

June 16, 2021

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside

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

Dear Minister Whiteside,

At the public meeting of the Board of Education on May 25, 2021 the Board adopted the following motion:

That the VBE write the Ministry of Education to request stable and adequate operational funding for school districts so that we may better achieve our vision of inspiring student success by providing an innovative, caring and responsive learning environment. This would include mental health initiatives; additional supports for vulnerable youth in ministry care; food programming; seamless childcare and extending the Safe Return to Schools Grant.

As the Province slowly reopens from the COVID-19 pandemic and with the direction that schools will return to normal operation in September, the Board feels it is essential that some of the funding support provided in 2020-2021 continue. The pandemic has left students and staff experiencing greater stress and anxiety levels.

The Board has a strong commitment to improving student success for all and especially for children and youth in care and Indigenous students. To support that commitment there is a need to continue to have in place measures to protect the health, well-being and safety of students and staff as we emerge from the pandemic. In addition, the importance of food programs and affordable childcare operations to support students and families was heightened during the past fifteen months.

As the new school year is approaching with various unknowns in relation to the pandemic, providing adequate operational funding to continue to provide the supports necessary to allow students to achieve their full potential will be of paramount importance and the Board strongly encourages the Ministry to make funding available to that end.

With regards,



Carmen Cho
Board Chair

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

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