



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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Thursday, September 24, 2009

Hon. Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

I am writing on behalf of the Vancouver Board of Education to advise that trustees, at an emergency meeting on September 9, 2009, passed the following motion:

- That the VSB request the Province of BC to reinstate the \$20 per-student grant available to school Parent Advisory Councils.

Vancouver trustees are deeply concerned by the decision to halve the funding available to school-based PACs. This money supports parent involvement in the public education system, and the loss of this funding will directly affect Vancouver students' learning environment.

Parents are already asked to raise a tremendous amount of money to pay for things, such as playground equipment, that are not provided for within provincial funding to schools. There has long been concern such fund raising creates have and have-not schools based on the difference in income levels from one school community to the next. This concern is further amplified because there will now be less money to support not-for-profit parent groups and off-set the funds these volunteers are able to raise.

The cut may help the province's bottom line, however, it will have a long-term negative affect on B.C.'s public schools. We should be putting more money into education, not siphoning funds away from it. After all, the best way to achieve a strong B.C. for tomorrow is by investing in education today.

I urge you to reconsider this cut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Patti Bacchus'.

Patti Bacchus
Chair, Vancouver Board of Education

cc. Vancouver Board of Education trustees
Laurie Anderson, VSB Superintendent of Schools
Brenda Ng, VSB Secretary-Treasurer
All school boards

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