



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8
Telephone: 604-713-5000

June 24, 2019

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Gov't.
Victoria, BC
V8V 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming,

At the public meeting of the Board of Education held on May 27/29, 2019 the following two motions were passed:

That the Board engage with the Ministry of Education in a renegotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding for Seismic Mitigation Projects. As part of a renewed MOU the District would seek increased opportunities to engage the public in the process and to increase transparency.

That the Board request to have a trustee serve as a non-voting member of the Vancouver Project Steering Committee.

While the wording in the first motion refers to Seismic Mitigation Projects, the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is between the Province of BC and the Vancouver Board of Education ("VBE") and lays out the establishment of a Vancouver Project Office ("VPO"), the operation of the Office and the creation of a Steering Committee, comprised of two senior members of the VBE and two senior members of the Province, to serve as an advisory body to the VPO.

The current MOU was signed on August 21, 2017 for a period of three years, as detailed in Section 3 of the MOU. That section also provides that an extension can occur at any time by written agreement. While not stated, the provision to extend at any time could imply the terms of the MOU might also be changed at any time by written agreement.

Is there an opportunity during the current term of the MOU to have the renegotiation referred to in the first motion? In particular that motion speaks to Article 2.5 of the MOU that the "VBE shall not select or publicly present a preferred option for a SMP project unless and until that option has been endorsed by the Steering Committee". As evidenced by recent public discourse here in Vancouver related to the lack of public consultation that is precluded by Article 2.5, VBE staff and MOE staff, through the work of the Steering Committee, have developed and have had

Board of School Trustees:

Janet Fraser – Board Chair

Allan Wong – Vice-Chair

Fraser Ballantyne Lois Chan-Pedley Carmen Cho

Estrellita Gonzalez Oliver Hanson

Barb Parrott Jennifer Reddy

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discussions about a different process that allows for more community consultation and feedback than the current process provides. The motion passed at the recent Board of Education meeting contemplates use of that new process, which is attached to the letter for your reference. I ask that the second motion also be considered if a renegotiation is agreed to.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response.

Best regards,



Janet Fraser
Chairperson

cc: VBE Trustees
Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent of Schools
J. David Green, Secretary Treasurer

From: [Marlene Phillips](#)
To: [EDUC, Minister I EDUC:EX](#)
Cc: [Janet Fraser](#); [David Green](#); [Suzanne Hoffman \(Superintendent\)](#)
Subject: Letter sent on behalf of the VBE Board Chair
Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 9:04:00 AM
Attachments: [19_06Jun24_L_toMOE_reMay Board Motions.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[oledata.mso](#)

The attached letter (also below) is being sent to you on behalf of Janet Fraser, Chair of the Vancouver Board of Education.

The original hardcopy follows in the mail.

Regards,

Marlene Phillips
Executive Assistant
Secretary Treasurer's Office
Vancouver School Board
Email: msphillips@vsb.bc.ca
Tel: 604-713-5080



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
1581 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5G3
Telephone: 604-713-5100

June 24, 2019

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Gov't
Victoria BC
V8V 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming,

At the public meeting of the Board of Education held on May 21/20, 2019 the following two motions were passed:

That the Board engage with the Ministry of Education in a renegotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding for Seismic Mitigation Projects. As part of a renewed MOU the District would seek increased opportunities to engage the public in the process and to increase transparency.

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