

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRIEFING NOTE**

DRAFT

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Decision**, at the request of the **Resource Management Division** on the future of the Funding Protection Supplement

SUBJECT: Funding Protection

BACKGROUND:

The Ministry of Education uses a population based funding formula, introduced in 2002, to allocate operating grants to Boards of Education.

The allocation formula is based mainly on full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrolment, primarily counted as at September 30th but also includes enrolment counts in February and May for Distributed Learning (DL) and Continuing Education (CE) programs.

In addition to the enrolment based allocation (the “basic allocation”), the formula includes additional factors that take into consideration the unique enrolment and geographic traits of both rural and urban school districts (Appendix 1):

- Supplement for Unique Student Needs
- Supplement for Salary Differential
- Supplement for Unique Geographic Factors
- Supplement for Transportation and Housing
- Supplement for Enrolment Decline
- **Funding Protection (FP)**

A per pupil amount is calculated by dividing each district’s total allocation, including supplements, by the number of funded FTE students. Per pupil is calculated for the province by dividing the total operating grant (the “Block”) by total funded FTE students.

The FP supplement was added to the allocation formula in 2006, when funding related to labour settlements were added to the Block, to ensure districts with declining student enrolment did not receive less funding than the previous year. The supplement was adjusted slightly in 2010/11 to be calculated only on the enrolment/funding generated at the September 30th count.

This policy has allowed government to state three things since 2006:

1. Highest operating grant funding ever;
2. Highest per pupil funding ever;
3. Despite declining enrolment, no district received less funding than the previous year.

DISCUSSION:

s. 13 and s. 17

s. 13 and s. 17

OPTIONS:

s. 13 and s. 17

s. 13 and s. 17

RECOMMENDATION:

s. 13 and s. 17

Appendix 1 – Funding Formula

80% allocated through the Basic Supplement

Basic Allocation

Common per student amount for every FTE student enrolled by school type

Standard School: \$6,784 per school age FTE	Continuing Education: \$6,784 per school age FTE
Alternate School: \$6,784 per school age FTE	Distributed Learning: \$5,851 per school age FTE

Supplemental Funding

11% allocated to recognize unique student enrolment

Unique Student

Additional per student funding to address uniqueness of district enrolment and support additional programming

Level 1 Special Needs: \$36,600 per student	Level 2 Special Needs: \$18,300 per student	Level 3 Special Needs: \$9,200 per student
English/French as a Second Language: \$1,340 per student	Aboriginal Education: \$1,160 per student	Adult Education: \$4,430 per FTE

Unique District

Additional funding to address uniqueness of district factors

7% allocated to recognize unique district factors

Small Community: for small schools located a distance away from the next nearest school	Low Enrolment: for districts with low total enrolment	Rural Factor: located some distance from Vancouver and the nearest large regional population centre	Climate Factor: operate schools in colder/ warmer climates additional heating or cooling requirements	Sparseness Factor: operate schools that are spread over a wide geographic area
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Transportation and Housing:

Funding to assist districts with the cost of providing transportation and housing

Salary Differential:

Funding to districts that have higher average educator salaries

1% allocated to buffer the effects of declining enrolment

Funding Protection / Enrolment Decline

Enrolment Decline: funding to districts experiencing enrolment decline of at least 1% when compared to the previous year

Funding Protection: funding to ensure that no district experiences a decline in operating grants when compared to the previous September

CSF Supplement – district receives a 15% funding premium on allocated funding

s. 13 and s. 17

s. 13 and s. 17

Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX

From: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 12:30 PM
To: 'Juleen McElgunn'; 'scardwell@vsb.bc.ca'
Cc: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX; Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX; Bernard, Noreen C EDUC:EX; Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX; 'Doreen Schieweck'; 'Jim Cambridge'
Subject: RE: 2011-12 Technical Review Committee - BCSSA Representation

Thank you, Juleen and welcome to the committee, Jim.

We will be in contact with the committee members in the coming weeks to set up the first meeting. I look forward to another productive year of working with the BCSSA representatives on this committee.

Michael Lebrun,
Senior Funding and Policy Analyst
BC Ministry of Education
Phone: 250-356-0176
Fax: 250-387-1451
Michael.Lebrun@gov.bc.ca

From: Juleen McElgunn [<mailto:jmcelgunn@bcssa.org>]
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 12:15 PM
To: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX; scardwell@vsb.bc.ca
Cc: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX; Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX; Bernard, Noreen C EDUC:EX; Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX; Doreen Schieweck; Jim Cambridge
Subject: RE: 2011-12 Technical Review Committee - BCSSA Representation

Hello Michael,

Jim Cambridge has been appointed as the BCSSA representative to this committee. Thank you for the opportunity for our association to be a part of this important work.

Juleen McElgunn
Executive Director - BCSSA

From: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX [<mailto:Michael.Lebrun@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: August-02-11 12:37 PM
To: 'jmcelgunn@bcssa.org'; 'scardwell@vsb.bc.ca'
Cc: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX; Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX; Bernard, Noreen C EDUC:EX; Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX
Subject: 2011-12 Technical Review Committee - BCSSA Representation

Good afternoon.

The Ministry of Education is beginning our preparations for reconvening the Technical Review Committee for 2011/12. s. 22 there is presently a vacancy for a BCSSA representative on the Committee, and we are looking to the Association to select a replacement. Anne Cooper and Tom Grant have previously been appointed and we are pleased to work with them again as part of the Committee.

The Committee will provide advice to the Minister on any changes that are necessary to the way funds are allocated for public education in 2011/12. Specific focus will be provided in the Terms of Reference, which will be provided to

Committee members. We will be in contact with Committee members directly to schedule meetings and to provide any discussion material for the meetings.

In order to make arrangements for the first meeting of the Committee this September, it would be appreciated if you could provide the name of the new BCSSA representative by Friday, August 19. Please let me know if you have any questions on this. Thank you.

Michael Lebrun,
Senior Funding and Policy Analyst
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Phone: 250-356-0176
Fax: 250-387-1451
Michael.Lebrun@gov.bc.ca

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From: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX [mailto:Michael.Lebrun@gov.bc.ca]
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To: 'jmcclgunn@bcssa.org'; 'scardwell@vsb.bc.ca'
Cc: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX; Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX; Bernard, Noreen C EDUC:EX; Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX
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Senior Funding and Policy Analyst
BC Ministry of Education
Phone: 250-356-0176
Fax: 250-387-1451
Michael.Lebrun@gov.bc.ca

Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX

From: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2011 11:04 AM
To: Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX; Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: Board Input to Funding Formula for Allocating Operating Grants
Attachments: Chairs re Funding Formula committee.pdf

fyi

From: Stephen Hansen [<mailto:shansen@BCSTA.ORG>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2011 10:49 AM
To: Gorman, James EDUC:EX; Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX; Dawson, Ken EDUC:EX
Cc: Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: Board Input to Funding Formula for Allocating Operating Grants

FYI – sent out this morning as per agreement with Keith Miller

From: McEvoy, Michael
Sent: August-03-11 10:46 AM
To: Chairs
Cc: Superintendents; Secretary Treasurers; Board of Directors; BCSTA Senior Staff
Subject: Board Input to Funding Formula for Allocating Operating Grants

Attention: Board Chairs

Re: Board input to Funding Formula for Allocating Operating Grants

Dear Board Chairs,

In our June 24 e-Alert, I announced that Education Minister George Abbott had agreed to my request to establish a structure to provide boards of education with input on the funding formula for allocating operating grants. Many boards have expressed concerns about the funding formula and have called for meaningful input to the model for distributing education funds. I want to share with you an initial outline of what that structure will be, and to request expressions of interest to be part of the process.

BCSTA envisions a two-part process that will include an opportunity for all boards to provide input on the funding formula, and the establishment of a representative working committee to review and consolidate the submissions.

Board Submissions:

In late August or early September, your board will receive a formal request to make a written submission on changes you would like to see made to the funding formula. The timing and structure of the submission have not been finalized, but I ask that you reserve time at your September board meeting for this matter.

Representative Committee:

I will be establishing a Representative Committee of approximately eight board chairs, whose primary task will be to review and consolidate the funding formula submissions received from boards. All board chairs interested in serving on this committee are asked to contact BCSTA by August 31. I will endeavour to select members who will provide an appropriate representation of district size, geography and interests.

Next Steps:

1. Contact Executive Director Stephen Hansen by e-mail (shansen@bcsta.org) by August 31 if you are interested in serving on the Representative Committee.
2. Reserve time in September for your board to review a forthcoming call for submissions on the funding formula.

I know that September is a very busy time for boards and for your senior district staff, and I appreciate you setting aside time for this very important matter. I will contact you again in August with more information as the input process is further refined.

Sincerely,

Michael McEvoy
President

cc: District Superintendents and Secretary Treasurers.

Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX

From: Juleen McElgunn [jmcclgunn@bcssa.org]
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2011 8:35 AM
To: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX; scardwell@vsb.bc.ca
Cc: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX; Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX; Bernard, Noreen C EDUC:EX; Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: 2011-12 Technical Review Committee - BCSSA Representation

Hello Michael,

Thank you for your email. The executive is meeting on August 17th and will discuss a representative at that time.

Juleen

From: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX [mailto:Michael.Lebrun@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: August-02-11 12:37 PM
To: 'jmcclgunn@bcssa.org'; 'scardwell@vsb.bc.ca'
Cc: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX; Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX; Bernard, Noreen C EDUC:EX; Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX
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Senior Funding and Policy Analyst
BC Ministry of Education
Phone: 250-356-0176
Fax: 250-387-1451
Michael.Lebrun@gov.bc.ca

Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX

From: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2011 2:50 PM
To: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX
Cc: Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: 2011-12 Technical Review Committee - BCSSA Representation

Thanks Michael, well done.

K

From: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2011 12:37 PM
To: 'jmcclgunn@bccsa.org'; 'scardwell@vsb.bc.ca'
Cc: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX; Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX; Bernard, Noreen C EDUC:EX; Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX
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Cambridge, Janice EDUC:EX

From: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2011 11:04 AM
To: Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX
Cc: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX; Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX; Bernard, Noreen C EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

Yes

Michael are you able to get hold of the BCSSA rep (?) over the next few weeks and get them in gear to find a replacement for s. 22

Sherri would have best contact s. 22

Thanks

Keith

From: Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2011 2:57 PM
To: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX
Cc: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

s. 22 we will have to ask Superintendent's for a replacement.

R

Reg Bawa, cga
Director, Funding & Compliance Branch
Ministry of Education | Resource Management Division
4-620 Superior St. | Victoria, BC | V8W 9H1
phone 250.356.2531 | mobile 250.888.0658 | fax 250.387.1451 | email <mailto:reg.bawa@gov.bc.ca>

From: Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2011 2:49 PM
To: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX
Cc: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

OK will put something together now – I have Sterling, Flavia and Greg from ASBO and Tom Grant, Ann Cooper, and Doug Person from Sups – I have not heard of any other changes from the Sups – have you?

R

Reg Bawa, cga
Director, Funding & Compliance Branch
Ministry of Education | Resource Management Division
4-620 Superior St. | Victoria, BC | V8W 9H1
phone 250.356.2531 | mobile 250.888.0658 | fax 250.387.1451 | email <mailto:reg.bawa@gov.bc.ca>

From: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2011 2:42 PM
To: Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX
Cc: Lebrun, Michael EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

Thanks Reg

Agree on the heads up

I will call lynda mynabarriet

How about an email to trc advising that we will commence work in fall and we are working with bcsta who will form a committee to develop recommendations on the funding formula for review by trc

I can then send a similar email to lynda for sharing with exec

K

Sent from my iPhone

On 2011-07-29, at 2:32 PM, "Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX" <Reg.Bawa@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Looks fine – looks like BCSTA will select the districts or are they asking for our input – if so I would suggest Saanich, Coquitlam, Okanagan-Skaha, Central Okanagan, Prince George and West Vancouver.

Also, I think we should give the Tech review committee and even BCASBO Exec a heads up about this proposal – their trustees will likely be asking them for the inside scoop as soon as they get this letter.

Reg Bawa, cga
Director, Funding & Compliance Branch
Ministry of Education | Resource Management Division
4-620 Superior St. | Victoria, BC | V8W 9H1
phone 250.356.2531 | mobile 250.888.0658 | fax 250.387.1451 | email <mailto:reg.bawa@gov.bc.ca>

From: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2011 9:19 AM
To: Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

Know your busy

But take a read if you get a chance and have any comments.

I will be discussing with Stephen Hansen next week.

K

From: Maggie Li [<mailto:MLi@BCSTA.ORG>]
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2011 9:17 AM
To: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX; Stephen Hansen
Subject: RE: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

Hi Keith,

Please find enclosed the draft email from Michael to our members. If you have further questions, Stephen will be back in the office on Tue, Aug 2. Thanks!

Cheers!

Maggie Li

Manager, Administration and Executive Services

BC School Trustees Association

From: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX [<mailto:Keith.Miller@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: July-28-11 11:31 AM
To: Stephen Hansen
Cc: Maggie Li
Subject: RE: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

Excellent Stephen

From: Stephen Hansen [<mailto:shansen@BCSTA.ORG>]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 11:30 AM
To: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX
Cc: Maggie Li
Subject: Re: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

Great. You will see in the draft letter it is a heads up to board chairs to reserve time on their sept meeting agenda to discuss input on the formula and to contact me if they are interested on serving on the committee to vet the input. Bcsta and MoE will select the committee based on criteria to balance geographic demographic factors. Talk to you next week.

From: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX [<mailto:Keith.Miller@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 11:23 AM
To: Stephen Hansen
Cc: Maggie Li; Bernard, Noreen C EDUC:EX <Noreen.Bernard@gov.bc.ca>; Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX <Sherri.Mohoruk@gov.bc.ca>; Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX <Reg.Bawa@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

Thanks Stephen

I am Acting for James s. 22 and I can review the letter on his behalf.

The purpose of the call would be to:

1. Jointly select the 8 trustee reps, or work out a process to select the Committee.
2. Review the draft letter inviting all boards to make submissions and noting process/timelines of establishing the representative Committee to vet and provide overall recommendations to the Technical Review Committee, with subsequent response by TRC and Minister.

Noreen will coordinate with Maggie to set up the conference call next week. s. 22
s. 22 Sherri Mohoruk may participate if she is available.

Thanks

Keith

From: Stephen Hansen [<mailto:shansen@BCSTA.ORG>]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 11:10 AM
To: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX
Cc: Maggie Li
Subject: Re: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

Let's go with just me at this point. We have a draft letter to send to board chairs but want to run it by James to make sure it is consistent with the approach we discussed a couple of weeks ago. Maggie can send you a copy for background.

From: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX [<mailto:Keith.Miller@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 11:04 AM
To: Stephen Hansen
Cc: Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX <Sherri.Mohoruk@gov.bc.ca>; Maggie Li; Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX <Reg.Bawa@gov.bc.ca>; Bernard, Noreen C EDUC:EX <Noreen.Bernard@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

Hi Stephen,

We will schedule a conference call next week when you return.

Your call whether you wish to involve Michael McEvoy.

Keith

From: Stephen Hansen [<mailto:shansen@BCSTA.ORG>]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX
Cc: Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX; Maggie Li
Subject: Re: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

Hi. Unfortunately I am away until Tuesday August 2. Maggie Li in our office can help find a time that works. would you like Michael McEvoy to participate as well?

From: Miller, Keith F EDUC:EX [<mailto:Keith.Miller@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 10:32 AM
To: Stephen Hansen; Bawa, Reg R EDUC:EX <Reg.Bawa@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Mohoruk, Sherri EDUC:EX <Sherri.Mohoruk@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Funding Formula Consultive Committee

When: Friday, July 29, 2011 9:00 AM-10:00 AM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Dial in: s. 17

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*



June 21, 2011

Ref: 146044

Patti Bacchus, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 39 (Vancouver)
Email: patti.bacchus@vsb.bc.ca

Dear Ms Bacchus:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2011, regarding provincial funding for public education.

These are financially challenging times for many organizations, including government. I acknowledge that your Board has invested a great deal of time and energy into its budget planning process and that can be a challenging task. Yet, the fact remains that over the past 10 years the Province has increased operating funding to the Vancouver Board of Education by an estimated \$87.2 million (or 24 percent), while enrolment has declined by an estimated 603 students (1 percent).

In your letter you mentioned your Board's motions, which were passed recently in relation to public education funding. As you may know, the Supreme Court has given government 12 months to address the repercussions of its Bill 28 ruling, and government has recently announced the beginning of the initial phase of consultation with the BC Teachers' Federation. Government is committed to working with its education partners to ensure appropriate learning conditions in BC schools and proper support for the Province's teachers.

I am pleased to note that our government implemented improvements to the method of providing funding for adult learners for the 2010/11 school year. These improvements included an increase in the base funding rate of \$4,430 per FTE (an increase of nearly \$400 per FTE for Vancouver) and a change to multiple enrolment counts and funding adjustments throughout the year to allow funding to be immediately allocated in response to increasing adult enrolments.

Under the revised funding method, operating grant funding for school-age and non-graduate adults enrolled in continuing education totals an estimated \$38 million in 2010/11. This is an increase of more than \$6 million over 2009/10 funding amounts. In addition, estimated funding for graduated adults enrolled in continuing education as part of government's Education Guarantee is \$8.1 million in 2010/11, more than double the 2009/10 allocation. This funding will benefit the school-age and adult students enrolled in continuing education centres as they work towards achieving their educational goals.

.../2

The Technical Review Committee—which includes both rural and urban school district representation—will be reviewing the funding allocation formula and funding protection supplement and will make recommendations to ensure it remains fair and equitable for all districts.

Thank you for your Board's efforts on behalf of all students in the Vancouver area.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Abbott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

George Abbott
Minister

146044

**Vancouver Board of Education**

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

Fax: 604-713-5049

MINISTER OF EDUCATION		
RECEIVED		
<input type="checkbox"/> M.O. # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> FYI	
MAY 16 2011		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DRAFT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> MA
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____	<input type="checkbox"/> AC	<input type="checkbox"/> DM

FAX COVER SHEET

Date: May 16, 2011

Fax to: The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
1-250-387-3200From: Marlene Phillips
Administrative Office Assistant
Secretary Treasurer's Office
Tel: 604-713-5286

Re: Provincial Funding for Public Education

Number of pages in this transmittal, including the cover sheet: 6

Board of School Trustees:
Patti Bacchus - Chairperson
Jane Bouey - Vice-Chairperson
Allan Blakey Ken Clement Ken Denike
Carol Gibson Sharon Gregson Mike Lombardi
Allan Wong



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

Fax: 604-713-5049

by fax and original by mail

May 11, 2011

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045,
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

Re: Provincial Funding for Public Education

On May 5, 2011, the Vancouver Board of Education approved a number of budget proposals for 2011/2012 which will result in achieving a balanced budget. As a funding shortfall of \$8.4 million was projected for 2011/2012, the budget proposals include cuts to 47 staff positions as well as to many programs and services.

Since 2001/2002, annual projected funding shortfalls for the Vancouver Board of Education have totaled \$80 million (see attached graph). As our Board has indicated many times in the past, the Province must provide stable, predictable and adequate funding to enable school districts to fulfill their responsibility to provide continued equitable access to quality public education. Our brief to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on September 15, 2010 outlined a number of recommendations in this regard (see attached).

At the Board meeting on May 5, 2011, the Vancouver Board of Education also passed the following motions related to funding for public education:

"That the Vancouver Board of Education call on the provincial government to reinstate the provisions of the BCTF/BCPSEA Collective Agreement that it removed by invalid and unconstitutional means (Madam Justice S. Griffin ruling in the Supreme Court of British Columbia) and provide the additional necessary funding to school boards prior to the beginning of the 2011/2012 school year to enable them to abide by said provisions."

and that

"The Vancouver Board of Education request the Minister of Education increase the per student funding allocation for Adult Education students; and that

The Ministry of Education be requested to review provincial Adult Education policies, procedures, and compliance guidelines with a view to promoting and increasing the enrolment of Adult Education students in school districts".

Board of School Trustees:

Patti Bacchus - Chairperson

Jane Bouey - Vice-Chairperson

Allan Blakey Ken Clement Ken Denike

Carol Gibson Sharon Gregson Mike Lombardi

Allan Wong

Thank you for this opportunity to convey our Board's support for improved funding for public education. We look forward to your response.

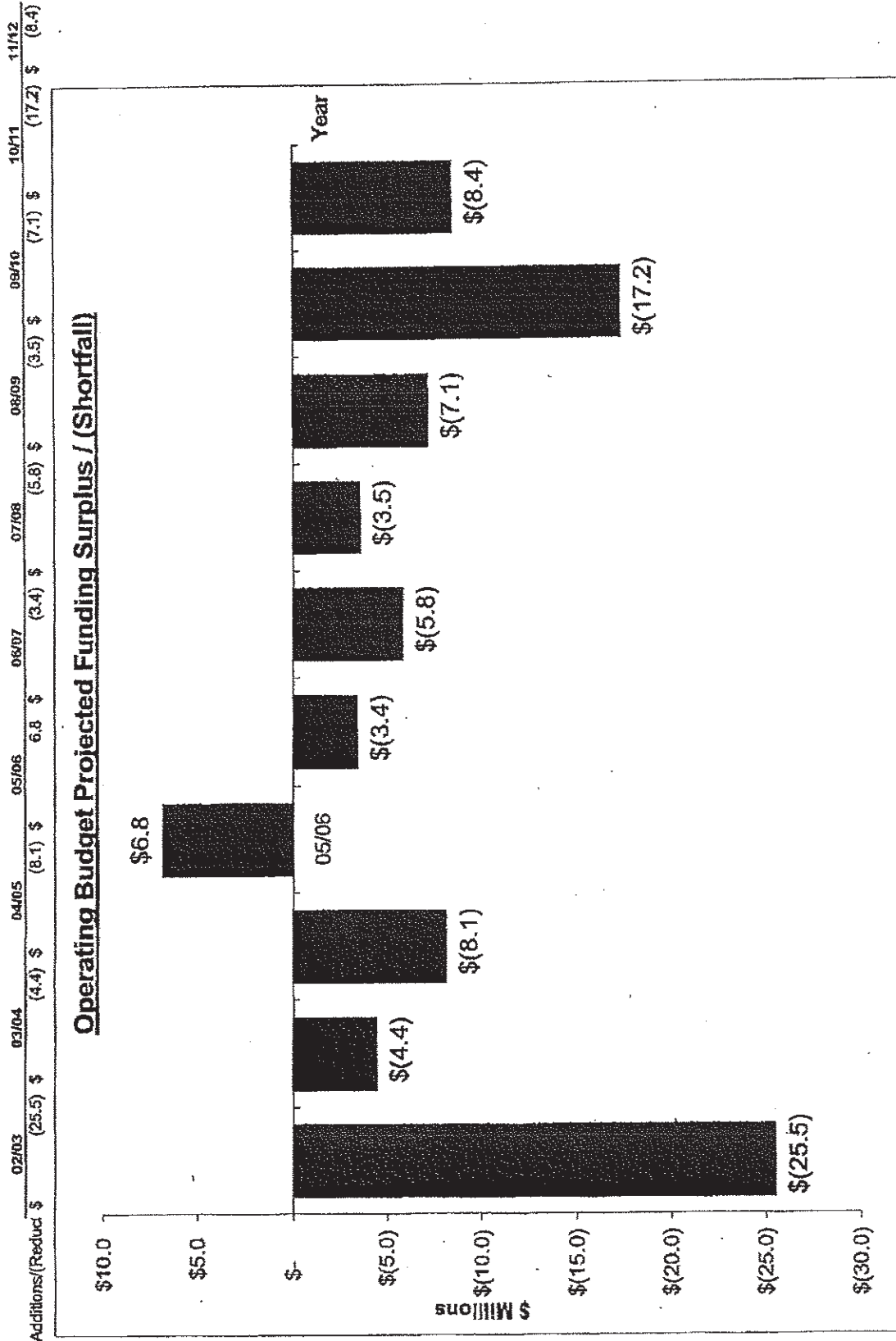
Yours truly,



Patli Bacchus
Chairperson

Attachments: 2

cc: Trustees
Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Krowchuk, Secretary-Treasurer



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Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

Fax: 604-713-5049

A brief to the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services from the Vancouver Board of Education, School District 39 regarding the 2011 Budget Consultation Process September 2010

The Vancouver School District 39 is a large, urban and multicultural school district that includes some of the most affluent and impoverished urban neighbourhoods in the country. This setting provides wonderful opportunities as well as serious challenges.

The district is among the most diverse public school systems in Canada with an annual enrolment of approximately 56,000 students in Kindergarten to grade 12. In addition, the Vancouver School District provides educational programs and services to full-time Adult Education and Continuing Education students.

Our programs and services address the extraordinary and complex challenges associated with a diverse district. Our goal is to serve the needs and tap the potential of each of our students so that they may achieve their unique potential.

The Board has five recommendations for the 2011 committee:

1. **The province must provide stable, predictable and adequate funding to enable school districts to fulfill their responsibility to provide continued equitable access to quality public education.**

Unpredictable funding and unfunded cost increases require school districts to spend significant time and resources on balancing budgets each year instead of strategically planning the most effective use of funding to support student success. This chronic underfunding also makes it increasingly difficult to fully support success for students as valuable programs and staff positions are further reduced in order to balance budgets.

2. **At a minimum, all negotiated or provincially mandated increases, including salary, benefits, pension contributions, medical premiums and new requirements such as carbon emission calculation and carbon offset purchases, must be fully funded by the province.**

The province does not currently provide funding for net cost increases of employee salary increments (for teachers, administrators and excluded staff as they progress through the steps on their pay scales) or increased costs of benefits such as CPP, EI, WCB, extended health and MSP. In addition, inflationary costs for goods and services and new costs imposed by the province, such as the requirement to calculate and report carbon emissions and to purchase carbon offsets, are also not funded.

Board of School Trustees:

Patti Bacchus - Chairperson

Jane Bouey - Vice-Chairperson

Allan Blakey Ken Clement Ken Denike

Carol Gibson Sharon Gregson Mike Lombardi

Allan Wong

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These unfunded costs represent a significant portion of the accumulated \$68 million in operating spending reductions in the district since 2002/03. These unfunded costs are projected to increase for our district in 2011/2012 by \$5.93 million and by \$6 million in 2012/2013. In order to meet their spending obligations on these items, districts must divert spending from other important areas such as the budgets that support children in the classrooms. We simply cannot afford to take more funding from our operating budget to cover these costs without further reductions to support for students.

3. **The province needs to review and increase supplemental funding grants for students with special needs.**

Grant amounts should be based on functional assessments of learning needs — in other words, based on what specific supports a student needs to successfully access education. The current model, which is based on medical assessments, does not consistently reflect students' individual needs for support.

The VSB allocates more than twice as much to supporting students with special needs than the province provides in supplementary funding and despite that service levels continue to be inadequate for providing for each student's learning needs.

4. **Need to provide funding for increased maintenance and upgrades to address needs of aging school facilities.** The province should also increase funding for ongoing maintenance using industry maintenance standards as a guide. Funding for school building maintenance levels has generally been at approximately 25 per cent of industry standards (Building Owner and Managers Association) and the VSB's aging stock of buildings is at risk of accelerated deterioration due to minimal maintenance levels. The district's ability to carry out necessary and preventive work has been hampered not only by insufficient funding, but from last year's abrupt cancellation of the Annual Facilities Grant and the subsequent only partial restoration. Levels must be increased and must also be stable and predictable.

5. **We must have a real plan to eliminate child poverty in BC and ensure all families have access to affordable, quality child care.** The correlation between child poverty and failure to succeed in school is strong and despite the VSB's allocation of additional resources through our inner-city schools programs and CommunityLINK, the needs of our students far outstrip our available funding to provide support. A comprehensive provincial plan to address child poverty and to make quality child care accessible and affordable would enable increased numbers of students to succeed in school.

On behalf of the Vancouver Board of School Trustees, thank you for this opportunity to provide our recommendations.

Submitted by,



Patti Bacchus
Chairperson, Vancouver Board of Education



August 24, 2011

Ref: 147774

Frank Lento, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
Email: frank.lento@sd5.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Lento:

Thank you for your letter dated July 21, 2011, regarding your Board's budget-planning process for 2011/12 and the request for consideration of changes to the education funding formula.

These are financially challenging times for many organizations, including government and consequently boards of education. As you know, the demographics of our province continue to change and both government and boards of education need to examine how our education system can adapt.

I recognize that boards, as with most organizations, face increasing cost pressures that weigh on the budget-planning process. While per-pupil funding to the Southeast Kootenay School District has increased from \$6,755 in 2000/01 to an estimated \$9,093 in 2011/12, I appreciate your desire to provide additional educational opportunities for your students. The Ministry of Education will be embarking on a review of the current funding formula with the Technical Review Committee—a committee that includes both rural and urban school district representation—and through this review there will be an opportunity to evaluate how the current funding formula can be improved to ensure greater stability for school districts.

Thank you again for bringing your Board's concerns to my attention.

Yours truly,

George Abbott
Minister



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TREASURER

147774

July 21, 2011

The Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Abbott,

Re: Budget Needs 2011/2012

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JUL 27 2011	
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At the regular public meeting of the Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) held on June 14, 2011, the following motion was approved:

"Motion R-11-037"

M/S that the District submit a needs budget along with the compliance budget, as we have done in the past."

The Board, as part of its budget process, requested input from the public, parents, staff and Unions of the education community it serves. The Board received numerous suggestions for additional programming and ideas on how to deal with its projected shortfall.

These requests have once again reminded us that the responsibility of our Board to provide educational opportunities is broad, diverse and in need of additional funding.

To meet the funding required for our 2011/2012 Budget the Board allocated \$775,396 or 100% of its unrestricted surplus from 2010 year end. As we look forward to next year, we are in funding protection estimated around \$675,000 and have a transition grant of \$191,296. In total, School District No. 5 will be dealing with a shortfall of \$1,641,692 in funding resources or 3.13% of our annual budget. On top of this shortfall are annual inflation and other cost pressures impacting most school districts. It is unacceptable to us to manage our operation without the ability to predict our funding levels on a timely basis.

We respectfully request that the Minister consider the needs of our District and consider providing an inflation adjustment to annual funding announcements and redirecting funding protection and transition grants to the per student allocation.

Yours truly,

Frank Lento
Chairperson

Cc: Trustees
B. Gook, CEO/Superintendent
R. Norum, Secretary Treasurer
B. Bennett, MLA



August 10, 2011

Ref: 147597

Wayne Rodier, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)
350 Second Ave N
Williams Lake BC V2G 1Z9

Dear Mr. Rodier:

Thank you for your letter dated June 30, 2011, sharing the motion from your Board requesting consideration of further funding support for small, rural schools.

These are financially challenging times for many organizations, including government and consequently boards of education. As I am certain you realize, the demographics of our province continue to change and both government and boards of education need to examine how our education system can adapt. The fact remains that K-12 student enrolment has declined dramatically in BC during the past ten years.

I recognize that boards, as with most organizations, face increasing cost pressures that weigh on the budget-planning process. Yet, per-pupil funding to the Cariboo-Chilcotin School District has increased from \$6,972 in 2000/01 to an estimated \$10,015 in 2011/12. The District also receives one of the highest funding amounts for unique geographic factors in the province at \$6 million next school year, along with an additional \$4.3 million for transportation and housing, and an estimated \$2.4 million in enrolment decline and funding protection supplements to ensure the district will not receive less funding in 2011/12 than it did in the previous year. In addition, under the Small Community Supplement, your Board will receive \$2.9 million next school year in recognition of the added cost of operating small schools in rural and remote locations. Included in this amount is an allotment of \$157,500 for Big Lake Elementary.

That said, I share your desire to preserve schools and programs within our smaller communities. The Ministry of Education will be embarking on a review of the current funding formula with the Technical Review Committee—a committee that includes both rural and urban school district representation—and through this review, there will be an opportunity to evaluate how the current funding formula can be improved to ensure greater stability for school districts.

.../2

Thank you again for bringing your Board's concerns to my attention.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Abbott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

George Abbott
Minister

pc: Bob Simpson, MLA (Cariboo North)



Board of Education of
School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

RUSH!

30 June 2011

147597
P: 250.398.3833
F: 250.392.3600
350 Second Avenue N
Williams Lake, BC V2G 1Z9

The Honorable George Abbott
Minister of Education
PO Box 9058 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

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Dear Minister Abbott:

Rush

Re: Support for Small Rural Schools

At its open meeting held on May 31, 2011, the Board of Education of School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin) passed the following motion:

"...THAT the Board of Education write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the need for more support for small rural schools."

The motion came as the result of the Board's decision to increase staffing at Big Lake Elementary school, a K-7 school with a projected enrolment next fall of 21 students. Although our proposed budget for the 2011-12 school year includes about \$800,000 in structural deficit (monies that, for 2011-12 will be taken from projected surpluses and a small reserve fund), the Board was convinced that it was not in the best interest of the students at Big Lake School to structure their school as a single K- 7 classroom for four of the five school days each week. Our decision was to increase staffing by a 0.4 FTE teacher so that there will be two teachers working with four grades each, for four days a week. This is a decision that will increase our structural deficit, and which, we are convinced, is not sustainable into the future.

One of the problems, as we see it, is that the small school grant, along with regular block funding, is not sufficient to maintain an appropriate or adequate staffing level in our smaller and more remote schools. In effect, the funding levels are forcing us to either close rural schools (something that we are loath to do, as we strongly believe in the benefits of maintaining schools in smaller communities), or to create one room schools which try to serve the educational needs of students in 8, 9 or 10 grades, depending on the location of the school. We may be unique in the Province, but we do have a number of small remote rural schools in places where there is no viable alternative but to maintain at least a full elementary program. These schools are, of necessity, very expensive to operate, and, in our opinion, need to be funded at a different level; maybe they should be designated as "small but necessary" and receive addition funding.

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"Learning, Growing and Belonging Together"



It should be a basic tenet of our education system, which is arguably one of the best in the world, that every student must have an equal opportunity for a high quality education. We are really not convinced that that can happen in a one room K-7 elementary school which is trying to educate 21 students.

