

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2016 8:13 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Verge, Kent JTST:EX
Subject: Fw: WorkSafeBC statement

FYI.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2016 7:58 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Fwd: WorkSafeBC statement

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX" <Sheldon.Johnson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: September 30, 2016 at 7:17:37 PM PDT
To: "Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX" <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: WorkSafeBC statement

WorkSafeBC is aware of a letter from the BC School Superintendents Association regarding the Vancouver School Board. WorkSafeBC will be proceeding with an investigation under the authority of the Workers Compensation Act. The Act provides the authority for WorkSafeBC to hold employers accountable for managing the health and safety of their workplaces, including for bullying and harassment. Pertinent background information is as follows:

What is bullying and harassment?

A worker is bullied and harassed when someone takes an action that he or she knew or reasonably ought to have known would cause that worker to be humiliated or intimidated. Bullying and harassment may occur between co-workers or between an employer and a worker or workers, or from external sources. It can also occur through email, text messages, social networks and other websites.

When an employer or supervisor takes reasonable action to manage and direct workers, it is not bullying and harassment.

Employers have an obligation to take reasonable steps to prevent bullying and harassment, or minimize it, where possible. Employers must develop a policy statement that addresses bullying and harassment in the workplace, develop and implement procedures for reporting incidents or complaints and for how they will be dealt with. They also have to train supervisors and workers, who are required to comply with policies and procedures and not engage in bullying and harassment. Workers must report it when they see it or experience it.

WorkSafeBC Prevention Officers inspect workplaces to determine if employers have taken reasonable steps to prevent and address bullying and harassment. WorkSafeBC has extensive resources on the matter of bullying and harassment on its website at WorkSafeBC.com."

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 7:43 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: MMB Today

MMB and MNY are touring the UBC Engineering Earthquake Lab in Vancouver today. UBC sent a media advisory yesterday. We were debating the merits of having media there from the Ministry of Education perspective after the VSB and Richmond stories over the past few days. In the end MMB thought it would be an opportunity to talk up our capital program. Also, it would be easy access to the minister for media considering we may have a few requests today. The tour goes at 10 am. If you have any questions just let me know.

Thanks,
Matt

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 8:34 AM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Subject: RE: Carleton Elementary must be fixed or rebuilt - Don Davies and Adrian Dix - Vancouver Sun

Sorry I don't know the details on how self-insurance works. I will have to get back to you.

I do know that because we self-insure it will be a decision of the Province on whether funding will be provided to undertake any preservation or repair. The contractor, school district and claims adjustor are expected to report back on the 29th with a cost estimate.

Matt

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 8:25 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Subject: RE: Carleton Elementary must be fixed or rebuilt - Don Davies and Adrian Dix - Vancouver Sun

Can you explain how the insurance works?

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 8:20 AM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Carleton Elementary must be fixed or rebuilt - Don Davies and Adrian Dix - Vancouver Sun

Messaging on Carleton.

Matt

- My sympathy goes out to the families facing uncertainty because of the fire at Sir Guy Carleton School – the start of the school should be filled with excitement, not questions.
- However I am surprised that the Vancouver School Board wants to spend millions of dollars repairing damage to a school they are considering closing and that has nearby schools where additional students would fill their classrooms.
- The Vancouver School Board is shortchanging its students of education services worth \$37 million a year by directing that money into empty seats instead of teachers, librarians, or arts and culture programs. Spending additional millions to fix a school they were considering closing is further denying students.
- I am also concerned that the board is positioning the fire as a reason to further delay delivering a required long-term facility plan. That plan could ensure the close to half a billion dollars taxpayers send to the VSB went to students and not to empty seats. They have failed to deliver.
- My fear is that the VSB has no intentions to develop a long-term plan – and in fact are merely using the process for partisan political purposes that will continue to see student services shortchanged of millions of dollars.

- This is yet another example of the elected school board members in Vancouver failing to look at creative or difficult decisions. They choose to deflect their responsibility rather than step up and do what all other school districts around the Province have been able to do.

From: tno@gov.bc.ca [<mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 5:20 AM

Subject: TNO: Carleton Elementary must be fixed or rebuilt - Don Davies and Adrian Dix - Vancouver Sun

Carleton Elementary must be fixed or rebuilt

Vancouver Sun

26-Aug-2016

Page A17

By Don Davies and Adrian Dix

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Page 006

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O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 6:37 AM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Subject: Re: CKNW Online: Vancouver City Councillors give final plea to save schools up for closure

Long Range Facilities Plan goes to a vote on the 26th. No change since we last talked on the 95 per cent. MMB was still mulling it over. I'll check in again today to see if anything has changed. See him shortly.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 6:32 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Subject: FW: CKNW Online: Vancouver City Councillors give final plea to save schools up for closure

Hi Matt

Where we at with this?

Thanks

Shane

From: tno@gov.bc.ca [<mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 6:09 AM

Subject: CKNW Online: Vancouver City Councillors give final plea to save schools up for closure
CKNW Online

21-Sep-2016 06:10

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Page 008

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O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 6:43 AM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: CKNW Online: Vancouver School Board opens door to last minute budget deal

MMB has been told by Michele not to do major media before the meeting tomorrow night. We sent a short statement from the ministry last night that we are hopeful there is a balanced budget by the 30th as per below.

Matt

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 6:34 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: CKNW Online: Vancouver School Board opens door to last minute budget deal

Hey Matt

Can I see your response to this? Is MMB doing media today?

Thanks

Shane

From: tno@gov.bc.ca [<mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 6:02 AM

Subject: CKNW Online: Vancouver School Board opens door to last minute budget deal
CKNW Online

28-Jun-2016 06:02

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Page 010

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Page 011

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Treasury Board Submission – Request for Decision

Minister: Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister

Ministry: Education

Date: 304/06/2016

Ministry Document #: 010/17

Title: Standards in Student Transportation (Busing)

Issue:

Establishing a minimum provincial standard and funding to increase student transportation services.

Request:

The Ministry of Education (MoE) was asked to provide a cost estimate and recommended approach for restoring student transportation services, with an aim to establishing a minimum provincial walk limit standard.

To this end, MoE is requesting^{s.12} in incremental, ongoing operating funding for the 2016/17 school year, enabling MoE to issue a Special Purpose Grant to all school districts as a top up to the Student Location Factor, and allocating funds to all school districts proportionally^{s.12}

s.12

Alongside incremental funding to the school districts, the **MoE would issue policy guidance** in conjunction with key sector stakeholder organizations to outline provincial expectations and minimum standards for consistency in student transportation, as well as use of best practices to ensure efficiency in the allocation of resources locally. Specifically, working with stakeholders to develop and implement regionally-appropriate standards in the following areas:

- Ride times, student walking, etc.
- Student safety on buses
- Idling
- Route management practices (i.e. scheduling, route planning, and driving practices)
- Use of GPS technology and supporting software



- Supervisory model and driver training
- Fueling and maintenance to support efficiency

Implications and Considerations:

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Page 014 to/à Page 017

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Background

Prior to the creation of the *School Act* in 1989, the School Regulation contained "walk limits" that were used to determine eligibility for transportation funding. At that time, walk limits for students in grades 1 to 3 were 4 km and walk limits for students in grades 4 to 12 were 4.8 km. In practice, this would mean that a school district's funding for transportation would be calculated based on the number of students living outside of the walk limit border; however, many school districts were also allowing for "courtesy riders" during this period, which means that they were picking up riders within the walk limit where bus space and time permitted.

In 1989, the *School Act* and Regulations were replaced by new legislation that gave responsibility for determining policies for transportation to local Boards of Education. Of the school districts that do continue to provide student transportation, some continue to base their policies on pre-1989 standards. Prior to 2002, the operating grant funding



model was a resource cost model that allocated transportation and housing funding on an annual basis based on actual district costs. The costs under this model ranged from \$55.3 million in 1990/91, to \$89.9 million in 2001/02.

In 2002, the current student-based funding formula was implemented. Funding specifically for transportation (Transportation and Housing Supplement) continued to be provided through the operating block, but was capped at the pre-2002 levels, which means that funding levels were based on 2001/02 cost data. Between 2002 and 2012, the school district allocations for transportation remained at their 2001/02 amounts apart from a small 2.5% increase in 2010/11 that resulted from labour settlement increases. After a number of unsuccessful attempts to change the transportation funding approach, in 2011/12 the Transportation and Housing Supplement was discontinued, recognizing that it was outdated and was not in keeping with the broader principles of the K-12 funding allocation system. In its place, the Student Location Factor (SLF) was introduced. After extensive consultations with school districts and upon the recommendations of BCSTA and BCASBO, the SLF was developed in conjunction with the Technical Review Committee. The SLF is a geographic factor that distributes funding in a way that considers population density (i.e. the dispersion of students) to recognize the challenges of serving low-density student populations (i.e. typically in rural settings). The SLF is no longer a transportation-specific funding allocation; rather, it is simply another factor used to calculate a school district's total operating grant, recognizing the importance of student dispersion as part of that calculation. On its implementation in 2011/12, the SLF totalled \$98.3 million, and has increased to \$102.0 million for the 2016/17 school year. School districts continue to have direct control over transportation spending.

s.12



in the K-12 sector. ^{s.12}

s.12

e.

Legislation and Environmental Scan

The current *School Act* provides that student transportation is the responsibility of local Boards of Education. MoE does not have the legislative authority to mandate or require Boards to provide busing for students – it is a discretionary service that Boards may choose to provide. If a Board chooses to provide transportation, they have the authority to determine the level at which it is provided, and whether to charge fees for such services. Also, the Ministry does not have the authority to directly establish walk limits or other types of provincial/regional standards for busing.

s.12

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s.12



Contact: George Farkas, ADM

s.17

Honourable First Name Last Name

Date Signed

Page 027 to/à Page 028

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Appendix B – Classification of Urban vs. Rural School Districts

School District	
5 Southeast Kootenay	Rural
6 Rocky Mountain	Rural
8 Kootenay Lake	Rural
10 Arrow Lakes	Rural
19 Revelstoke	Rural
20 Kootenay-Columbia	Rural
22 Vernon	Rural
23 Central Okanagan	Urban
27 Cariboo-Chilcotin	Rural
28 Quesnel	Rural
33 Chilliwack	Urban
34 Abbotsford	Urban
35 Langley	Urban
36 Surrey	Urban
37 Delta	Urban
38 Richmond	Urban
39 Vancouver	Urban
40 New Westminster	Urban
41 Burnaby	Urban
42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	Urban
43 Coquitlam	Urban
44 North Vancouver	Urban
45 West Vancouver	Urban
46 Sunshine Coast	Rural
47 Powell River	Rural
48 Sea to Sky	Rural
49 Central Coast	Rural
50 Haida Gwaii	Rural
51 Boundary	Rural
52 Prince Rupert	Rural
53 Okanagan Similkameen	Rural
54 Bulkley Valley	Rural
57 Prince George	Rural
58 Nicola-Similkameen	Rural
59 Peace River South	Rural
60 Peace River North	Rural
61 Greater Victoria	Urban
62 Sooke	Urban
63 Saanich	Urban

64	Gulf Islands	Rural
67	Okanagan Skaha	Rural
68	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	Rural
69	Qualicum	Rural
70	Alberni	Rural
71	Comox Valley	Rural
72	Campbell River	Rural
73	Kamloops/Thompson	Rural
74	Gold Trail	Rural
75	Mission	Rural
78	Fraser-Cascade	Rural
79	Cowichan Valley	Rural
81	Fort Nelson	Rural
82	Coast Mountains	Rural
83	North Okanagan-Shuswap	Rural
84	Vancouver Island West	Rural
85	Vancouver Island North	Rural
87	Stikine	Rural
91	Nechako Lakes	Rural
92	Nisga'a	Rural
93	Conseil scolaire francophone	Rural

Page 031 to/à Page 034

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 4:47 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; O'Connor-Dixon, Lara EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Two Items - VSB ToR and Busing TB Sub

TB is Good to go. Sign and send.

Thanks

Mike

On Jun 30, 2016, at 3:09 PM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,

Two documents for your review:

- Terms of Reference for the VSB special advisor.
- TB sub for busing investments.

Of the two the TB sub is more pressing, as TB is looking for sign-off asap. I am told there is nothing new in the sub – you have seen all of this information before. I s.12 was discussed at cabinet and s.12 but you have other information please let me know.

Lara – please upload to the ipad.

Thanks,

Matt

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 3:45 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: O'Connor-Dixon, Lara EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX
Subject: Materials For Consideration
Attachments: 16Jun21_Letter to the Minister of Education re VBE 2016-2017 Operating B....pdf; EDUC BFraser FY16.pdf; Enrolment Information Update MMB June 17-16docx(2).docx; Phase 2 Notifications (MO).docx; 188283-Robinson-outgoingletterfromDM-Byng.docx; FSA and Prov Exams Alternative June21_11m (2).pdf; FSA and Prov Exams Alternative June21_11m (2).pptx; Modernizing - one pager.docx; PP Cabinet Submission - Education.June21.2pm.docx; FW: Official Request - Capital Funding questions and meeting request

Minister,

I thought I would send outstanding items for your consideration in one email. It might be easiest to keep track of everything over the coming days in Cranbrook.

VS – This might be a topic of conversation. As such, I have attached...

- The letter sent by Dave today to the superintendent in regards to their budget.
- The meeting request they sent today to discuss their budget.

Hard Drive

- As discussed with the Minister of Finance's office, they would like you to discuss Phase 2 notifications with the minister himself. The one-pager – which he has seen – is attached here. You have a hard copy in your folder from today as well.

P + P (New Curriculum) – Attached are the materials sent over this afternoon, including...

- P + P Presentation in pdf
- P+ P Presentation in ppt
- The cabinet submission
- Perhaps most importantly for the next few days, the one-pager for discussion with Steve, Michele, etc.

Ministerial Accountability Report

- This was discussed this morning. It is for sign-off and relates to your salary hold-back. If you could sign-off that would be great.

Enrollment Pressure Update

- This was also discussed this morning. No decision required, but an update from George on where things are at.

s.22

Letter

- Andrew sent this through earlier. Just attaching as an FYI.

Lara, if you could make sure all of these items are uploaded to the ipad in an easy to manage format that would be great.

Matt



s.13

Ref: 188283

Scott Robinson, Superintendent
School District No. 39 (Vancouver)
Email: smrobinson@vsb.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Thank you for your efforts in having the Long Range Facilities Plan approved by the Board of Education. I appreciate the efforts involved in the extensive public consultation process that has informed the Plan.

I am writing to remind you and the Vancouver Board of Education of your responsibilities under the *School Act* with regard to the passage of your annual budget.

As we have discussed, the *School Act* outlines that a board of education must prepare an annual budget in the form and containing the content specified by the Minister. This includes the instructions contained in the 2016/17 Annual Budget Instructions available on the Ministry website <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/resource-management/school-district-financial-reporting/budget-reporting>.

The estimated expenditures in the annual budget must not exceed estimated revenues plus appropriated prior year surpluses. Further, the Board must adopt, by bylaw, the annual budget on or before June 30 for the next fiscal year. This responsibility of the board cannot be delegated to senior management.

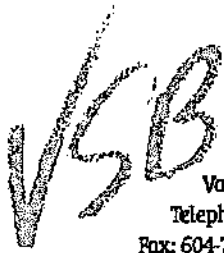
If you have concerns or questions about your budgetary process, please do not hesitate to contact George Farkas, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management and Corporate Services, by phone at (250) 356-1883, or by email at George.Farkas@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Dave Byng
Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education

Mike Lombardi, Chair, Board of Education, School District No. 39 (Vancouver)



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

June 21, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt.
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bernier:

Re: 2016/17 Operating Budget

Please be advised that at the June 20, 2016 public meeting of the Vancouver Board of Education, the Board passed the following resolution:

THAT the Vancouver School Board request an urgent meeting with the Minister of Education to discuss the 2016-2017 budget shortfall.

As you are aware, the Vancouver Board of Education has rejected the proposed budget that forces the Board to make \$21.8 million in reductions to supplies and services. The rationale for this decision is the majority of the Board strongly believes that these cuts fundamentally impact core educational programs offered to our students. As a Board, we have been advocating for adequate, stable, and predictable funding from your Ministry so that we can continue to offer a world-class education program. The cuts that have been necessitated by this lack of funding will do nothing to support that goal.

We believe that a meeting to explore options could result in a solution acceptable to the community we represent, as well as your government.

We look forward to an opportunity to meet.

Yours truly,



Mike Lombardi
Chairperson

cc VBE Trustees
D. Byng, Deputy Minister of Education
S. Robinson, Superintendent
R. Horswill, Secretary Treasurer

Board of School Trustees:

Mike Lombardi – Chairperson

Janet Fraser – Vice-Chairperson

Joy Alexander Patti Bacchus Fraser Ballantyne

Penny Noble Christopher Richardson Stacy Robertson Allan Wong



To: Brian Fraser, Chief Financial Officer
Ministry of Education

June 16, 2016

From: Carl Fischer, Executive Director
Financial Reporting and Advisory Services

Re: **Information Certification for Release of Ministerial Salary Holdback**

The above certification is related to compliance with the reporting portion of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* (the Act).

The following information has been gathered from your ministerial service plan report and Public Accounts expense information, and has been confirmed with your Chief Financial Officer. Pursuant to the Act, the following comparison of expected to actual results will be published and released with the Public Accounts in the Ministerial Accountability Report.

Ministry of Education	\$
	In Thousands
Estimates Expected Results	\$ 5,852,941
Actual Results	5,804,952
Variance	\$ 47,989
Actual Spending Within Targets	Yes

Please find attached a reconciliation of the amounts reported in the Ministerial Accountability Report with the amounts provided in the ministry's resource summaries previously submitted.

Please **return the signed original** final confirmation of the above information, to be indicated by the minister's signature below, to this office by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24, 2016**. Note that because of changes in timing of the audit cycle, it is possible that amounts may change and recertification will be required.

For ministers whose actual results meet or exceed the expected results, payment of amounts withheld under the Act will be made following the release of the Ministerial Accountability Report and Public Accounts in July.

Thank you,

Carl Fischer
Executive Director

Attachment

Honourable Mike Bernier
Minister of Education

Date

Ministerial Accountability Reporting 2015/16

Ministry of Education

In Thousands

\$

Revised Estimates - Schedule F

\$ 5,852,941

Ministerial Appropriation Schedule Total Expense \$ 5,580,068

Less:	Statutory Spending	45,178
	Special Accounts Spending	81,972
	Contingencies	37,756
Add:	Inter-account transfer	45,178
	Capital Spending	344,612

Actual Expense Before Restructuring

5,804,952

Allocation of Actuals due to restructuring

-

Total Expense for BBMAA reporting

5,804,952

Variance for BBMAA (Over) Under

\$ 47,989

Ministry of Education Enrolment Pressures Update

The Minister of Finance's Cabinet presentation includes information about funding pressures for Education, based on March data, consistent with the following:

- s.12

-

-

Latest update on enrolment:

- s.12

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-

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-

-

Further analysis underway:

- s.12

-

Appendix A: Background on Decisions since December 2015

After unexpectedly high fall enrolment, government's decisions to fund all 2015/16 and 2016/17 students at published rates, the Ministry of Education Treasury Board (TB) approved submissions in March and April 2016 ^{s.12}

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s.12

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P&P Direction. December 2015

s.12

March 2016 Treasury Board Submission Approval:

s.12

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s.12

s.12

April 2016 Treasury Board Submission Approval:

Treasury Board approved \$13M in additional funds to support the district enrolment growth identified in the March submission, and to release the \$15M reserve. ^{s.12}

s.12

s.12

May 2016 Treasury Board Submission Approval:

Separate from the enrolment based submissions, in May 2016 TB approved \$25M to benefit districts through the redirection of the 2016/17 Administrative Savings target.^{s.12}
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s.12

June 2016 Announced Rural School Enhancement Fund:

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Appendix B: Forecasting History and Improvement Work

In this new context of anticipated enrolment growth, forecasting enrolment in our current positive economic situation is a challenge. Provincially, actual enrolment has typically been within 0.5% (+/- 1,000 – 3,000 students) of district estimates, as projected by both districts and BC Stats using different approaches. Last fall, both BC Stats and the districts projected declines when enrolment increased beyond expectations, and were off in their projections by over 1% and 1.2% respectively. Migration from Alberta and other provinces, as well as immigration increases were factors driving the growth of last September, as well as the repatriation of independent school students to the public system following the 2014 labour dispute.

Similar to last fall, it will be difficult for districts or the Ministry to predict the effect that BC's economic climate will have on families' decisions to move to BC, either from other provinces or other countries, for the next school year. The Syrian refugee influx is further impacting enrolment growth, with over 800 refugee students now registered in BC schools, and 1,200 in total expected by the end of December 2016.

The ministry is undertaking a project to improve the enrolment projection process, including increasing the frequency of forecasts, and engaging BC Stats regarding a review of their projection model.

The table below shows the most recent series of enrolment forecasts provided by districts and BC Stats. With the volatility shown in recent BC Stats numbers, further investigation is required into the BC Stats model in use, which BC Stats supports.

Districts are still estimating flat or declining special needs students, which is counter to historical experience; districts have done the same for Feb and May counts (not included below), understating compared to experience, therefore this is a funding risk.

Further work within the enrolment project will need to consider consistent assumptions for districts for developing their forecasts.

Enrolment changes projected for September (compared to previous Sept - school age students only)

Enrolment Year	Date of Estimate	School Districts (school age/Sept)	BC Stats
Sept 2015	March 2015 – estimate	- 1,900	- 1,992
Sept 2015	Sept 2015 - <u>actual</u>	+ 4,700 +6,600 variance from estimate	n/a
Sept 2016	Dec 2015 - estimate	n/a	+ 722
Sept 2016	Feb 2016 – revised estimate	+ 1,000	+ 2,277
Sept 2016	June 2016 - revised estimate	+ 2900	- 2,517

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 12:19 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Lombardi Outgoing
Attachments: Lombardi Outgoing.docx

See the attached. Let me know what you think of my comments.

From: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 11:26 AM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Fw: Lombardi Outgoing

FYI

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Farkas, George EDUC:EX <George.Farkas@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 11:17 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: Lombardi Outgoing

From: Farkas, George EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 11:10 AM
To: Fraser, Brian EDUC:EX
Subject: Lombardi Outgoing

Add to the note please.



s.13

Ref: 188479

Mr. Mike Lombardi, Chair
Vancouver School Board
1580 W. Broadway Street
Vancouver BC V6J 5K8

Dear Chair Lombardi:

Re: 2016/17 Operating Budget

The Vancouver School Board (VSB) has indicated that it is facing \$5.59 million of budget reductions that will have a high or severe impact on students. The VSB has also indicated that it is willing to consider all viable, "Made in Vancouver" options to address the shortfall. s.13

The government is very committed to finding a collaborative solution to VSB's budget challenge, but recognizes the importance of treating school districts across the Province in an equitable manner.

s.21

s.13

s.13

Ministry of
Education

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

s.21

Sincerely,

Mike Bernier
Minister

Attachments *(if applicable)*

pc: *(if applicable)*

APPROVALS			
Contact Info		Comments	Date
Drafted by:			
In Consultation with:			
Manager and/or Director			
ADM, Resource Management Div.	George Farkas		
MCO			
DM	Dave Byng		
MO			

Ministry of Education – Missing Hard Drive

Phase 2 Notifications: MCFD and Youth Custody

Key Points:

- The missing drive did not contain social insurance numbers, driver's license numbers, banking information or credit card information.
- There is no evidence that the information on the missing drive has been accessed or misused in any way.

Background:

s.13

s.13

Interests:

s.13

Implications:

s.13

Timeline of Events:

s.13

;

Report Back on Modernizing Education

Ministry of Education – June 28, 2016



Ministry of
Education



Modernizing Education

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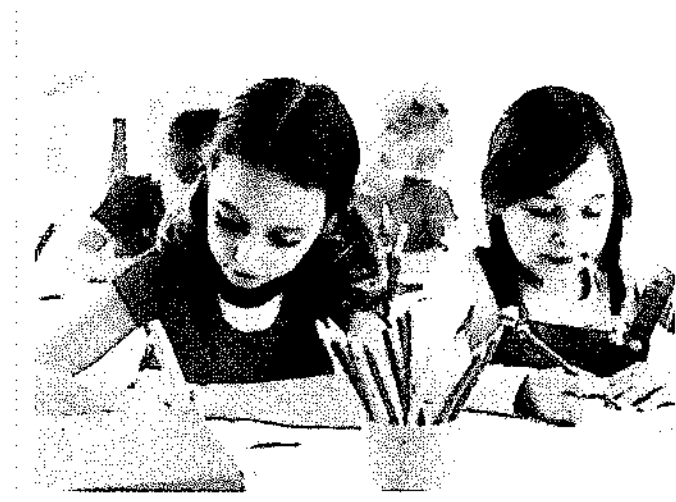




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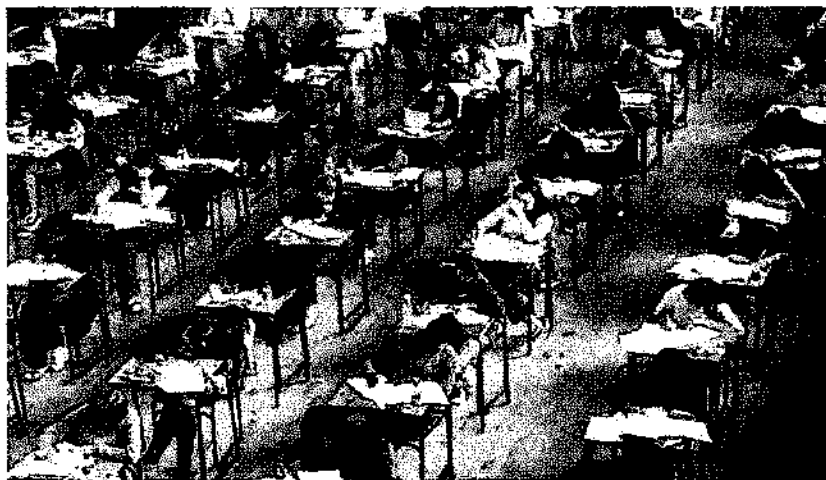




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Education

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OLD PROGRAM

Math 10 – provincial exam

English 10 – provincial exam

Science 10 – provincial exam

Social Studies 11 – provincial exam

English 12 – provincial exam



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Education

Communication and Engagement Plan

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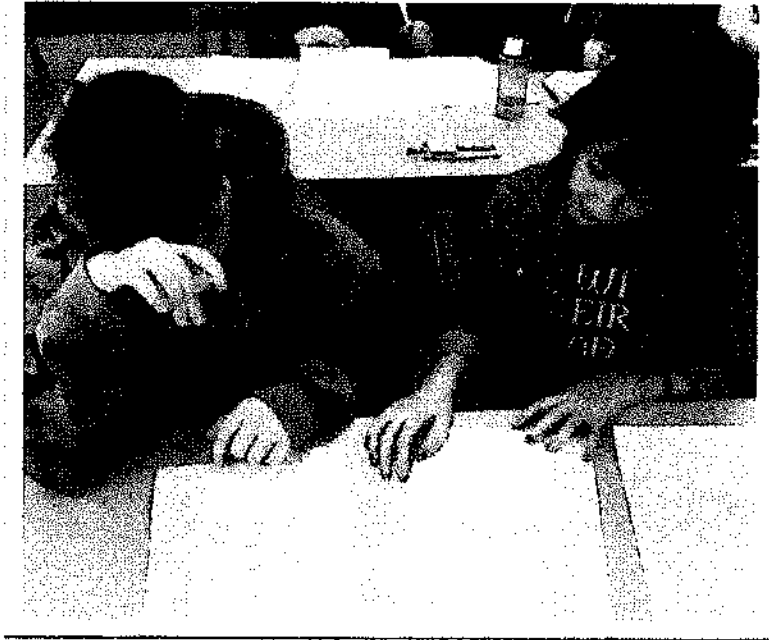


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Ministry of
Education

Recommendations

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Page 062

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Cabinet Committee on Planning & Priorities –

Request for Decision

Minister: Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education

Ministry: Education

Date: 28/06/2016

Ministry Document #: 005/17

Title: Report Back on Modernizing Education

s.12

Background / Context:

British Columbia has one of the world's most successful school systems, with student performance ranking BC as one of the top three education systems in the world. However,



consistent with other top performing school jurisdictions, BC has recognized the need to change from a system based in the industrial era to one that better meets the needs of students in a dynamic and global society. Beginning in 2012, the provincial Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) curriculum began revitalization to ensure students have the skills they need in a rapidly changing world.

s.12

The Foundation Skills Assessment

The FSA is an annual province-wide assessment on reading, writing, and math skills administered to students in grades 4 and 7. These assessments provide a provincial



benchmark and assurance that individual students are meeting provincial standards. Approximately 90,000 students are eligible to write the FSA each year. There is a strong correlation between Grade 4 FSA results and school completion. Student results are reported to parents and are publicly reported at the school, district, and provincial level.

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Decisions Requested:

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Page 068

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Contact: Jennifer McCrea, ADM

s.17

Honourable Mike Bernier

Date Signed

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 8:21 AM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: Official Request - Capital Funding questions and meeting request

FYI.

From: s.22
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX
Subject: Official Request - Capital Funding questions and meeting request

Dear Mr. Bernier,

The past month has been exceptionally difficult to watch. The chronic underfunding officially took its toll on the original reason we got engaged in the first place – s.22 due to capacity issues our neighbourhood faces. Your three additions announcement won't even get us remotely close to the necessary seats we need in this neighbourhood. What I don't understand is why the District had to come up with \$25m in the first place. I seek understanding of the rules or process, especially in light of the NWSS funding announcement of \$104m for ONE school without any funding from the NW District.

To get a better idea on how you operate, I officially request a list of capital projects that have been funded province wide -- by year, project name (i.e. school), project type (i.e. seismic, addition for # of students, etc.), and dollar amount – since 2013.

I also officially request for the actual dollar amounts provided to each private/independent school per year since 2013 – by year, school name, and dollar amount.

Next, I want to talk about red tape. I want to better understand from your office how and why you choose the projects you choose, what the process looks like from the day you announce capital funding to the day the project closes.

I also want to understand why students from Choice programs are not considered for capital funding when they are students taking up a seat in a school. A seat is a seat is a seat.

And finally, I formally request to meet with you again in the next month. Either in the Lower Mainland or in Victoria. Please let me know the date and time and location.

Sincerely,

White, Emily EDUC:EX

From: Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 8:55 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX; Henderson, Kim N PREM:EX; O'Connor-Dixon, Lara EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Call Tomorrow

Before 10:00 works better for me...I can live with either.

Dave Byng
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education
Province of British Columbia

On Oct 13, 2016, at 8:53 PM, Chin, Ben PREM:EX <Ben.Chin@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

No...most of us are busy 10-1030. So after or before?

