



April 20, 2021

Ref: 243804

Carmen Cho, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 39 (Vancouver)
c/o Maggie Yuen, Assistant to Secretary Treasurer
Email: mmyuen@vsb.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Cho:

Thank you for your letter of January 19, 2021, regarding the Vancouver School Board's (VSB) recent motion to provide anti-racism training to all district employees.

As you noted, this past year has gripped us with momentous events across the country and the continent that show us that racism continues to be an everyday experience for students and staff in our communities. I, along with the Premier, and every Minister and member of our government is committed to addressing the barriers that racialized people in our province experience that limits their full participation in the education sector.

I applaud VSB for taking an important step to champion this work and provide leadership within VSB and across the sector. An additional non-instructional day for all district staff to complete anti-racism training is a significant endeavour and a strong sign of VSB's commitment to address systemic racism in your School District. Education and training are foundational tools to address inequity and inequality.

The Ministry of Education is currently working with VSB staff to discuss the anti-racism staff training and curriculum resources that have been created. I appreciate the research and care applied to the development of the training and resources by VSB as well as the quick response to sharing these resources with the Ministry. School districts across British Columbia are creating anti-racism resources as well, and part of the Ministry's action plan is to inventory and share these examples of great work across the province.

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Within the almost \$459 million in the operating grants provided to your School District this year, the VSB has the ability to make local decisions as to how to allocate resources, including spending on initiatives such as this. I would like to thank you for your demonstrated leadership to support a safe, inclusive and welcoming education system to all students and staff, unfortunately, the Ministry of Education is not in a position to provide additional funds for the VSB as requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Whiteside".

Jennifer Whiteside
Minister

pc: VBE Trustees
Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent
J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer