



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 prior to the implementation of the all-day Kindergarten program as outlined in the September 1, 2009 Budget Update, the Minister of Education consult with the BCSTA, Coalition of Child Care Advocates, and boards of education to develop a comprehensive plan for developing and implementing the program, and that the plan include a fully funded budget plan that takes into account, human resources, facilities, curriculum, and related matters.

All-day Kindergarten is already offered at a number of Vancouver schools, and trustees are very supportive of the intent to make it available to all five year olds. However, we are concerned that the expansion be well planned, resulting from consultations with key stakeholders, and fully funded so that potential issues are addressed before they have a negative affect on the learning outcomes of our youngest students. The stakes are simply too high to embark on a mass implementation without proper planning and funding.

Vancouver trustees look forward to working with your ministry, BCSTA, the Coalition of Childcare Advocates and other boards of education to develop an implementation plan for all-day Kindergarten.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Pacchus'.

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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