Ben Chin
Executive Director
Communications and Issues Mgmt
Office of Premier Christy Clark
250.588.3113

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 8:50 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX; Henderson, Kim N PREM:EX
Cc: Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX; O'Connor-Dixon, Lara EDUC:EX
Subject: Call Tomorrow

Hello,
We were trying to organize a call tomorrow to discuss the VSB at 7 am but I am now told this does not work for everyone.
Would 10:15 am work instead?
Thanks,
Matt

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 10:29 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: VSB Language

Great idea... Works for me...

Thanks

Mike

On Jun 7, 2016, at 4:35 PM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,

As we have received a number of pieces of correspondence on the VSB, we have put together what I would describe as an interim response from the ministry. I have pasted it below.

"Thank you for your concerns in regards to the Vancouver School Board. The Ministry of Education is aware of the topics you have raised and we are continuing to have meaningful conversations with the Board and parents in an effort to resolve these matters.

Again, thank you sharing your thoughts with the Ministry."

Would you be ok if this language was sent in the meantime until the situation with the VSB is resolved?

Thanks,

Matt

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 2:40 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: June21

Nope... Let's keep looking. It should be a local MLA announcement anyways. Can we check with her to see if she wants to do it?

Thanks

Mike

> On Jun 7, 2016, at 2:31 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
>
> Is day after VSB vote. Ok with that?
>
> Sent from my iPhone

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 1:26 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 2- Alison Bailey, News 1130, VSB budget

Send messaging please.

Mike

On Jun 14, 2016, at 10:45 AM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,
Media requests below...
VSB – It is radio – any interest in getting out there?
TC – We could turn the messaging from yesterday into a statement from you if that is what Lindsay Kines is looking for. If you want it left from the ministry just let us know.
Matt

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 10:42 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 2- Alison Bailey, News 1130, VSB budget

NEW

Media Request 2

Alison Bailey, News 1130, Alison.bailey@rci.rogers.com 604-877-4400

Topic: VSB budget

Request: Reporter is hoping to speak with MMB for a short interview. +

Questions: the reporter says she just got off the phone with Mike Lombardi. She claims Mr. Lombardi said he has "no intention of voting for a balanced budget."

What will the Minister do if VSB fails to submit a balanced budget?

Recommended/ responses: Please advise if MMB can call the reporter.

Possible messaging:

Education funding is a record levels. We're investing a record \$5.1 billion in public education this year. That's \$1.2 billion more, or a 32% increase since 2000/01. And it's a 5.8% increase since 2010/11.

In Vancouver operating funding has risen by more than 20% since 2001 to almost \$440 million. At the same time enrollment has dropped by more than 10% -- with 6,200 fewer students.

In addition, we just redirected \$25 million from administrative savings to districts to invest in their priorities. In Vancouver this provided almost \$2.3 million the district can use for services to students. I am looking forward to the VSB submitting its long term facility plan in a few weeks – something that should ensure the maximum investments are made in services to students rather than empty seats..

I expect the VSB will submit a balanced budget into the Ministry for June 30.

The June 30 budget deadline applies to all districts.

There are 60 school districts in BC and we have to ensure they are funded in the same way.

We can't provide extra funds to one district at the expense of all the others.

Date & Time: June 14 at 10:30 a.m. **Deadline:** Today at 3:30 p.m.

OUTSTANDING FOR APPROVAL:

Media Request 1

Lindsay Kines, Times Colonist, LKines@timescolonist.com 250-382-9006

Topic: Water testing + Victoria

Request: Reporter has the statement from yesterday but he is hoping to interview MMB.

Questions:

Rob Flemming claims school districts should get extra money to undertake further testing... given the apparent scope of the problem, will the province provide school districts with extra funds?

Is there a need for a provincial strategy?

Will the Ministry consider bringing in any legislation mandating testing?

Recommended/ responses: Please advise if MMB can call the reporter.

Yesterday's statement responds to the questions... he said he can use it but would like to speak with MMB.

Date & Time: June 14 at 10 a.m. **Deadline:** Today at 2:30 p.m.

We sent this statement yesterday:

Our reminder in February 2016 to districts of their duty to provide safe drinking water and to test for lead worked. Based on what we saw in what districts shared with us and with the Vancouver Sun after the testing, we are going to provide districts an annual reminder on water testing – and have them report back on any problems they find, and any mitigation they put in place."

"We will develop standard questions so that information received from districts is consistent. We will also establish a deadline for reports back to the ministry. We expect all districts to test – or provide details on what indications they have that testing is not needed (age of facilities, local water conditions, advice from the local health authority.

"We provide the School Districts with \$110 million in Annual Facilities Grants, which is intended for maintaining schools, including this type of testing and maintenance."

"It is the duty of all school districts to comply with all health and safety requirements under the Health Authorities, WorksafeBC, BC Building Code, including the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality etc."

"The Provincial Health Officer has noted we have no evidence of children being adversely affected by lead in BC."

Media Request (from yesterday. They would like confirmation either way ASAP.)

Jaimie Kehler, Reporter, CBC Radio Kelowna, 250-861-3781 jaimie.kehler@cbc.ca

Topic: school closures

Request: This Friday, CBC Daybreak South is holding a show focussed on school closures in the Okanagan.

The reporter is hoping MMB can join either live or for a pre-taped interview.

The show is on June 17. Time requested for the live interview is 8:10 a.m. on Friday

Length: 5 minutes 1 on 1

Other guests: not on with MMB but this is an education focused show. Will feature local officials etc.

Pre-tape: If MMB cannot join Friday, they can record a pre-taped interview any day this week in the lead up to the show.

Recommendation/ Response: Please advise if MMB can join the show for a pre-tape this week or a live interview on Friday Morning.

Schools aren't closing because of a lack of funding. Schools are closing because of a lack of students.

Students can reap the benefits of small, almost empty schools being amalgamated – because higher numbers means more high-quality and specialized programs are available.

Closing a school is never an easy decision, but local trustees are best able to make these decisions.

Trustees know their communities. They live and work in the community and have children, grandchildren, and neighbours at their schools.

Suggestions that the Minister is able to overturn closures under the School Act are incorrect – that power does not exist in the law.

As well, making decisions at the provincial level would lose the advantage of trustees' local perspective and insights into community priorities.

SD 67 Okanagan Skaha: Since 2000/2001, despite decreasing enrolment of 2057 funding has gone up considerably by \$5.6 million.

2000/01

Enrolment Full Time Equivalents: 7,646

Operating Funding: \$47,002,691

2015/16

Enrolment Full Time Equivalents: 5,589

Operating Funding \$52,573,868

SD 53 Okanagan Similkameen: Since 2000/2001, despite decreasing enrolment of 3,278 funding has gone up by \$1.9 million.

2000/2001: Enrolment of Full time Equivalents 3,197

Funding \$21,420,515

2015/16: Enrolment of Full Time Equivalents 2,311

Funding \$23,277,834

DATE & TIME: June 11 at 4:00 p.m. **Deadline:** June 12 at 4:30 p.m.

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 5:15 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 1- CKNW Vancouver School closures

Statement for now. I just did some live media with them anyways in the Dawson Creek scrum.

Mike

On Jun 19, 2016, at 4:46 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister - CKNW request for you to talk about Vancouver school closures.

May be good to decide now if we just want to issue a statement from the Minister (see below) or have you do actual media when the list of schools is released.

Jason

Jason A Keenan
Communications Director
Ministry of Education
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 4:44 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 1- CKNW Vancouver School closures

NEW
Media Request 1

John O'Dowd, CKWN, john@cknw.com, 604.331.2795

Topic: Vancouver School Closures

Questions: Reaction to Vancouver plan to close schools to be announced Monday - and why these steps must be taken, and likely questions about funding and capacity rates.

Request: live 6-7 minute phone interview on Jon McComb Show on CKNW at 7:46am PT regarding the school

Recommendation/ Response: (MMB do the show, or we could provide messaging for when other guests like opposition critic or VSB appear):

- Schools aren't closing because of a lack of funding. Schools are closing because of a lack of students.
- Since 2001 enrolment has dropped by more than 10% in Vancouver -- by 6,200 students. At the same time funding has gone up more than 20%.
- As well with our May 31 announcement that districts would be able to redirect Administrative Savings to front-line education services -- this coming school year and moving forward. In Vancouver this provided \$2,251,318
- We're investing a record \$5.1 billion in public education this year. Annual education funding is \$1.2 billion higher than it was in 2000/01 - a 32% increase.
- Vancouver needs to ensure every possible dollar goes to students, not empty seats or buildings.
- Addressing its empty seats could save the district up to \$37 million a year -- money that could provide a lot of programs for students.
- Students can reap the benefits of small, almost empty schools being amalgamated -- because higher numbers means more high-quality and specialized programs are available.

Date & Time of Inquiry: 4 pm **Deadline:** 6 pm **Responded:**

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 1:30 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 6 - Global BC (morning news) Interview request - re: VSB school closures

What is the plan with all these... I thought we were just going to send notice of the 4pm call... What do you need from me?

Thanks

Mike

On Jun 20, 2016, at 1:18 PM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Outstanding media requests. The Global one is new.
Matt

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 1:17 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 6 - Global BC (morning news) Interview request - re: VSB school closures

NEW

Media Request 6

Negar Mojahati, Global Morning News, Negar.Mojtahedi@globalnews.ca 604-889-7559

Topic: VSB announcement today and school closures

Request: Producer is asking if MMB can do an on camera interview tomorrow morning.

Hosts: Randene Neil and Steve Darling

When: One on One interview at either 7 a.m. or 8 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Response: Please advise if we can coordinate an on camera interview.

Date & Time: June 20 at 1 p.m. **Deadline:** 6 p.m. **Responded:**

OUTSTANDING

Media Request 4

Katherine Stewart, Producer, CKNW 604-331-2733

Topic: VSB announcement today and school closures - and clarity on the 95% threshold.

Request: Producer would like MMB to go on the Linda Steele Show.

When: One on One interview. Sometime today between 2-6 p.m. for a 7 or 8 minute phone interview.

Response: If MMB is unavailable use the statement below.

Statement from Education Minister Mike Bernier:

"Schools aren't closing because of a lack of funding. Schools are closing because of a lack of students. Since 2001 enrolment has dropped by more than 10% in Vancouver -- by 6,200 students. At the same time funding has gone up more than 20%. As well with our May 31 announcement that districts would be able to redirect Administrative Savings to front-line

education services – this coming school year and moving forward. In Vancouver this provided \$2,251,318."

"We're investing a record \$5.1 billion in public education this year. Annual education funding is \$1.2 billion higher than it was in 2000/01 - a 32% increase."

"Vancouver needs to ensure every possible dollar goes to students, not empty seats or buildings. Addressing its empty seats could save the district up to \$37 million a year – money that could provide a lot of programs for students. Students can reap the benefits of small, almost empty schools being amalgamated – because higher numbers means more high-quality and specialized programs are available."

"It is important to note that the 95% capacity target in Vancouver is part of the MOU between the school district and the province signed by then board chair Patty Bacchus. It is a goal – not a cut-off as evidenced by the fact that the province has announced two multi-million dollar seismic upgrades in Vancouver this year – Sir Sanford Fleming and Sir Charles Kingsford Smith schools. Both are below 95% capacity – as is the entire VSB."

Date & Time: June 20 at 8 a.m. **Deadline:** ASAP **Responded:**

Media Request 3

Bal Brach, Producer, CBC the Early Edition, 778-233-7858 bal.brach@cbc.ca

Topic: VSB school closures

Request: Producer would like MMB to join Stephen Quinn for a 1 on 1 interview tomorrow morning.

Questions: What is the minister's reaction to the VSB's list possible school closures?

Times requested: 7:10 am, 7:50 am, 8:10 am

Length: 7 minutes.

Response: If MMB is unavailable use the statement below.

Can provide messaging if MMB can join

Date & Time: June 20 at 11 a.m. . **Deadline:** June 20 at 4 p.m. **Responded:**

Media Request 2

Andrea Woo, Globe and Mail Woo, AndreaWoo@globeandmail.com or 604.631.6602

Topic: VSB announcement today and school closures

Request: Reporter: Can you please send me some information on the ministry's target to have school occupancy levels up to 95 per cent capacity to qualify for provincial funding (how much?) for seismic upgrades? I'm wondering who set the target at 95 per cent and why. As I'm sure you know, the NDP education critic and some parent groups have called it "arbitrary."

Recommendation/ Response: Send message from MMB.

Statement from Education Minister Mike Bernier:

It's disappointing to see the opposition misrepresent capacity. There are no capacity targets for seismic upgrades.

The 95% threshold is for large urban districts only, is a districtwide target, and applies only when looking for new schools or expansions. It is NOT a seismic target. These targets have been in place since the early 2000s.

We have discussions with districts to ensure we are not upgrading schools that may close. That's why we ask districts with declining enrolment to take a hard look and prioritize their seismic upgrades.

It is important to note that the 95% capacity target in Vancouver is part of the MOU between the school district and the province signed by then board chair Patty Bacchus.

It is a goal – not a cut-off as evidenced by the fact that the province has announced two multi-million dollar seismic upgrades in Vancouver this year – Sir Sanford Fleming and Sir Charles Kingsford Smith schools. Both are below 95% capacity – as is the entire VSB.

It's also important to remember that every dollar spent keeping an empty seat open is a dollar that is not spent on teachers or educating students.

Date & Time: June 20 at 11 a.m. **Deadline:** ASAP **Responded:**

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 3:47 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Draft statement for approval

Looks good. 415 maybe as a send out time?

Mike

On Jun 20, 2016, at 3:16 PM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

One typo

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 3:13 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Draft statement for approval

Education Minister statement on potential school closures in Vancouver

VICTORIA – Education Minister Mike Bernier released the following statement today in response to the Vancouver School Board's announcement of its consultation and its list of 12 schools for potential closure in the 2017/18 school year.

"I understand parents' concerns about the possibility of their child's school closing. At the same time, amalgamating schools offers parents in Vancouver MORE not less. A fuller school is one that can offer more and better programs for students. It might mean access to sports and music programs that an under-capacity school just doesn't have. The result is that resources go where they should be – into services for students, not in keeping empty classes open.

"Vancouver has reached this point because of one simple fact - since 2001 there has been a steady decline in the number of students in Vancouver. There are 10% fewer students in Vancouver – 6,500 less in fact. At the same time, record education funding in B.C. has boosted funds to Vancouver by 20%."

"Every dollar spent keeping an empty seat open is a dollar that is not spent on teachers or on educating students. Last year, the Ernst and Young report tallied up the cost of keeping those empty seats open. That cost is \$37 million a year. Imagine the number of teachers that \$37 million could hire. Imagine the student services that could be provided."

"It's also important to note that the 95% capacity target in Vancouver is part of the MOU between the school district and the province signed by the VSB's board chair. It is a goal – not a cut-off— as evidenced by a number of projects funded by the province. Just this year we announced two seismic projects -- Sir Sanford Fleming Elementary and Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith Elementary. As well the largest seismic upgrade in B.C. history is underway at Kitsilano Secondary school – with a price tag of \$57.8 million."

"I am looking forward to working with the Vancouver School District as it finalizes its long term facilities plan. This plan is a road map forward so the district has more money for student services not empty seats, and together we can further advance seismic upgrade in schools that have a long-term future."

Jason A Keenan
Communications Director
Ministry of Education
Government Communications and Public Engagement

Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 2:26 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Urgent meeting request re VBE 2016/2017 Operating Budget

Hold off because I don't see time to meet with them free in the schedule... They are aware of their obligation and I have spoken to the Chair a few weeks back and reminded him... I also want to hear how they respond to today's letter to them to see how I will respond back.

Thanks

Mike

On Jun 21, 2016, at 1:13 PM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

FYI – let me know what you want to do.

From: Maria Chona T. Caparas [<mailto:mcaparas@vsb.bc.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 12:14 PM

To: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX

Cc: Group Trustees; Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX; Scott Robinson (Supt Office); Russell Horswill; Marlene Phillips

Subject: Urgent meeting request re VBE 2016/2017 Operating Budget

Attached is a letter from Vancouver Board of Education Chairperson, Mike Lombardi.

Regards,

Chona Caparas | Administrative Coordinator

VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD | Secretary Treasurer's Office

1580 West Broadway | Vancouver | BC V6J 5K8

604.713.5080 | mcaparas@vsb.bc.ca

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 5:25 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: CKNW: Smyth - VSB school closures & Premier stipend

Let's hold for now. We can monitor the media but I think we are at a good (neutral) place.

Mike

On Jun 21, 2016, at 5:39 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I spoke to Smitty after this ran.
Maybe we should do a capacity factsheet – map out how it's a goal, etc
And for the rest of the province it is for new schools – if your school is half empty – you need to use that space.
Happy to get something together tomorrow.

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 2:19 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Fwd: CKNW: Smyth - VSB school closures & Premier stipend
Interesting read.

Thanks
Mike

Begin forwarded message:

From: <ino@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 21, 2016 at 8:17:02 AM PDT
To: Undisclosed recipients;;
Subject: CKNW: Smyth - VSB school closures & Premier stipend

CKNW (Vancouver)
CKNW View From Victoria
21-Jun-2016 06:41

Copyright

Page 087 to/à Page 089

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O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 6:48 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; O'Connor-Dixon, Lara EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: UPDATED P&P Materials

I don't need a call thanks. I am set to speak with hem today. Also, please have a meeting booked with Michelle, Ben and Neil for next week when I am in Van regarding VSB. They know I want a meeting. Thanks.

Mike

On Jun 22, 2016, at 7:36 AM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,
Staff have made further edits to the P and P presentation. Would you like to have a quick call with staff on the materials, if possible? Have you had a chance to talk to Michele or Steve?
Matt

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: McCrea, Jennifer EDUC:EX <Jennifer.McCrea@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 11:27 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX
Cc: Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX; Kot, Jill EDUC:EX; Godin, Keith EDUC:EX
Subject: UPDATED P&P Materials

Trying again. Having trouble sending so I've dropped the PPT version and only PDF is attached.
Hi Matt,
These materials have been updated based on requests from the DM tonight. Wording changes, a transition plan for exams is now Appendix A in the sub, typos, better layout and format for the options. We will also do a fresh read in the morning for grammar, typos, formatting...
Question – does the Minister want the Appendix to be a slide in the deck? I've attached it here for ease. I can make any changes first thing in the morning.

Grade in 2016/17	2016/17	
9	Grade 9	(
	No exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Math • New English • New Science

Grade in 2016/17	2016/17	
10	Grade 10	(
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Science 10 exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Math • New English • New Social

Grade in 2016/17	2016/17	
11	Grade 11	(
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Social Studies 11 exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New English

Grade in 2016/17	2016/17	
12	Grade 12	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing English 12 exam 	

Student Transition for Interim Provincial Exams

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 10:10 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 1 - Gord Macdonald, CKNW, Lombardi call for Royal Commission

I would actually remove the first sentence and not even mention the commission. Just straight to our messaging. I won't call on this. Can't leave cabinet anyways right now...

Thanks

Mike

On Jun 22, 2016, at 10:59 AM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,
See the request and draft response below,. I have highlighted the one typo. Does this tone work for you?
Also, if you can call NW that would be better – but understand that might not be possible.
Thanks,
Matt

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 9:52 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 1 - Gord Macdonald, CKNW, Lombardi call for Royal Commission
NEW

Media Request 1

Gord Macdonald, CKNW, 604-331-2766 gord.macdonald@cknw.com

Topic: Lombardi call for Royal Commission

Request: Reporter wants reaction to Mike Lombardi's call for a Royal Commission on education.

Recommended Response: *Send quote from MMB.*

"We do not need a Royal Commission to tell us what is happening with education. British Columbia has the some of the best educational outcomes in the world and we have record funding in the province."

"It's disappointing that the Vancouver School Board continues to avoid delivering real solutions for its students and parents and instead looks for political delay tactics and misleading distractions at every opportunity. The VSB is in a crisis because for years the board has chosen to invest in empty classrooms rather than students. VSB shortchanges students of education services with their choice to squander \$37 million a year on empty seats. Other districts have moved forward and gotten rid of empty seats – ensuring taxpayer funds are targeted to education services. Vancouver refuses to do this."

“I cannot understand why they want to fund empty seats – and demand taxpayers to take money away from other education services to fund their empty seat decision. I can only guess that their main focus is political campaigning rather than students. I look forward to the VSB tabling its legally required balanced budget by the end of the month.”

Date/Time: June 22 at 9:30 a.m. **Deadline:** asap

This was re-posted to Mike Lombardi’s Facebook page again this morning, after it was first posted June 15:

It’s Time for a BC Royal Commission on Education!

Copyright

Page 094

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 11:51 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: URGENT MO REQUEST - Vancouver Schools

Thanks

Mike

On Jun 22, 2016, at 12:45 PM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

FYI

We have not provided details on the distance to the next closest school as there are over 160 schools in Vancouver and in a number of these cases the distribution of affected student is still being worked through. In general though for all closures there is a school within a number of blocks and likely under 2-3km.