Yours truly

FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wayne Rodier
Chair

WR:can

Cc: Premier of BC, Christy Clark
Minister of Finance, Kevin Falcon
MLA Donna Barnett
MLA Bob Simpson
SD27 Trustees
SD27 Superintendent of Schools, Diane Wright
SD27 Secretary-Treasurer, Bonnie Roller



June 28, 2011

Ref: 146446

Rolli Cacchioni, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)
Email: rcacchio@sd23.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Cacchioni:

Thank you for your letter dated May 17, 2011, regarding the funding allocation formula as it addresses student transportation and funding protection.

I have noted your Board's comments and concerns regarding the supplement for transportation funding. Contrary to your assertion that funding has not increased for the supplement since 2002, transportation funding was increased in 2010/11 by 2.58 percent for all school districts. In 2011/12, this funding remains constant and School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) will receive more than \$2.4 million for the provision of its student transportation services.

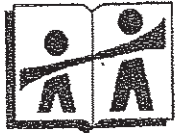
With regard to your comments about funding protection, the Ministry of Education reviews the funding with the Technical Review Committee—a committee that includes both rural and urban school district representation—and through this review improvements are made to ensure it continues to meet the needs of school districts. During the next review period, funding protection will be discussed and an overall review conducted to ensure the formula is fair to both rural and urban districts.

I recognize that boards of education, as with most organizations, face cost pressures. However, over the last ten years, funding to the Central Okanagan School District has increased by 32.4 percent while, at the same time, enrolment has declined by 0.2 percent. In addition, I am hopeful that the Ministry's recent announcement of \$8.1 million in funding for school districts from funds held back from the preliminary grants allocation will assist in alleviating some of the budgetary cost pressures.

Again, thank you for writing and for keeping me apprised of your concerns.

Yours truly,

George Abbott
Minister



BOARD OF EDUCATION

"Together We Learn"

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23

(CENTRAL OKANAGAN)

1940 Underhill Street, Kelowna, B.C. V1X 5X7

Tel. (250) 860-8888 Fax (250) 860-9799

Website: www.sd23.bc.ca

May 17, 2011

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

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Dear Minister Abbott:

Re: 2011/2012 Funding Allocation

The Ministry of Education recently announced the 2011/2012 funding allocation for School Districts. While the additional funding of \$44 per student is welcomed, the Central Okanagan Board of Education remains concerned about the fairness of the funding allocation system. Despite repeated announcements that the allocation for transportation would be changed, the Board is disappointed that this item was not addressed for 2011/2012.

Each year the Board spends over \$1.0 million more on transportation than the current Ministry of Education grant for transportation. To offset this financial burden, the Board has reluctantly implemented a very unpopular Transportation Charge to 'make ends meet'. The Transportation Charge has generated additional funding for the School District, however, there has been an unfortunate behavioral change. Parents that are unable or unwilling to pay the charge are now driving their children to school. This has resulted in more traffic around schools which has increased safety concerns for the students as they walk through the traffic to get to the school. Also, driving students in private vehicles is contrary to the government's initiative to choose 'green' alternatives to reduce the carbon footprint. A full school bus can remove as many as forty private vehicles from the road resulting in a significant decrease in greenhouse gases. The Board is concerned that the continuation of the Transportation Charge may result in further traffic congestion around schools and a net increase in greenhouse gases. However, to eliminate the charge without an alternate source of revenue would result in over \$700,000 of additional cuts to services to the students. Therefore, not only is the current funding system placing a financial burden on the School District, it is also contrary to the Carbon reduction initiatives.

The Transportation Grant has been frozen since 2002. At that time the allocation system was under review as both the Ministry and School Districts felt the allocation method was no longer appropriate. Almost a decade later, the annual allocation remains frozen at the 2002 level. Transportation systems throughout the province have been significantly modified resulting in both increased and decreased costs depending upon the individual school district's situation, yet the funding allocation has not been adjusted to reflect any of these changes. The Central Okanagan Board fully understands that any change in this formula may simply result in a reallocation of the identified transportation funding, however if the reallocation results in a fairer distribution then the Board views this as an acceptable outcome.

Board of Education – Trustees
Moyra Baxter

Rolli Cacchioni
Gail Given

Wayne Horning
Anna Hunt-Binkley

Gail Scanlan
Jeff Watson

Adding to this School District's financial burden is the fact that 46 of 60 School Districts are now sharing almost \$50 million in funding protection. The remaining 14 School Districts that are not receiving this grant are carrying a significant financial burden as this funding comes out of the Block for all School Districts. The Board estimates that funding protection alone is reducing the potential operating grant to the Central Okanagan School District by almost \$2.0 million. While there has been a desire to not have a reduction in funding to any one School District, allowing Districts to have at least a 'status quo' budget result is certain School Districts suffering financially. Re-directing funding away from growing (or stable) School Districts and into funding protection has resulted in significant cuts to those School Districts not receiving funding protection. A summary of the last three years of service cuts in the Central Okanagan School District is attached for your information. In addition, the Central Okanagan School District has exhausted its Local Capital reserves while School Districts receiving funding protection have been able to maintain and even increase Local Capital Reserves. The Board is of the understanding that this was not the purpose of the Funding Protection Grant yet it is a result. We also note that very few School Districts under funding protection have had to implement a transportation charge to maintain their system. Perhaps using the \$50 million to address formula inequities, such as the transportation grant, instead of propping up declining districts is a fairer way to allocate funding.

These two major inequities of the Funding Allocation System need to be addressed to bring fairness back into the funding formula. The Board is requesting that a plan to eliminate these two unsustainable funding distortions be developed immediately and shared with School Districts so that all Districts can begin planning the appropriate adjustments to their budgets. As a final note, the Board is questioning the fairness of the funding system in general and would like you to consider a complete review of the formulas but only after the two emergent items have been addressed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Rolli Cacchioni
Board Chairperson

cc: Board of Education, School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)
Local MLAs
BCSTA



May 10, 2011

Ref: 145737

Helen Parker, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 63 (Saanich)
Email: board_trustees@sd63.bc.ca

Dear Mrs. Parker:

Thank you for your letter dated May 2, 2011, regarding education funding in School District No. 63 (Saanich). I was glad to have the opportunity to visit the Saanich School District recently and meet with the Board of Education.

I understand from your letter and attached documentation that the Saanich Board of Education has determined the funding allocation it will receive from the Ministry is not sufficient and is therefore prepared to submit a deficit operating budget for the 2011/12 school year.

These are financially challenging times for many organizations, including government. I acknowledge that your Board has invested a great deal of time and energy into its budget planning process, which included the participation of parents and staff. However, it is important to note that, over the past 10 years, the Province has increased operating funding to the Saanich Board of Education by \$10.3 million (19 percent), while enrolment has declined by 1,062 students (12.2 percent). The school district's per pupil funding has increased \$2,198 (or 35.5 percent) in that same time.

Despite the projected additional enrolment decline of 168 students in the Saanich School District for 2011/12, which, as you note in your letter, will save the District over \$400,000 through direct expenditure reductions, the Board will receive the same level of funding through the additional funding protection supplement.

The Technical Review Committee—a committee that includes both rural and urban school district representation—will be reviewing the funding allocation formula and funding protection supplement, and will make recommendations to ensure it remains fair and equitable for all districts.

The *School Act* states that boards of education are required to develop a balanced budget and manage their operating budget within the funding levels provided. School districts must develop strategies to ensure these objectives are achieved.

... /2

I have every confidence that the Board will conduct itself in accordance with the oath of office and prepare and adopt, by June 30, a balanced budget as per sections 111(3) and 113(1)(a) of the *School Act*.

Thank you to you and your fellow Board members for taking the time to write and for your continued dedication and commitment to the students of Saanich.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Abbott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

George Abbott
Minister

Saanich Schools

2125 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton, BC, Canada V8M 2A5

(250) 652-7300 Fax: (250) 652-6421

May 2, 2011

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045, Stn Prov Gov't
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9E2

145437

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Dear Minister Abbott:

The Saanich Board of Education undertook an extensive budget planning process for 2011/12. Sixty-one people, representing parents and staff, participated in working groups to review every facet of our operation. The reports of these groups confirmed that the district spends its funds efficiently and effectively while a gap exists between what the district receives in provincial government funding and what is required to meet the educational needs of students in Saanich School District.

The Board is deeply concerned about the negative and compounding effect of continuing reductions to our budget and our ability to provide programs and services required to meet student needs. The current funding allocation system does not provide an equitable allocation of provincial government funding for districts such as Saanich which are in extended periods of enrolment decline.

The information following supports the Saanich Board's decision on April 27, 2011 to submit an annual budget that restores \$2,828,000 in programs and services to meet the needs of students in Saanich School District and which does not comply with the requirement to submit a balanced budget.

