



# Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

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April 24, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier  
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

The Honourable Peter Fassbender  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Michael de Jong  
Minister of Finance  
PO Box 9417 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Dear Premier Clark, Minister Fassbender and Minister de Jong:

The Vancouver Board of Education is facing a projected funding shortfall of \$11.65 million for 2014/2015. In order to submit a balanced budget, the Board of Trustees is considering cuts to programs and staff which will significantly impact schools, students and learning communities within Vancouver. A summary of the proposed cuts is attached to this letter.

The funding shortfall for 2014/2015 comes on top of the \$47 million in spending cuts that have been made in Vancouver over the past decade. Unfortunately, the future does not look any brighter as we are forecasting an additional funding shortfall of \$26 million for 2015/2016.

These funding shortfalls are due to the chronic underfunding of public education by the provincial government. As noted in our submission to the Province's Selecting Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services last year, British Columbia falls below the national average in expenditures per student at \$11,820 per student compared to \$12,106 per student. If the Province matched the \$12,106 national average, it would translate into \$160 million more per year in education spending for the Province's 580,000 students. British Columbia also spends less on education as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) at 3.3% compared to the national average of 3.6%.

The refusal of the government to fund support staff salary increases negotiated by the Province's chief negotiator, as well as cost increases for Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums, employee benefit costs (e.g. Teacher Pension Plan) and general inflation on goods and services are major contributing factors to the projected funding shortfall. Our schools and education system cannot continue to sustain these constant cuts to staff and programs. Our students deserve better.

As over 90% of our funding comes from the Province, the level of provincial funding has a significant impact on the educational programs and services that can be provided. Accordingly, we are writing this letter to request that your government advocate for and support additional funding for public education. This would be consistent with the Report of the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services which recommended "that the provincial government provide sufficient funding for the K-12 system to enable BC students to become top performers nationally; and address cost increases for school districts."

We also wish to express our shock and concern with respect to the letters from the Minister and Deputy Minister of Education in late March and early April regarding cost sharing for capital projects. The letters propose that school boards would be responsible for funding up to 50% of the cost of seismic and other capital projects. It was especially concerning to read that "where boards of education may have previously designated funds for operating or capital priorities, these priorities will need to be reassessed."

Board of School Trustees:


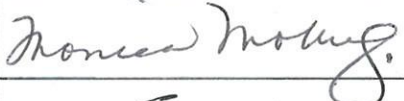

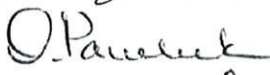



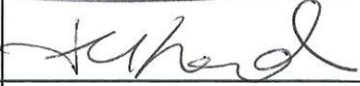
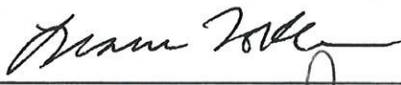

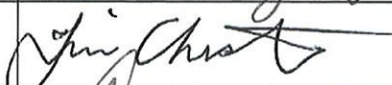
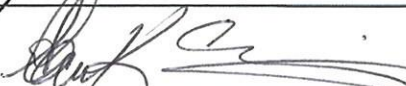
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Patti Bacchus - Chairperson  
Mike Lombardi - Vice-Chairperson  
Fraser Ballantyne Ken Clement Ken Denike  
Cherie Payne Allan Wong Sophia Woo  
Rob Wynen

As the Province has always remained responsible for funding capital projects, this proposed change in funding represents a significant shift in public policy and does not respect our co-governance relationship. As a result of the continued underfunding of public education in this Province (as noted above), your government should know by now that school boards do not have any excess surplus funds to contribute to the cost of capital projects. We urge the Minister of Education to withdraw his March 31, 2014 letter. Last night, the Vancouver Board of Education passed a proposed motion to be submitted to the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) 2014 Annual General Meeting this weekend seeking support on the position that the Province should continue to fully fund seismic and other capital projects.

We thank you for your consideration of our above-noted requests.