I would advise that the Minister does not speak to any specifics about closures as it is far too early to be specific about what the impacts will be. That is the point of the consultation over the next 6 months. Parents and stakeholders will have a chance to have input into the specifics about these closures as VBE embarks on their consultative process.

Does this help?

Shanna Mason
Assistant Deputy Minister
Planning & Major Projects Division
Ministry of Education

From: Mounteney, Renee EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:01 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Brooke, Daisy GCPE:EX
Cc: Mason, Shanna EDUC:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Walker, Brenda MK EDUC:EX; Spillett, Ryan Y EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: URGENT MO REQUEST - Vancouver Schools

Daisy and Jason,

The following per Minister request. These are also available on VSB's website in Appendix K of their LRFP. In case you need other capacity/utilization, see attached link.

<http://engage.vsb.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/appendix-k-current-capacity-utilization-by-school.pdf>

School	2015 Enrollment	2015 Operating Capacity	2015 Utilization
Queen Elizabeth Annex	87	103	84%
Champlain Heights Annex	107	103	104%
Tecumseh Annex	109	103	106%
McBride Annex	82	124	66%
Dr. A.R. Lord Elementary	146	341	43%
Admiral Seymour Elementary	110	392	28%
Graham D. Bruce Elementary	214	317	68%
Sir Guy Carleton Elementary	304	612	50%

Queen Alexandra Elementary	193	271	71%
Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary	259	364	71%
Britannia Secondary	557	1100	52%
Gladstone Secondary	1029	1600	64%

Renée

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 1:26 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 2- Alison Bailey, News 1130, VSB budget

Send messaging please.

Mike

On Jun 14, 2016, at 10:45 AM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,
Media requests below...
VSB – It is radio – any interest in getting out there?
TC – We could turn the messaging from yesterday into a statement from you if that is what Lindsay Kines is looking for. If you want it left from the ministry just let us know.
Matt

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 10:42 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 2- Alison Bailey, News 1130, VSB budget

NEW

Media Request 2

Alison Bailey, News 1130, Alison.bailey@rci.rogers.com 604-877-4400

Topic: VSB budget

Request: Reporter is hoping to speak with MMB for a short interview. +

Questions: the reporter says she just got off the phone with Mike Lombardi. She claims Mr. Lombardi said he has “no intention of voting for a balanced budget.”

What will the Minister do if VSB fails to submit a balanced budget?

Recommended/ responses: Please advise if MMB can call the reporter.

Possible messaging:

Education funding is a record levels. We're investing a record \$5.1 billion in public education this year. That's \$1.2 billion more, or a 32% increase since 2000/01. And it's a 5.8% increase since 2010/11.

In Vancouver operating funding has risen by more than 20% since 2001 to almost \$440 million. At the same time enrollment has dropped by more than 10% -- with 6,200 fewer students.

In addition, we just redirected \$25 million from administrative savings to districts to invest in their priorities. In Vancouver this provided almost \$2.3 million the district can use for services to students. I am looking forward to the VSB submitting its long term facility plan in a few weeks – something that should ensure the maximum investments are made in services to students rather than empty seats..

I expect the VSB will submit a balanced budget into the Ministry for June 30.

The June 30 budget deadline applies to all districts.

There are 60 school districts in BC and we have to ensure they are funded in the same way.

We can't provide extra funds to one district at the expense of all the others.

Date & Time: June 14 at 10:30 a.m. **Deadline:** Today at 3:30 p.m.

OUTSTANDING FOR APPROVAL:

Media Request 1

Lindsay Kines, Times Colonist, LKines@timescolonist.com 250-382-9006

Topic: Water testing + Victoria

Request: Reporter has the statement from yesterday but he is hoping to interview MMB.

Questions:

Rob Flemming claims school districts should get extra money to undertake further testing... given the apparent scope of the problem, will the province provide school districts with extra funds?

Is there a need for a provincial strategy?

Will the Ministry consider bringing in any legislation mandating testing?

Recommended/ responses: Please advise if MMB can call the reporter.

Yesterday's statement responds to the questions... he said he can use it but would like to speak with MMB.

Date & Time: June 14 at 10 a.m. **Deadline:** Today at 2:30 p.m.

We sent this statement yesterday:

Our reminder in February 2016 to districts of their duty to provide safe drinking water and to test for lead worked. Based on what we saw in what districts shared with us and with the Vancouver Sun after the testing, we are going to provide districts an annual reminder on water testing – and have them report back on any problems they find, and any mitigation they put in place."

"We will develop standard questions so that information received from districts is consistent. We will also establish a deadline for reports back to the ministry. We expect all districts to test – or provide details on what indications they have that testing is not needed (age of facilities, local water conditions, advice from the local health authority.

"We provide the School Districts with \$110 million in Annual Facilities Grants, which is intended for maintaining schools, including this type of testing and maintenance."

"It is the duty of all school districts to comply with all health and safety requirements under the Health Authorities, WorksafeBC, BC Building Code, including the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality etc."

"The Provincial Health Officer has noted we have no evidence of children being adversely affected by lead in BC."

Media Request (from yesterday. They would like confirmation either way ASAP.)

Jaimie Kehler, Reporter, CBC Radio Kelowna, 250-861-3781 jaimie.kehler@cbc.ca

Topic: school closures

Request: This Friday, CBC Daybreak South is holding a show focussed on school closures in the Okanagan.

The reporter is hoping MMB can join either live or for a pre-taped interview.

The show is on June 17. Time requested for the live interview is 8:10 a.m. on Friday

Length: 5 minutes 1 on 1

Other guests: not on with MMB but this is an education focused show. Will feature local officials etc.

Pre-tape: If MMB cannot join Friday, they can record a pre-taped interview any day this week in the lead up to the show.

Recommendation/ Response: Please advise if MMB can join the show for a pre-tape this week or a live interview on Friday Morning.

Schools aren't closing because of a lack of funding. Schools are closing because of a lack of students.

Students can reap the benefits of small, almost empty schools being amalgamated – because higher numbers means more high-quality and specialized programs are available.

Closing a school is never an easy decision, but local trustees are best able to make these decisions.

Trustees know their communities. They live and work in the community and have children, grandchildren, and neighbours at their schools.

Suggestions that the Minister is able to overturn closures under the School Act are incorrect – that power does not exist in the law.

As well, making decisions at the provincial level would lose the advantage of trustees' local perspective and insights into community priorities.

SD 67 Okanagan Skaha: Since 2000/2001, despite decreasing enrolment of 2057 funding has gone up considerably by \$5.6 million.

2000/01

Enrolment Full Time Equivalents: 7,646

Operating Funding: \$47,002,691

2015/16

Enrolment Full Time Equivalents: 5,589

Operating Funding \$52,573,868

SD 53 Okanagan Similkameen: Since 2000/2001, despite decreasing enrolment of 3,278 funding has gone up by \$1.9 million.

2000/2001: Enrolment of Full time Equivalents 3,197

Funding \$21,420,515

2015/16: Enrolment of Full Time Equivalents 2,311

Funding \$23,277,834

DATE & TIME: June 11 at 4:00 p.m. **Deadline:** June 12 at 4:30 p.m.

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 3:37 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 3- Lindsay Kines, Times Colonist, water testing

Looks good... thanks

Thanks

Mike

On Jun 13, 2016, at 3:35 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister

Just a quick request from times colonist. Statement from Ministry similar to lead in water on weekend.

Jason

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX" <Craig.Sorochan@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 13, 2016 at 3:12:34 PM PDT
To: "Holme, Matt EDUC:EX" <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca>, "Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX" <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX" <Brett.Lowther@gov.bc.ca>, "Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX" <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca>, "Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Media Request 3- Lindsay Kines, Times Colonist, water testing

Revised slightly

NEW

Media Request 3

Lindsay Kines, Times Colonist, LKines@timescolonist.com 250-382-9006

Topic: Water testing + Victoria

Request: Wondering if I can get a comment from the education ministry on elevated lead levels in the drinking water at a number of Greater Victoria schools. I'm wondering, given the growing number of districts finding issues, what the ministry's strategy is for ensuring that students have safe drinking water and whether it will be helping districts cover the associated costs?

Recommended/ responses: Send statement from the Ministry:

"Our reminder in February 2016 to districts of their duty to provide safe drinking water and to test for lead worked. Based on what we saw in what districts shared with us and with the Vancouver Sun after the testing, we are going to provide districts an annual reminder on water testing – and have them report back on any problems they find, and any mitigation they put in place."

"We will develop standard questions so that information received from districts is consistent. We will also establish a deadline for reports back to the ministry. We expect all districts to test – or provide details on what indications they have that testing is not needed (age of facilities, local water conditions, advice from the local health authority.

"We provide the School Districts with \$110 million in Annual Facilities Grants, which is intended for maintaining schools, including this type of testing and maintenance."

"It is the duty of all school districts to comply with all health and safety requirements under the Health Authorities, WorksafeBC, BC Building Code, including the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality etc."

"The Provincial Health Officer has noted we have no evidence of children being adversely affected by lead in BC."

Date & Time: June 13 at 2 p.m. **Deadline:** Today at 4:30 p.m.

OUTSTANDING FOR APPROVAL:

Media Request 2

Jaimie Kehler, Reporter, CBC Radio Kelowna, 250-861-3781 jaimie.kehler@cbc.ca

Topic: school closures

Request: This Friday, CBC Daybreak South is holding a show focussed on school closures in the Okanagan.

The reporter is hoping MMB can join either live or for a pre-taped interview.

The show is on June 17. Time requested for the live interview is 8:10 a.m. on Friday

Length: 5 minutes 1 on 1

Other guests: not on with MMB but this is an education focused show. Will feature local officials etc.

Pre-tape: If MMB cannot join Friday, they can record a pre-taped interview any day this week in the lead up to the show.

Recommendation/ Response: *Please advise if MMB can join the show for a pre-tape this week or a live interview on Friday Morning.*

Schools aren't closing because of a lack of funding. Schools are closing because of a lack of students.

Students can reap the benefits of small, almost empty schools being amalgamated – because higher numbers means more high-quality and specialized programs are available.

Closing a school is never an easy decision, but local trustees are best able to make these decisions.

Trustees know their communities. They live and work in the community and have children, grandchildren, and neighbours at their schools.

Suggestions that the Minister is able to overturn closures under the School Act are incorrect – that power does not exist in the law.

As well, making decisions at the provincial level would lose the advantage of trustees' local perspective and insights into community priorities.

