adjustment remains tied to the Ministry of Education's student location factor formula – a formula that the school district maintains does not accurately reflect student transportation needs of the district.

The August 10, 2016 Ministry press release, backgrounder and FAQ's suggest that the additional transportation funding was in "recognition of the difficult decisions many school districts have made, specifically with respect to transportation" and was intended to "level the playing field." School District 70 (Alberni) has made many difficult decisions regarding transportation funding, yet the additional funds fail to recognize these decisions and certainly do not level the playing field.

Rather than charging eligible riders for standard bus service to catchment schools, SD70 made the difficult decision to revise student walk limits, amend bus routes and adjust pick up/drop off times to ensure adequate school bus service for students. This decision was very mindful of issues of poverty in our communities and came at the financial expense of other programs and services. In retrospect, had SD70 charged students for standard bus service starting in 2013 it surely would have received a larger transportation allocation on August 10, 2016 based on the Ministry expectation to fund existing transportation services. Instead, the transportation funding adjustment represents a negligible addition in comparison to the significant reduction experienced in 2012/13.

It is challenging to look at past funding changes and recent funding announcements and not see districts as 'winners or losers'. It is disappointing to receive a transportation funding adjustment based on a formula you believe is flawed and continues to perpetuate inequity among districts. It is frustrating to know that basic school bus and water taxi services are inadequately funded and force the district to rely on other district funds to offset legitimate transportation costs.

School District 70 (Alberni) has previously implemented many of the recommended best practices in student transportation and has submitted a plan to the Ministry of Education regarding the planned expenditure of additional transportation funds. Neither best practice nor supplemental funding, however, address the real, ongoing concern of inadequate funding of standard transportation services in our district.

Once again, Trustees in SD70 ask that Ministry officials return to the question of adequate transportation funding in SD70, especially given the district's emergence from funding protection and the lack of sufficient funding to offset standard transportation services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Craig".

Pam Craig
Board Chair

cc: Honourable Michael de Jong
George Farkas, Assistant Deputy Minister - RMCS
BCSTA for all Boards of Education



November 1, 2016

Ref: 191070

Rick McKamey, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 75 (Mission)
Email: rick.mckamey@mpsd.ca

Dear Mr. McKamey:

I am responding to the letter dated September 6, 2016, addressed to Ian Aaron, Director, School District Financial Reporting, requesting approval for the Mission Board of Education to underspend its targeted Aboriginal education amount for the 2015/16 school year. As Deputy Minister of Education, I am pleased to respond.

Pursuant to Section 106.4(2) of the *School Act*, approval is granted for the Board to underspend its 2015/16 school year Aboriginal education target in an amount up to \$16,247. This variation of direction is granted on the condition these funds will be brought forward and added to the 2016/17 school year Aboriginal education targeted amount to be expended on Aboriginal education programs.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Ian Aaron, Director, School District Financial Reporting, Resource Management and Corporate Services Division, by phone at (250) 415-1073 or by email at Ian.Aaron@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

for Dave Byng
Deputy Minister

pc: Corien Becker, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 75 (Mission)
Angus Wilson, Superintendent, School District No. 75 (Mission)
Joseph Heslip, A/District Principal, Aboriginal Education, School District No. 75
(Mission)



Dear Colleagues,

As you know, in the summer of 2016 Premier Christy Clark announced that Linda Larson, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education, would be working with education sector and community stakeholder groups to develop a Rural Education Strategy by the summer of 2017. The review will look at rural school funding and educational practices and the role education and schools play in rural communities across the province. It will include recommendations for the future, with a specific focus on the unique challenges facing rural school districts and recognizing the economic, social, and cultural impact that schools have on small communities.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an overview of the engagement and consultation plan that is expected to unfold over the next several months, so that you can begin thinking about how you would like to participate.

Parliamentary Secretary Linda Larson's engagement process will include a number of key components to ensure that the process is inclusive and that a broad range of feedback and input is received from a variety of different stakeholder groups, including:

- School boards (trustees)
- School district staff including superintendents, secretary treasurers, school-based administrators, and teachers/support staff
- Parents
- K-12 sector associations (i.e. BCSTA, BCSSA, BCASBO, BCCPAC, BCPVPA, etc.)
- First Nations
- Community organizations (local governments, regional districts, Chambers of Commerce)
- General public

Beginning this month, there will be several ways to participate in this process:

1. Online discussion for rural families, parents, community members, and school-based leaders and staff that will be open for feedback for several weeks;
2. Stakeholder groups, such as Boards of Education, sector Associations, and local governments will be asked to submit their thoughts in formal submissions by early January (all stakeholder invitations and submissions will be posted publicly);

3. Senior school district staff with technical knowledge, such as Superintendents and Secretary Treasurers, will be canvassed via a survey about issues around funding, facilities, and educational programming.