1. Enrolment Decline and the Funding Allocation System

- a) The projected enrolment decline of 168 students will result in a funding reduction of \$1.551 million which can be offset by direct expenditure reductions (teachers and supplies) of \$404,873 so the district is faced with considering other reductions to services to pay for the difference of \$1.146 million. For this year, the Province provided funding protection to cover this shortfall. The Ministry of Education has confirmed that the funding protection is unsustainable into the future.

Saanich Schools



Visit us at our website: www.sd63.bc.ca

- b) Without funding protection, the current per pupil funding allocation, which takes away more funding than can be offset by the associated costs, results in a structural shortfall for Saanich of \$3.5 million over the next four years.

2. Funding Allocation System

The Board has for many years provided the Ministry of Education and Education Ministers with information that clearly outlines the inequities of the current funding allocation system. We have consistently and persistently advocated for change while fulfilling our duties to submit balanced budgets.

The Board urgently needs a change to address the current and future shortfalls in government funding and at the April 27, 2011 public meeting approved the following motion to address the inequity caused by the funding allocation system:

That the Board of Education demand that government address immediately the inequities of the funding formula in time to provide relief for 2011/12 school district budgets.

3. Background on the Saanich School District's fiscal position

a) Per Pupil Funding:

Based on the fall funding levels, we concur that provincial funding has increased since 2005/06 by \$459 per pupil. Costs per pupil have increased in the district by \$2,246. These unfunded cost pressures include many costs outside of the control of the Board such as labour settlements, employee benefit increases, class size and composition requirements, utility costs and services for students with special needs. These cost pressures cannot be funded through the decline in enrolment resulting in a shortfall in funding on a per pupil basis of \$1,787. To address the unfunded cost pressures and submit balanced budgets, the Board has increased local revenues and implemented reductions to programs and services to students of \$8.465 million since 2005/06.

b) Accumulated Operating Reserves:

Saanich has been fiscally responsible, planned over time and built up reserves to cover increasing cost pressures through closing schools, increasing local revenues, and not adding services that were unsustainable. Our schools are also expected to manage their budgets to accumulate for large equipment and computer purchases. The June 30, 2010 audited financial statements reported two operating fund balances, one internally restricted of \$6,156,438 and an unrestricted amount of \$346,588. Of the internally restricted amount, the Board has used \$2,771,030 in the 2010/11 school year to address new cost pressures and program development at the distance education school (SIDES). Saanich did not receive the \$88 per pupil allocation received by many boards in September, 2010 as we are in funding protection. This allocation was used by many other districts to address the new cost pressures but Saanich was forced to use reserves.

The Board has also allocated \$902,480 to the 2011/12 operating budget.

Of the balance, only \$142,167 (or 0.20% of the operating budget) is unrestricted. The use of the restricted amount is limited or unavailable due to contractual conditions or school commitments as follows:

- (i) \$903,325 is school reserves saved over time by our 17 schools for large equipment purchases which cannot be bought with one year allocations (e.g. Shop equipment, copiers, computers)
- (ii) \$800,423 is restricted per a contract with the Ministry of Education that states that other than administrative charges, funding for distributed learning students at SIDES must be spent on those programs and services
- (iii) \$712,575 is the balance from grants provided specifically for early learning and apprenticeship programs and must be used for those purposes
- (iv) \$121,026 is the balance of grants provided specifically for French programs and must be used for those purposes
- (v) \$150,000 is allocated to supplement the equipment funding from the replacement North Saanich Middle School project to ensure that the school opens with appropriate equipment for student learning.

4. 2011/12 Operating Budget Plan

The Saanich Board of Education has always been open and transparent in the way it develops its annual budgets and communicates its challenges. We provide complex financial information in a way that the public can participate effectively in our extensive consultations each year.

At April 27, 2011 special public board meeting, the Board approved for submission a 2011/12 operating budget plan that includes using \$902,380 of reserves and:

- a) Reductions in expenditures for enrolment decline of \$404,873
- b) Reductions in expenditures for one-time 2010/11 costs of \$185,953
- c) Increases in expenditures for the costs of doing business of \$338,630
- d) Local revenue increases of:
 - (i) International student revenue increase of \$510,300 offset by \$405,000 in costs to provide services for the increase in students.
 - (ii) Revenue from municipalities for playgrounds and increased community use revenues of \$36,826
 - (iii) Revenue for provision of services to others of \$100,000
- e) Reductions in expenditures of:
 - (i) \$44,000 by reducing the number of portables
 - (ii) \$85,000 by reducing school administration
 - (iii) \$363,000 by reducing costs associated with distributed learning.

On behalf of the Saanich Board of Education, I am submitting the 2011/12 budget. It incorporates the above changes as well as additional grants from the Province of \$2,828,000 to restore programs and services identified by the working group process as services required to meet student needs and that are unaffordable with current government grants. I am also including the executive summary from the report of the budget technical working groups and the 2011/12 Budget Backgrounder.

Yours truly,



Helen Parker, Chair
Saanich Board of Education

HP:rd
Enclosures



May 30, 2011

Ref: 145694

Cindy Miller, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 75 (Mission)
Email: cindy.miller@mpsd.ca

Dear Mrs. Miller:

Thank you for your letter dated April 26, 2011, which follows up on your Board's meeting with senior Ministry staff at the Annual General Meeting of the BC School Trustees Association in Vancouver last month.

I appreciate the time you have taken to detail the important work and achievements of Mission Public Schools over the last few years and commend your Board for its vision, commitment to students and many successes.

These are financially challenging times for many organizations, including government and consequently boards of education. The demographics of our province continue to change and both government and boards need to examine how our education system can adapt. As you have experienced, K-12 enrolment has declined drastically in BC during the past ten years. Yet, the fact remains that over this time the Province has increased operating funding to the Mission Board of Education by \$8.4 million (or 19 percent), while enrolment has declined by 1,189 students (16.3 percent). Despite the projected additional enrolment decline of 141 students in the Mission School District for 2011/12, per-pupil funding is estimated to increase by \$194.

The Technical Review Committee—a committee that includes both rural and urban school district representation—will be reviewing the funding allocation formula and funding protection supplement, and will make recommendations to ensure it remains fair and equitable for all districts.

Again, I wish to thank the Board for its continued dedication and commitment to the students of Mission.

Yours truly,

George Abbott
Minister

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April 26, 2011

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Abbott,

We would like to thank your staff for meeting with us at the BC School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting on Friday, April 15, 2011. We enjoyed our discussion which briefly touched on the issue of funding. The purpose of this letter is to expand on the concerns we raised with respect to funding for Mission Public Schools. Ongoing budget constraints, due to a lack of sufficient funding and continued declining enrolment, are now having a serious impact on the core program offerings and essential supports for students attending Mission Public Schools.

The Board of Education and staff throughout the school district remain committed to continuous improvement resulting in ongoing success for students. Evidence is provided by our increase in overall graduation rates of 17% over the past ten years. Our aboriginal graduation rates have improved by 19% during the same period. One of the keys to this success lies in the unwavering commitment to our community that we provide the best education and appropriate levels of support for students.

Some of the initiatives embraced and implemented in Mission School District are as follows:

- Early Learning – Mission Public Schools is a recognized provincial leader in the area of early learning. Along with Coquitlam, our staff has worked together with the Ministry and nationally recognized researchers to develop a framework for the delivery of quality early education. Further, Full Day Kindergarten has been in place in Mission for all aboriginal learners since the 2003/2004 school year and in 2010/2011, while we received funding for only 240 FDK seats, it was offered to all students at eight of our thirteen elementary schools.
- Aboriginal Education – Mission Public Schools signed its first enhancement agreement in November 2007 and has worked hard at developing strong active relationships with members of our aboriginal community for many years. In fact our aboriginal education advisory committee Siwal Si'wes was established by our Board of Education in 1992. We recognize that the enhancement agreement is a work in progress but a recent survey conducted by our Aboriginal Department revealed that Aboriginal students in Mission have a strong sense of belonging in our school district. No doubt, this feeling of belonging has contributed to their success.
- Multi Campus Model – Mission Public Schools has three relatively small secondary schools. It is difficult for each school independently to offer certain courses due to low enrolment. However, we have applied technology, creating a virtual classroom, in an

innovative way to connect students so that a course such as Calculus 12 can be offered through video conferencing and attended by students from all three schools.

- Middle School – As a result of a discussion paper presented by our Superintendent and subsequently a community consultation process in 2009/2010 with respect to 21st Century Learning, the Board of Education moved forward with its plan to implement a middle school within a school model. As a result, our secondary schools now have a distinct middle school program (grades 7-9) and a separate graduation program (grades 10-12). The middle school model is grounded in best practices and we are confident this change in the delivery of education will lead to greater success for students in this vulnerable age group.