SD 67 Okanagan Skaha: Since 2000/2001, despite decreasing enrolment of 2057 funding has gone up considerably by \$5.6 million.

2000/01

Enrolment Full Time Equivalents: 7,646

Operating Funding: \$47,002,691

2015/16

Enrolment Full Time Equivalents: 5,589

Operating Funding \$52,573,868

SD 53 Okanagan Similkameen: Since 2000/2001, despite decreasing enrolment of 3,278 funding has gone up by \$1.9 million.

2000/2001: Enrolment of Full time Equivalents 3,197

Funding \$21,420,515

2015/16: Enrolment of Full Time Equivalents 2,311

Funding \$23,277,834

DATE & TIME: June 11 at 4:00 p.m. **Deadline:** June 12 at 4:30 p.m.

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 12:39 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 2 - Jaimie Kehler, Reporter, CBC Daybreak South, school closures

Go with number 2 messaging. I need to think about the CBC one though. It may be good to hit home our position and clarify issues. Not sure yet though.

Mike

On Jun 13, 2016, at 11:30 AM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

See the CBC Radio request below. My recommendation would be to decline given the situation in Penticton and Osoyoos. Happy to discuss.

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2016 11:27 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 2 - Jaimie Kehler, Reporter, CBC Daybreak South, school closures

NEW

Media Request 1

Jaimie Kehler, Reporter, CBC Radio Kelowna, 250-861-3781 jaimie.kehler@cbc.ca

Topic: school closures

Request: This Friday, CBC Daybreak South is holding a show focussed on school closures in the Okanagan.

The reporter is hoping MMB can join either live or for a pre-taped interview.

The show is on June 17. Time requested for the live interview is 8:10 a.m. on Friday

Length: 5 minutes 1 on 1

Other guests: not on with MMB but this is an education focused show. Will feature local officials etc.

Pre-tape: If MMB cannot join Friday, they can record a pre-taped interview any day this week in the lead up to the show.

Recommendation/ Response: *Please advise if MMB can join the show for a pre-tape this week or a live interview on Friday Morning.*

Schools aren't closing because of a lack of funding. Schools are closing because of a lack of students.

Students can reap the benefits of small, almost empty schools being amalgamated – because higher numbers means more high-quality and specialized programs are available.

Closing a school is never an easy decision, but local trustees are best able to make these decisions.

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Suggestions that the Minister is able to overturn closures under the School Act are incorrect – that power does not exist in the law.

As well, making decisions at the provincial level would lose the advantage of trustees' local perspective and insights into community priorities.

SD 67 Okanagan Skaha: Since 2000/2001, despite decreasing enrolment of 2057 funding has gone up considerably by \$5.6 million.

2000/01

Enrolment Full Time Equivalents: 7,646

Operating Funding: \$47,002,691

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SD 53 Okanagan Similkameen: Since 2000/2001, despite decreasing enrolment of 3,278 funding has gone up by \$1.9 million.

2000/2001: Enrolment of Full time Equivalents 3,197

Funding \$21,420,515

2015/16: Enrolment of Full Time Equivalents 2,311

Funding \$23,277,834

DATE & TIME: June 11 at 4:00 p.m. **Deadline:** June 12 at 4:30 p.m.

OUTSTANDING

Media Request (French CBC has called again today)

Geneviève Milord, French CBC 604) 862-4877 genevieve.milord@radio-canada.ca

Topic: CSF by-election.

A complaint has been made regarding the upcoming CSF by election for a board seat.

It's alleged that not enough notice was given regarding the election.

Questions: Reporter wants to know if the accusations Mr. Morin are making are accurate. And if so, what (if any) steps the Ministry might take?

Recommendation: response from the Ministry:

We are aware of the situation but the setting of dates and administering a local by-election for regional trustees is the responsibility of the francophone education authority.

It's best you direct your questions to the CSF, as the Ministry does not have authority to intervene in the matter.

Date & time: June 10 at 3 pm **Deadline:** when possible

Media Request 1

Angela Jung, Global News, Kelowna, C: 250-488-2686 angela.jung@globalnews.ca

Topic: Call for SD 67 Okanagan Skaha special advisor

Request: reporter: A trustee will now be putting a motion to accept a special advisor at a board meeting tonight.

But she says they have not received any written confirmation that the Ministry will be paying for a special advisor.

In a previous statement to us, it says "the Ministry did not offer to provide this assistance."

Note: the reporter says, “according to MLA Dan Ashton, it is being offered and will be paid for by the BC government.”

Questions: *reporter:* “If the board accepts a special advisor, will there be one provided?”

Response/ Recommendation: *Send information from the Ministry of Education:*

“The Ministry did not offer to appoint an advisor — but has said it would appoint one if a formal request comes from the board. As well, if a formal request is received, the Ministry of Education would pay the advisor’s fees.”

Date & Time: June 13 at 9:30 am **Deadline:** Noon

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 4:58 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 3 - Ron Manz, Reporter, KISS FM Vernon, special advisor's report on SD 83

Thanks. Just need to not set expectations.

Mike

On Jun 8, 2016, at 4:33 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

8 times in last 15 years – will include

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 4:30 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 3 - Ron Manz, Reporter, KISS FM Vernon, special advisor's report on SD 83
Looks good but can we add to the second one, that this is only been used in extra ordinary circumstances and only 3 or 4 times ever (whatever the number might be). Just so they don't think I will just step in and do it.
Thanks.

Mike

On Jun 8, 2016, at 2:48 PM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,
See the three media requests below.
Matt
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX <Craig.Sorochan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 3 - Ron Manz, Reporter, KISS FM Vernon, special advisor's report on SD 83
NEW:
Media Request 3
Ron Manz, Reporter, KISS FM Vernon, 250-545-5901 news@1075kiss.com
Topic: special advisor's report on SD 83
Questions: Any update on the special advisor's report and if/when it will be made public?
Recommendation: Send a response from the Ministry:
We have received the report and we are in the process of reviewing it.
We will notify as soon as we determine next steps.
Date & time: June 8 at 9 a.m. **Deadline:** June 8 at 4 p.m.

OUTSTANDING FOR APPROVAL:

Media Request 2

Joe Fries, Reporter, Penticton Herald

Topic: Call for SD 67 Okanagan Skaha special advisor.

Questions: Does there have to be a request for a special advisor or can the ministry appoint one without a request? What are the parameters?

Recommendation: *Background information from the Ministry of Education:*

As described in the School Act, a special advisor can be appointed in the following circumstances:

171.1(1) The minister, by order, may appoint a special advisor or a special advisory committee to one or more school districts, for a term determined by the minister,

1. (a) to review the progress of the board or boards in respect of the improvement of student performance or to inspect and evaluate any other matters as directed by the minister,
2. (b) to assist the board or boards in the conduct of the affairs of the school district or school districts in respect of any educational, financial or community matters,

Date & Time: June 8 at Noon **Deadline:** June 8 at 4:30 p.m.

Media Request 1

April Lawrence, Chek TV, alawrence@cheknews.ca (250) 415-8168

Topic: Full schools in SD 62

Questions: Reporter: I am working on a story today about the rapid pace of development on the West Shore (Colwood and Langford) and the issues it's creating with infrastructure, specifically school spaces.

Two new schools recently built here, Royal Bay and Belmont, are already at capacity with huge developments being built around them.

Why didn't the province take the population growth in the West Shore into consideration when constructing these schools and build them with room to grow? Is the province already looking at adding portables, and expanding the size of these schools to accommodate the growing need for spaces?

Response/ Recommendation: *Send statement from the Ministry of Education:*

"The school district is in the best position to answer your questions.

"That said, we fund projects based on the priorities and plans brought forward by school districts. They undertake forecasting analysis and establish the size of school based on the current and 10 year forecast enrollment. This was the case for both Belmont and Royal Bay.

"We will continue to work with the school district as they plan student spaces in areas of growth on the West Shore."

Date & Time: June 8 at Noon **Deadline:** June 8 at 3:00 p.m.

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 2:36 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 4- Catherine Rolfsen, CBC Early Edition, Interview request w/ Stephen Quinn re VSB school closures

Set it up.

Mike

On Jun 22, 2016, at 3:27 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

7:10 tomorrow would be 8:10 your time and you'd be done in time for Breakfast.

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 2:27 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 4- Catherine Rolfsen, CBC Early Edition, Interview request w/ Stephen Quinn re VSB school closures
Probably should.

Mike

On Jun 22, 2016, at 3:21 PM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,
Any desire to do the CBC request tomorrow?
Matt

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 2:07 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 4- Catherine Rolfsen, CBC Early Edition, Interview request w/ Stephen Quinn re VSB school closures

NEW

Media Request 4

Catherine Rolfsen, Story Producer, The Early Edition, CBC Radio One 604-662-6499

catherine.rolfsen@cbc.ca

Topic: VSB school closures – VSB budget

Request: Would like MMB join Stephen Quinn for a 6 minute 1 on 1 interview tomorrow (Thursday) or Friday morning at 7:10 a.m. or 8:10 a.m. PST

No other guests or calls

Questions: Is the Ministry satisfied with VSB's proposal to close schools?

Recommendation: Please advise if MMB can do the interview on either tomorrow or Friday a.m.

Can provide messaging for the interview, if needed.

Date/Time: June 22 at 1:30 p.m. **Deadline:** June 22 at 4:30 p.m.

OUTSTANDING

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 9:27 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: NR - Seismic upgrades clarification

Like it. Same message so good to reenforce. Thanks. Good to send out tomorrow.

Thanks

Mike

On Jun 22, 2016, at 4:57 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Slight revision from Shane – getting the 95 is district wide not school target.

Education Minister addresses misinformation about seismic upgrades

VANCOUVER – Parents are being misled regarding seismic upgrades in Vancouver and Richmond, Education Minister Mike Bernier said today.

“As a parent, I share the same goals as parents – seeing schools seismically upgraded as quickly as possible, and seeing the maximum number of taxpayer dollars supporting the education of students,” Bernier said. “Unfortunately the Vancouver School Board’s main focus seems to be on defending its squandering of \$37 million a year on empty seats rather than students.”

There are 6,500 fewer students in Vancouver today than there were in 2001 – a drop of more than 10 per cent. At the same time provincial funding flowing into Vancouver has risen by 20%. And money for seismic upgrades has continued to go to Vancouver.

“The biggest challenge facing the Vancouver School Board isn’t a formula and it isn’t funding – it has been a chronic failure to act. The VSB is in a crisis because for years the board has short-changed students and chosen to put empty classrooms ahead of students,” Bernier said. “What upsets me is that it is the students who pay the price for the board short-changing student services in order to protect empty seats.”