I invite you to start thinking about rural education-related issues in your district, and to begin to let your local stakeholders know of the upcoming opportunities that will be made available to participate. You will receive a formal notification from me once the above-noted processes are formally launched and available for your participation.

Sincerely,



George Farkas
Assistant Deputy Minister

November 2, 2016

Ref: 191337

To: All Superintendents
All Secretary-Treasurers
All School Facility Managers
All School Districts

Re: Youth Trades Capital Equipment Program (YTCEP)

The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (JTST), in liaison with the Industry Training Authority (ITA), have developed a Youth Trades Capital Equipment Program (YTCEP). The YTCEP is targeted to enable schools to purchase trades training equipment that is needed to support the delivery of one of the ITA's *Youth Trades Programs* as described in Appendix 1.

JTST has requested the Ministry of Education (EDUC) to assist by acting as the administrator of the YTCEP. Upon approval, funds will be provided to school districts directly by the ITA.

The YTCEP has an overall budget of \$15 million, with a minimum investment target of \$7.5 million in fiscal 2016/17 (to be expended by March 31, 2017). The balance of the budget is to be fully expended in fiscals 2017/18 and 2018/19.

The objectives of the YTCEP are to:

- Gain a better understanding of current trades equipment inventory in each School District.
- Determine forecasted needs for additional trades equipment requirements in each School District.
- Increase participation and successful completion of youth trades programs and the number of students who continue on to further trades training programs.
- Ensure School Districts have safe and appropriate modern trades equipment to support the delivery of the ITA's *Youth Trades Programs*.
- Provide capital resources for School Districts to develop and implement innovative trades training within the ITA's *Youth Trades Programs*.

All school districts are encouraged to apply for funding, however eligibility will be based on a school district's ability to deliver one or more of the ITA's *Youth Trades Programs* as described in Appendix 1. More detailed information on the ITA's *Youth Trades Programs* is available at <http://www.itabc.ca/youth/> or by email at youth@itabc.com, or by phone at 1.866.660.6011.

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A partial list of the types of requests that will be eligible for funding are;

- Capital investments for additional new equipment, replacement of older obsolete existing equipment, or repair of existing equipment (i.e. there will be consideration given to a funding investment towards the repair of existing equipment if that is the most practical and cost effective option).
- Tools (i.e. power, hand, pneumatic, cordless).
- Heavy machinery (i.e. car hoists, table saws, kitchen equipment).
- Trades equipment (i.e. work tables, benches, toolbox, stoves, and small ware).
- Ventilation equipment (i.e. woodshop sawdust collector, cooktop ventilation system).

The YTCEP will be administered through a call for proposals. School districts are to submit a Three-Year Capital Plan identifying their priorities to EDUC who will review the plans, assess the strength and merits of the requests, and provide recommendations to JTST and the ITA on which priorities to fund.

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria;

1. School district's demonstrated commitment and operating plan to deliver one or more of the ITA's *Youth Trades Programs*.
2. School district's need for additional or replacement equipment based on existing trades equipment's condition, age, maintenance frequency, operational cost, and potential savings that would result from replacement.
3. Ability to increase student participation and outcomes from youth trade programs. School districts receiving funds will be required to report how the capital investment supported improved outcomes for their youth trade programs using the ITA's *Youth Trades Program Score Card*.
4. Ability to leverage or partner with other trades training providers (public or non-public).

School districts must also demonstrate they have sufficient operating resources (budget, staff and space) to make effective use of the requested trades equipment. Upon acquisition of any new trades equipment, school districts will be solely responsible for the cost of ongoing service, maintenance, insurance and warranties, as there is no additional funding to support these costs.

Please note that school districts must have the ability for YTCEP projects to meet Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for capital improvements.

School districts are to use the attached YTCEP Three-Year Capital Plan spreadsheet (see Appendix 2) to identify their priorities and provide a complete submission to their respective EDUC Capital Planning Officer **on or before January 6, 2017**.