Of course there are many more examples, both big and small, of innovative practices that have led to a steady and continuous improvement in graduation rates for students in Mission. We are very proud that successive Boards in Mission have remained focused on student success and carefully aligned their budgets accordingly.

Some of the actions taken by the Board of Education to remain fiscally responsible include:

- School Closures – The Board of Education has closed four schools within the past four years in light of capacity issues and ongoing budget constraints. The closures were both lengthy and difficult on students, parents and staff and much time was spent on ensuring positive, smooth and seamless transitions.
- School Capacity – The middle school model, while introduced for educational reasons, has further addressed capacity issues in our school system that are expected to continue through to 2015/16 based on enrolment projections.
- Energy Conservation – Mission Public Schools partnered with the District of Mission to secure funding from BC Hydro for a shared Energy Manager. As a result, the district has commenced the culture change needed to sustain energy savings from various initiatives implemented. We remain committed and focussed on finding ways to conserve energy and in turn save the district money and or limit further increases in the costs associated with energy use.
- Staff Reductions - Mission Public Schools has issued layoff notices for four years in a row with more scheduled for the 2011/2012 school year. This has meant a reduction in direct student service. We have reduced the number of education assistants, youth care workers, teachers, and counsellors along with many positions on the business side of the organization. The exempt staff group has also reduced every year with a significant reduction of approximately \$700,000 planned for the 2011/2012 year. The last few budget cycles resulted in painstaking discussion of how to balance our budget and continue to provide a rich and successful education program.

These discussions have necessitated consideration of removing district support teachers and librarians; the cornerstones of support to students and staff that contribute significantly to ensuring a greater number of students graduate with a diploma from the K-12 public education system. We significantly reduced in other areas to keep our support teachers and librarians but it will be incredibly hard to not eliminate these core positions in 2012/2013 without additional funding.

To summarize, we take our responsibilities as Trustees very seriously. Mission Public Schools has continued to perform incredibly well maintaining the primary focus of ensuring success for every student in Mission Public Schools. We have taken steps to address budget constraints in a system experiencing declining enrolment.

As you have heard from several school districts the funding is simply inadequate to deliver a quality education program to students. The funding per student is insufficient and the formula does not address inflationary costs. We urge the Ministry of Education to review the funding allocated to school districts, especially those in declining enrolment.

We embrace the concept of 21st Century Learning but it will be next to impossible to further improve a system when it can't be maintained on the level of funding currently allocated. Our most serious concern is that the erosion in the quality of educational programs and services offered to our students will result in a decline in graduation rates and our ability to provide the knowledge and skills needed for our students to be successful citizens.

Sincerely,



Cindy Miller
Board Chair

C: Frank Dunham, Superintendent
Carrie McVeigh, Secretary-Treasurer
Board of Education
BCSTA (for distribution to school districts)



May 20, 2011

Ref: 145183

Mel Joy, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake)
570 Johnstone Rd
Nelson BC V1L 6J2

Dear Ms. Joy:

Thank you for your letter dated April 1, 2011, regarding the 2011/12 preliminary grant announcement.

You indicated in your letter that the Kootenay Lake Board of Education has concerns regarding the funding formula used to calculate the operating grant it will receive next school year. Each year, the Ministry of Education reviews the funding formula with the Technical Review Committee – a committee that includes both rural and urban school district representation – and through this review, improvements are made to ensure the funding formula continues to meet the needs of school districts. Any changes made to the funding formula are based on recommendations from this committee.

I understand from Ministry staff that a reallocation of the labour settlement supplement was made to ensure equity and fairness across the province. Funding that was allocated through the labour settlement supplement on a cost basis was reallocated through the enrolment based funding formula, increasing the basic allocation and each of the supplemental funding allocation amounts. The formula transition amount was provided to assist school districts as the change is implemented. Ministry staff have further advised that this information was detailed to all secretary-treasurers and superintendents in a letter dated March 15, 2010, from Keith Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister. As well, an additional communication on March 24, 2010, was sent to all secretary-treasurers and financial contacts, explaining the calculation of the Transition Grant.

I note that based on September student enrolment figures, enrolment in the Kootenay Lake School District has decreased by 18 percent over the last ten years. During this same period, operating funding for the District has increased by 11 percent. Funding protection is being provided to ensure districts can maintain funding despite declining enrolment. The technical review committee will be reviewing the funding allocation formula to determine the long term plan for a funding protection supplement.

... /2

Thank you for taking the time to write and for your continued commitment to the students of the Kootenay Lake region.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Abbott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

George Abbott
Minister



School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake)

Board Chair

570 Johnstone, Nelson, B.C. V1L 6J2
Telephone: (250) 352-6681 Fax: (250) 352-6686
Toll Free: 1-877-230-2288

April 1, 2011

Honourable George Abbott
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Mr. Abbott:

RE: 2011/2011 Preliminary Grant Announcement

We are writing to express the concerns of the Board of Education of School District No. 8 resulting from the March 11th Preliminary Grant Announcement for the 2011/12 year.

In March 2010, the Ministry of Education provided notification that funding to districts would change as a result of a reallocation of the Supplement for Labour Settlements. As a result, our calculated operating grant generated \$920,132 less than it had generated previously. While a Formula Transition Grant was provided for the 2010/2011 year, we are now advised that this grant will be phased out over the next two years.

We have two concerns regarding this change to the funding formula:

- 1) No explanation of how the reallocation was calculated has been provided and we cannot understand why we would now be generating almost a million dollars a year less than we generated under the previous formula; and
- 2) Although we are projecting an increase of 62.5 FTE for 2011/2012, we are receiving exactly the same grant as we received in 2010/2011. However, we feel we must reduce services in our district by the \$473,379 we receive in funding protection in order to create an educational system that is built only on predictable, sustainable funding. We have heard for many years that funding protection will eventually be removed from the operating grant calculation and therefore do not consider it prudent to establish a system that relies on this funding.

Continued.../2

Page 2

The pressure to appropriately support the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten, as well as to provide services to the additional students we are expecting on an operating budget that must be reduced by \$473,379 is of great concern to us. This concern extends to the 2012/13 year when we can anticipate the further loss of \$460,066 when the formula transition grant is completely phased out.

We respectfully request that you reconsider the process used to reallocate the Supplement for Labour Settlements. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel Joy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mel Joy
Board Chair
School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake)

cc BCSTA – Boards of Education



The Best Place on Earth

May 6, 2011

Ref: 145344

Helen Moats, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 72 (Campbell River)
425 Pinecrest Rd
Campbell River BC V9W 3P2

Dear Ms. Moats:

Thank you for your letter dated March 21, 2011, regarding K-12 education funding.

I note your Board's concern that the Campbell River School District did not benefit from the additional \$88 per FTE allocation from the holdback. However, the District did benefit from this grant, in the amount of \$462,418. In addition to this amount, the District has also benefited from a Funding Protection Grant of \$75,136. The Campbell River School District was one of 23 that received this additional grant, despite declining enrolment. I note that despite the District's enrolment decline of 200 students between 2009/10 and 2010/11, funding was maintained with the additional grant.

Each year, the Ministry of Education reviews the funding formula with the Technical Review Committee—a committee that includes both rural and urban school district representation—and through this review, improvements are made to ensure the funding formula continues to meet the needs of school districts. During the next review period, both the level of holdback and funding protection will be discussed, to ensure greater stability for school districts.

Again, thank you for writing and for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours truly,

George Abbott
Minister



145344

School District 72

Campbell River, B.C.

425 Pinecrest Road, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 3P2 • Tel: 250.830.2300 • Fax: 250.287.2616 • www.sd72.bc.ca

March 21, 2011

Mr. George Abbott
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

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Dear Minister Abbott:

On January 27th, 2011, the Board of School District 72 sent Minister MacDiarmid a letter outlining the fiscal impact on SD72 following the Minister's December 17th final funding framework announcement for 2010/2011. We stated that the provision of the one time grant of \$88 per student from the holdback funding did not benefit us because our school protection dollars were reduced an equal amount. Because many districts did benefit, we requested that the Minister address this as a provincial funding equity issue among school districts by revisiting the decision.

Although this was not addressed for the current fiscal year, we are pleased to note in the March 11th funding announcement for 2011/2012 that both the enrolment decline and the funding protection dollars will continue for at least one more year. We particularly appreciate that the enrolment decline monies are based on the enrolment without consideration of full-day kindergarten, resulting in our receiving enrolment decline grants despite our funded enrolment remaining more or less static.