Sincerely,

Patti Bacchus, Chairperson Vancouver Board of Education	
Monica Moberg, Chairperson District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)	
Chansey Chiang, President Vancouver District Student Council (VDSC)	
Debbie Pawluk, President Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association (VSTA)	
Gerry Kent, President Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association	
Liz Kloepper, President Vancouver Elementary Principals and Vice Principals	
Gino Bondi, President Vancouver Associate of Secondary School Administrators	
Jessica Land, President Professional and Administrative Staff Association (PASA)	
Leanne Toderian, President CUPE Local 15	
Brent Boyd, President CUPE Local 407	
Tim Chester, President International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 963	
Alan Exner Trades Representative	

CC: Vancouver MLAs  
 BC School Boards (c/o BCSTA)  
 Vancouver Board of Education Trustees  
 Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools  
 Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer

**2014/2015 Preliminary Budget Proposals**

<b>Budget Items</b>		<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$ millions</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Administrative/Policy &amp; Other</b>		
1	Wellness and Attendance Support	(2.00)	1.10
2	District Admin	4.40	0.51
3	Revisions to the Mileage Reimbursement Policy		0.50
4	Capital Project Office	3.00	0.29
5	Secondary School Cafeterias	1.21	0.06
6	Overtime		0.05
7	Copier Sale & Leaseback		1.08
8	Eliminate Inflation on Goods & Services		0.45
9	Furniture & Equipment		0.38
10	Progression to Print Management		0.33
11	Consolidated Purchasing		0.10
12	BCSTA Membership		0.08
13	DPAC Funding		0.04
14	Travel		0.05
<b>B</b>	<b>Facilities</b>		
1	Maintenance Service Reductions	5.00	0.50
2	Britannia Centre Cost Sharing Agreement	3.00	0.15
3	Closure of Classroom Space	0.83	0.04
<b>C</b>	<b>Revenue generating</b>		
1	Provincial Holdback Funds		1.50
2	Local Capital Reserve		1.00
3	Remaining 12/13 Unrestricted Surplus		0.70
4	Institute District Pay Parking		0.23
5	Increase Rental Rates		0.10
6	External Printing		0.05
7	Ed Centre Parkade Rates		0.05
<b>D</b>	<b>Educational</b>		
1	Continuing Education	9.21	0.51
2	Band & Strings	8.85	0.63
3	District Staffing Entitlements - DLS	3.00	0.20
4	Gifted Education Consultant	0.40	0.04
5	SACY	2.00	0.13
6	International Education	(5.72)	0.59
7	Area Counsellors	3.00	0.32
8	Educational Psychologists	1.00	0.10
9	Speech Language Pathologists	1.00	0.10
10	Multicultural Liaison Workers	2.00	0.14
11	Library Services & Supplies		0.05
12	French Immersion Resource Teacher	0.40	0.04
13	Media Technician	0.60	0.04
14	Literacy Mentor and Consultant	1.40	0.13
15	Alternative Programs	2.89	0.22
16	Anti-Racism	0.20	0.02
17	ELL Consultant	1.00	0.09
18	Peer to Peer	4.00	0.33
19	Pro-D Contact	1.00	0.05
20	Athletic Coordinator	1.00	0.07
21	Additional School Calendar Days		0.38
	Reduction of Proposals TBD		(0.69)
<b>Total Proposed Reductions</b>		<b>52.67</b>	<b>12.83</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Potential budget additions</b>		
1	IT Infrastructure	(1.00)	(0.22)
2	Hardware Equity Plan		(0.72)
3	Tech Deployment	(1.00)	(0.07)
4	Unified Communications	(1.00)	(0.08)
5	Payroll Coordinator	(1.00)	(0.09)
<b>Total Proposed Additional Expenditures</b>		<b>(4.00)</b>	<b>(1.18)</b>
<b>Total Budget Proposals</b>		<b>48.67</b>	<b>11.65</b>