

From: Roz MacLean

Sent: March 10, 2020 11:16 PM

Subject: please read before budget meeting

Dear honourable trustees,

I hope you are well. I am writing as a school and student support worker - A who has worked with the Vancouver School Board for the past 11 years. In this role I have worked in permanent positions and am currently working on call.

Over the past two years there have been many unfilled vacancies due to staff shortages. Also, many on call ssa's have been placed in long term vacancies, essentially acting as permanent employees. I am not sure of the amount, but I imagine that the VSB has saved some money as a result of this situation. I would like to note that when there are staff shortages there is an increased burden and workload on the remaining staff (permanent and "on call") who have to self organize and manage more students and tasks, and I feel that the saved money should benefit these staff in some way.

During the Coronavirus outbreak I am very aware that not coming in sick is not an option for many who will not get paid if they are absent. Support staff are also in close contact with medically vulnerable students and students who may not have awareness of hygiene, increasing the risk for staff and students.

I would ask that you consider using unspent funds due to unfilled vacancies to support on call support workers with sick pay if they need to take time off due to illness during this precarious time. I also think it would be appropriate to consider providing additional sick days to permanent staff if they need it. I believe these would be proactive measures to protect students and staff. Thank you in advance for considering this idea before tomorrow's budget meeting.

Best regards,

Roz MacLean