School districts are encouraged to work with their Capital Planning Officer in advance of the submission deadline so all information received by the deadline is complete. Late submissions will not be accepted.

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Project announcements and funding confirmation will be provided to school districts in February/March 2017, with the expectation that school districts will execute on the supported projects in the months immediately following.

Should you have any questions regarding the YTCEP submission process, please contact your respective EDUC Capital Planning Officer at [Capital Division Contact List](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Nyikes".

Michael Nyikes, Director
Standards and Construction Branch

pc: Scott MacDonald, Assistant Deputy Minister, JTST Labour Market & Information Div.
Erin Johnston, Director, Training Investment, ITA
Shanna Mason, Assistant Deputy Minister, EDUC Capital Division
Ryan Spillett, Acting Executive Director, EDUC Capital Division
Carlo Vijandre, Manager, Facility Condition, EDUC Capital Division
All Regional Directors, EDUC Capital Division
All Planning Officers, EDUC Capital Division

Attachments:

1. Appendix 1 – ITA's *Youth Trades Programs*
2. Appendix 2 – YTCEP Three-Year Capital Plan

Appendix 1 – ITA’s Youth Trades Programs

| Previous Name | New Name | Grades | Course Information |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|--|
| Yes 2 IT | Youth Discover the Trades | 5-10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connects youth, parents and teachers with local tradespeople and their employers so youth can see first-hand what a career in trades is really like. |
| Maker Days | Youth Discover the Maker Way | all | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brings trades and technology to the classroom with hands-on learning that encourages invention, prototyping and experimenting. |
| Shop Class | Applied Design, Skills and Technology (ADST) | all | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADST programs related to Trades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Automotive Technology ○ Culinary Arts ○ Coding for Manufacturing ○ Drafting ○ Electronics and Robotics ○ Engine and Drivetrain ○ Food Studies ○ Furniture and Cabinet Making ○ Machining and Welding ○ Mechatronics ○ Metalwork ○ Power Technology ○ Robotics ○ Woodwork |
| Skills Exploration | Youth Explore Trades Skills | 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides hands-on experience for Grade 10 – 12 students interested in trying different trades before enrolling in a high-school apprenticeship program (ACE IT and SSA). |
| New course | Youth Explore Trades Sampler | 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time, semester-long and offer basic technical training and experience in a variety of trades. |
| ACE IT | Youth Train in Trades | 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth attend trades training classes and receive credits that count towards their high-school diploma and at least one level of technical training for their industry training program. |

| Previous Name | New Name | Grades | Course Information |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------|---|
| SSA | Youth Work in Trades | 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who find a sponsor employer and register with ITA as a youth apprentice can earn 16 credits towards their high-school diploma and 480 hours towards their trade credential |



6.22

November 2, 2016

Ref: 190796

Teresa Rezansoff, President
BC School Trustees Association
Email: trezansoff@bcsta.org

Sherry Elwood, President
BC School Superintendents Association
Email: selwood@sd38.bc.ca

Kelvin Stretch, President
BC Association of School Business Officials
Email: president@bcasbo.ca

Dear Ms. Rezansoff, Ms. Elwood and Mr. Stretch:

Thank you for your September 30, 2016 letter, following up on our recent discussion about the application of government policy to British Columbia school districts. I appreciated the opportunity to hear your concerns and to discuss this very important issue with all of you.

I certainly share your views about the importance of consistency in the Ministry of Education's interaction with districts, and I fully appreciate the significance of the concerns you have expressed to me. Our success as co-governors of the public education system is dependent in large part on maintaining a strong foundation of mutual respect and trust. As you have pointed out, perceived inconsistency or unfairness in one party's approach can destabilize that foundation, to the detriment, ultimately, of the system as a whole.

I am committed to ensuring that all districts are treated fairly. Given the diversity of school districts in this province, it is not always possible or appropriate to apply the same approach in every set of circumstances. From time to time, the Ministry must review the specific circumstances at hand, and take a different approach to addressing issues in a particular district in order for the final result to be equitable. I appreciate that this may raise questions and concerns about fairness, and I want to emphasize that it is always the Ministry's intention to ensure equitable treatment for all districts, regardless of location, size or other factors.

In my view, the relationship between the Ministry and your organizations is highly valued on both sides, and is the most open and productive in recent history. I will continue to share as much information as possible with you, and welcome further discussion of the concerns you have raised.

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Again, thank you for taking the time to bring these important issues to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bernier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mike Bernier
Minister