

May 4, 2021

**Honourable Jennifer Whiteside**

Ministry of Education  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
E: [educ.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:educ.minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Whiteside:

At the Board's April 26, 2021 public Board meeting the following motion was adopted:

*That the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) write to the Minister of Education to advocate for funding from the 2021-2022 Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP) for heat pumps at Weir Elementary and Bayview Elementary so that these pumps can be installed during their seismic project construction.*

*And that this letter be copied to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, George Heyman, the local MLA for Weir Elementary, George Chow, MLA Vancouver-Fraserview, and the local MLA for Bayview Elementary, David Eby, MLA Vancouver-Point Grey.*

In the case of the replacement project for Bayview Elementary and the 75% replacement project for Dr. George M. Weir Elementary, both seismic projects, the designs made a provision for a heat pump to be included with the mechanical design. The heat pumps are not considered to be within scope for the seismic work. Tender documents required that the heat pumps be identified as separate line items to allow for cost savings to complete these projects within the approved budgets. To offset that possibility, the District submitted requests for both heat pumps in the 2021-2022 capital plan submission. Neither requested heat pump was approved in the initial Capital Plan Response Letter received on March 18, 2021.

Including the heat pumps in the design for these two seismic projects had both an energy efficiency and a financial reasoning behind them. Heat pumps add substantial value to these projects as they: (1) provide a low-carbon heating source: (2) provide flexibility to manage future utility costs as differing energy prices change: and (3) provide partial cooling to these buildings which improves student comfort and helps prepare these facilities for future climate change impacts. From a financial perspective, adding the heat pumps to future retrofit projects for these two schools will cost two to three times the cost of installing them as part of the replacement projects.

**Board of Education Trustees:**

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In the opinion of the Board, it makes sense for these two essentially new schools to have the heat pumps installed during construction as a lowest cost strategy but also to take advantage of the energy efficiency they would provide. The Board respectfully requests the Ministry reconsider the decision to not approve them in the initial Capital Plan Response Letter and include them in the amended letter expected this month.

Warm regards,



Carmen Cho  
Board Chair

cc: VBE Trustees  
Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent  
J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer  
Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
MLA George Chow, Vancouver-Fraserview  
MLA David Eby, Vancouver-Point Grey