Although this helps this year, we are still facing a \$1.1 million structural deficit, partly attributable to cost pressures over which we have no control. Chief among these are pension cost increases and energy costs. Because we consider the funding protection and enrolment decline monies to be risk funding, we are taking a cautious approach to our longer term fiscal planning. Between the current structural deficit and the unpredictability of future funding, we are still facing an uphill battle to maintain the delivery of quality public education which School District 72 is so well known for.

Continued....Page 2

Page 2
March 21, 2011
Minister of Education

Please accept our congratulations on your re-appointment as Minister of Education and know that our Board and staff look forward to a productive relationship with you and the Ministry of Education as we move forward. Our dedication to public education is as strong as we believe yours to be.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Moats, Chair
Board of Education, SD72

c: Board of Education, School District 72
Thomas Longridge, Superintendent of Schools
M. Peter Neale, Secretary-Treasurer
BCSTA for distribution to all Boards of Education
Steve Koebel, President, CRPVPA
Neil Thompson, President CRDTA
Deborah Taylor, President, CUPE Local723
Colleen Krasman, Chair, DPAC
Claire Trevena, MLA



March 31, 2011

Ref: 144524

Ginny Manning, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
Email: gmanning@summer.com

Dear Ms. Manning:

Thank you for your letter dated March 2, 2011, addressed to my predecessor Margaret MacDiarmid, regarding education funding.

As recently announced, the Province will once again be increasing the K-12 education operating grant for the upcoming 2011/12 school year. School districts will receive a new record high of \$4.721 billion in operating funding. This represents an increase of \$58 million over 2010/11 levels and will help complete the transition for the full day kindergarten program. As well, the basic, per-student allocation will increase by \$44 and funding protection will remain despite continued enrolment decline in most districts, allowing school districts to budget for cost pressures.

I note the Okanagan Skaha School District estimates that student enrolment has decreased by 17.5 percent over the last ten years. During this same period, operating funding for the District has increased by 13.6 percent.

I note your request that the Ministry review the current funding formula. As you may know, the Ministry's Technical Review Committee, comprised of school district superintendents and secretary-treasurers from both rural and urban districts, as well as Ministry staff members, regularly reviews the funding formula and provides recommendations on how it can continue to best meet the needs of our students. It is my understanding that, until his recent retirement, your school district's secretary-treasurer was an active contributing member of the Technical Review Committee for several years.

We continue to face the challenges of the current global economy. I will keep your comments in mind as we work to ensure that BC continues to have a top-quality education system. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of the students of the Okanagan Skaha School District.

Yours truly,

George Abbott
Minister

pc: Ron Shongrunden, Secretary-Treasurer

144524



BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)

425 Jermyn Avenue
Penticton, BC, Canada V2A 1Z4

Telephone: 250-770-7700

Fax: 250-770-7722

E-mail: gmanning@summer.com

Website: www.sd67.bc.ca

Office of the Chairman of the Board

File No.: 00470-01

OPR: SECTR

March 2, 2011

Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education
PO Box 9058 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

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Dear Minister MacDiarmid:

Re: Funding System

School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) believes that the Education Community deserves a funding system that is transparent, predictable, timely, stable and flexible. This funding system must be adequate for 21st Century Learners and provide for efficient and effective long-term planning.

The current funding system is inequitable and will not be adequate for 21st Century Learning. Attached is a letter written by the secretary-treasurer for SD67 that provides examples of inequities in the current funding system.

The Board of Education of SD67 recommends that the Ministry review the existing funding system and also research the impact 21st Century Learning may have on education funding. Meaningful stakeholder involvement would be critical to the process.

Yours truly,

Ginny Manning
Chair
Board of Education

GM:da
Attach.

- c. Honourable Bill Barlosso, MLA, Penticton
Mr. John Slater, MLA, Boundary-Similkameen
Trustees, School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
All school districts
British Columbia School Trustees Association
British Columbia Association of School Business Officials
British Columbia School Superintendents Association

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)**425 Jermyn Avenue
Penticton, BC, Canada V2A 1Z4

Telephone: 250-770-7700 Ext. 6638

Fax: 250-770-7722

E-mail: rs@summer.comWebsite: www.sd67.bc.ca**Office of the Secretary-Treasurer**File No.: 00470-01
OPR: SECTR

March 2, 2011

Mr. Keith Miller
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education
PO Box 9151, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9H1

Dear Mr. Miller:

Re: Funding System

I am following up on the brief conversation we had at the BCPSEA meeting regarding the present funding system. SD67 understands the reality of challenging economic times in a Ministry that has a population driven funding formula combined with declining enrolment; however, SD67 is asking the Ministry to develop a fairer and perhaps more comprehensive funding formula that can provide districts with the opportunity to plan more efficiently and effectively on a long-term basis.

I would like to review why I believe the existing funding formula is not equitable and provide an alternative that the Ministry might consider in devising a fairer utility funding formula.

Funding Formula Inequities**Funding Protection**

Funding protection was implemented to help buffer losses of funding due to enrolment decline. With nearly 40% of districts under funding protection, it begs the question whether the present population based system is adequately designed to reflect today's realities. This number of districts under funding protection has been and would be much higher had it not been for an infusion of holdback funds which are not guaranteed each year.

Funding protection has been and is still under review. Many times it has been stated that it will need to be phased out. Districts not in funding protection could argue that they are subsidizing the districts in funding protection; however, districts in funding protection would argue the formula is not fair at the outset so why should they accept a lower funding level.

Those districts in funding protection also have a potentially large unknown factor hanging over them. A district could be short millions of dollars depending on their level of funding protection. District budget processes are very long and involve numerous public consultation meetings. The need to have accurate and timely information is imperative. Not knowing if a district will have funding protection until March 15 does not give a district adequate time to go through a thorough consultative budget process.

Mr. Keith Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister
March 2, 2011
Page 2

Transportation

A number of years ago transportation budgets were frozen and whatever a district was spending on transportation was grandfathered. Those districts that provided inefficient service were able to continue those practices whereas more efficient districts were now, in effect, subsidizing the inefficient districts. The Ministry, with considerable assistance from school districts, analysed and developed a new fairer funding model that was never implemented.

Utilities

There are approximately five districts in the province that are required to purchase electricity through a municipality (middleman). Purchasing through a "middleman" costs SD67 approximately 30% more than purchasing directly from BC Hydro. In addition, the energy incentives available from BC Hydro are not available to SD67 as the municipality has no incentive to offer these energy programs.

Capital Expenditures

In both above examples, capital expenditure allocations from the Ministry can further distort differences between districts. For example, districts that contract buses do not get the advantage of capital dollars spent on districts that own buses and growing districts receiving new energy efficient buildings may have comparatively reduced operating costs.

Holdback Funds

In this year's recalculation, some holdback funds were allocated to districts; however, those districts under funding protection would not have received any benefit. If the funding system is inequitable in the first place, allocating holdback funds to non-funding protected districts is in essence exaggerating this inequity.

Other Inequities

I have only mentioned a few inequities but would expect that many districts in the province can probably provide additional examples of inequities that affect their individual districts.

Communication

In order for districts to manage their resources effectively and efficiently and to be able to answer and provide information to the public, districts require consistent, predictable information on a timely basis.

Districts need a voice and/or have the ability to participate in sensitivity analysis that allows everyone to see the consequences of government decisions in a transparent manner. As more school district operations are open to the public, the Education Ministry also needs to follow these societal trends. For example, secretary-treasurers might like to have a greater say in advocacy to the Finance Ministry, and more meaningful input or dialogue on committees. I am a BCASBO representative on a Ministry committee that has not met for over two years.

In regards to the impact of changes to funding protection or any other funding changes, it would be appreciated if secretary-treasurers, who have a wealth of actual field experience, could be more actively involved in providing input.

Mr. Keith Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister
March 2, 2011
Page 3

Research

It would be interesting to compare how other countries or jurisdictions fund their educational systems and what their plans are to accommodate 21st Century Learning requirements.

I am not speaking officially for BCASBO although I have copied this letter to them and have recommended that BCASBO take a more proactive role in researching alternative funding and allocation mechanisms that could provide for a more predictable, transparent, stable, flexible funding system that will be required for 21st Century Learners.


Suggestions

- That the Ministry hold off on major changes (including funding protection) to the funding formula for one year which will allow time to examine the entire funding system.
- That the Ministry conduct a research based empirical study on a fair funding and allocation system.
- That the Ministry involve all stakeholders in the process in a meaningful way.

Enclosed is an option on how utilities funding could be changed.

Thank you for listening.

Yours truly,


Ron Shongrunden
Secretary-Treasurer

RS:da
Attach:

- c. Honourable Bill Barisoff, MLA, Penicton
Mr. John Slater, MLA, Boundary-Similkameen
Trustees, School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
All school districts
British Columbia School Trustees Association
British Columbia Association of School Business Officials
British Columbia School Superintendents Association

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