Bernier also said the hyperbole around capacity rates – especially VSB’s instance there is a 95% school target that must be met -- has been misleading. There is no school-based target and the 95% is a district wide goal – to be met over time.

“The board is well aware that the capacity target for seismic upgrades in the MOU they signed in 2014 is a goal to be worked toward – not a cut-off. We’ve made that clear by announcing a pair of seismic projects this year while the district capacity sits at 85 per cent – well below the MOU goal,” Bernier added.

The province has financially supported two seismic upgrades in Vancouver since the MOU was signed:

- Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary, a \$25.9 million seismic replacement
- Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith Elementary, a \$11.6 million seismic upgrade

In addition, a number of seismic projects are currently under construction despite the large number of empty seats across the Vancouver School District:

- Lord Nelson Elementary, \$18 million seismic replacement
- Lord Strathcona Elementary, \$25.6 million seismic upgrade
- L’Ecole Bilingue Elementary, \$15.2 million seismic replacement
- General Gordon Elementary, \$14.7 million seismic replacement

- Kitsilano Secondary school, \$57.8 million seismic upgrade and replacement – the largest school seismic project in B.C. history

Bernier said other districts across B.C. have moved forward and gotten rid of empty seats – and focussed their budgets on education services. Districts like Greater Victoria followed up school closures with the opening of new schools like Oak Bay Secondary. In North Vancouver they have almost completed their seismic upgrade program.

Bernier also clarified that there are no specific targets for Richmond to get going on seismic upgrades. Instead, the Ministry is waiting for a long-term facilities plan from Richmond that will clearly identify their seismic priorities that lines up with schools slated to remain open. Enrolment has dropped by more than 11% in Richmond -- by 2,658 students. At the same time funding has gone up just shy of 20%. Since 2001 the province has invested more than \$1.12 billion to complete 153 high risk seismic projects across B.C.

"I'm disappointed that misinformation has impacted so many parents – and muddled the waters on how we can move forward on our key task – supporting students over empty seats," Bernier said. "I also want to add that I look forward to the VSB tabling its legally required balanced budget by the end of the month."

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX

Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 3:35 PM

To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX

Subject: NR - Seismic upgrades clarification

Minister

Here is my first cut of a release around clarifying seismic for Vancouver and Richmond.

If you want we can take it down and make it a simple fact sheet – without any of the quote statements.

Jason

Education Minister addresses misinformation about seismic upgrades

Page 112

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 2:52 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request - Global

Perfect.

Mike

On Jun 30, 2016, at 2:50 PM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

PO is ok with the original statement. Also suggested adding the VSB looked for a proposal around selling the mall and then voted it down. They would rather own a mall than help students.

That can be added in if you like.

Matt

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 2:49 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request - Global
Why not add this is one BC.. We don't support building walls around communities and creating different opportunities for education.

Thanks

Mike

On Jun 30, 2016, at 2:47 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

That was mistake

We can send as from you if you want

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 2:45 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request - Global

I am just about to board a plane.. I thought I saw that finance was taking this

Thanks

Mike

On Jun 30, 2016, at 2:43 PM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister, can you give Ted Chernecki a call? His number is **604-880-7046**. The mayor's statement is below.

Suggested messaging:

“The Mayor of Vancouver is mistaken about how we fund education in British Columbia. Funding is provided per pupil, not by where school taxes are collected. It’s about fairness across the province – and I am surprised the Mayor wants to change this. He may want to suggest his colleagues at the VSB look to end spending \$37 million on empty seats and redirect that money to students.”

Media Request 1

Topic: Mayor of Vancouver’s statement about property taxes today

Reporter: Ted Chernecki, Global

Requested received: June 30

Question: What is the ministry’s response to this release?

Deadline: June 30 at 3 p.m.

Statement from Mayor Gregor Robertson on the Vancouver School Board

June 30, 2016 (Vancouver, BC) - The Vancouver School Board was elected by residents of Vancouver to act in the best interest of children and youth in Vancouver’s public schools. Over the past seven years I have seen them serve with dedication and passion, while taking a pragmatic approach that has used shrinking resources to help build a supportive school system for our kids. That’s why when this Vancouver School Board says that another \$21.4 million in funding cuts is too deep to support the learning needs of Vancouver’s children and youth – the most complex of all the districts in the Province - the only response for me is how we can help to support them.

In 2015, for the first time, Vancouver provided more in school taxes (\$463 million) than it received in provincial funding (\$448 million) - a loss of \$15 million. On Tuesday, City Council unanimously passed a motion supporting the Vancouver School Board’s request for our fair share of provincial funding and encouraging the Minister of Education to meet with the Vancouver School Board in order to find a solution.

We took this action not just in the best interests of children and youth in Vancouver public schools, but in the best interests of our entire city's future. Everything from our economy to our ability to create safe and inclusive communities rests on the investment we put into supporting public education. Indeed the strength of our public education system is a key draw of people to Vancouver.

I am urging the Minister to work with the Vancouver School Board to find a way forward that respects the wishes of Vancouver voters and provides stable, long-term and predictable funding that responds to the complexity of needs in our schools, and avoids the cuts that will fall disproportionately on our most vulnerable kids.

From: Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: ted chernecki's phone number
604-880-7046

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 5:50 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: CKNW: Fleming - VSB audit

He missed the main point that 59 other school districts the balance their budget.

Mike

On Jun 30, 2016, at 5:45 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Seems Fleming really wants to take money out of rural Bc!

From: tno@gov.bc.ca [<mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 5:33 PM

Subject: CKNW: Fleming - VSB audit

CKNW (Vancouver)

30-Jun-2016 17:03

Copyright

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 3:29 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL -- media requests for approval today

All good. Thanks.

Thanks

Mike

On Jul 1, 2016, at 10:25 AM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,
Sorry – I know you are at the Canada Day Parade....Just throwing this back on your radar. The Burnaby Now and Vancouver Courier are the outstanding ones for approval.

Thanks,

Matt

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 3:26 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL -- media requests for approval today

Minister,

Our outstanding media requests.

We are going send Katie Hyslop your audio from earlier today. That will take care of that request.

Burnaby Now and Vancouver Courier – Feel free to approve past deadline. We are going back to the reporter to ask for an extension.

NW and Pulse FM – I already foreshadowed with GCPE that you probably wouldn't be available at 7:35 am tomorrow morning. But if you want to do it let us know. Pulse FM is next week, so you have some time to decide.

Thanks,

Matt

From: Thomson, Elizabeth GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 3:15 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Brooke, Daisy GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: FOR APPROVAL -- media requests for approval today

Media Request

Topic: Kingsgate Mall / Beedie

Reporter: Katie Hyslop, Tyee C: 778-887-3951 khyslop@thetyee.ca

Request Received: June 30 at 1:30 pm

Question: <https://lailayule.com/2016/06/30/things-that-make-you-go-hmmmm-mike-bernier-vs-vs-b-edition/>. I'd like government response to her point that both the letter sent requests that

the ministry not speak publicly about the mall negotiations under sections of the FOI Act, and the relationship between the BC Liberals and the Beedie family, who have donated over \$300k to the party, and whether the minister thinks this could impact the lease negotiations.

Recommendation/ Response: Deadline: June 30 at 4 pm firm

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE: Please refer to audio of scrum (attached)

Media Request

Topic: Drinking water results

Outlet: Burnaby Now

Reporter: Cornelia Naylor, 604 444 3460 - cnaylor@burnabynow.com

Questions: Reporter is looking for information about result of lead testing of drinking water in Burnaby and New Westminster school districts

Recommendation/ Response:

Date & Time: 11:10 **Deadline:** today

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- The ministry reminded school districts of their duty to provide and test for safe drinking water in February. As a result, some districts informally sent the ministry their results.

As of May 16, 2016, the New Westminster school district reported no issues and sent the following information:

- The district is doing a water quality assessment on all schools built prior to 1989. The District did water quality testing in 2011 and all level were below maximum allowable levels.
- The district flushed and tested end of line five years ago and were to maintain an annual flush since that time. Flushing and testing will be done as soon as practical.

As of May 16, 2016, the Burnaby school district reported no issues and sent the following information:

- Water testing at 54 schools, and is developing a comprehensive plan for checking and maintaining safe water with the custodians.
- Starting next year, all school districts will be required to provide their water testing results to the ministry.
- The ministry will send annual reminders to school districts in February.
- Schools are conducting ongoing testing throughout the year.
- School districts will have more detailed information about their testing process and work underway.

Media Request

Topic: Why \$6 million?

Reporter: Vancouver Courier, Bianca Chan95@gmail.com

Requested received: June 30

Question: Why was it \$6 million when the shortfall is \$21 million

Deadline: today at 3:30 pm

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE: \$6 million is the figure agreed upon with the Vancouver School Board Chair.

INTERVIEW REQUESTS FOR RESPONSE

Media Request

Topic: VSB budget and audit

Reporter: John O'Dowd, Producer at CKNW, 604.331.2795

Request Received: June 30

Details: Producer is asking if MMB can join for an interview with host Jon McComb

Time: Friday, July 1 at 7:35 a.m.

Length: 6-7 minutes / No Calls

Recommendation/ Response: *Please advise if MMB can join for an interview.*

Deadline: today, June 30

Media Request

Topic: VSB audit

Reporter: Pulse FM

Request Received: June 30

Details: Producer is asking if MMB can join for an interview on Cash Heed show

Time: July 5 or 6

Length: 10 mins LIVE

Recommendation/ Response: *Please advise if MMB can join for an interview.*

Deadline: Monday, July 4

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Saturday, July 2, 2016 4:24 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request - CKNW - VSB budget

I think it's best if I don't do any right now. They have all the info they need. So I don't see the benefits. Do you.

Mike

On Jul 2, 2016, at 1:58 PM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,

Please see the media request below.

From: Brooke, Daisy GCPE:EX

Sent: Saturday, July 2, 2016 12:50 PM

To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX

Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Thomson, Elizabeth GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX

Subject: Media Request - CKNW - VSB budget

Hi Matt/Andrew,

The producer from CKNW would like to know if the minister is available for an interview with Jon McComb on Monday morning at 8:40 am.

Details below.

Thanks,

Daisy

Media Request

Topic: VSB Budget

Reporter: John O'Dowd, Producer at CKNW, [604.331.2795](tel:604.331.2795)

Request Received: Friday July 1st

Details: Producer is asking if MMB can join for an interview on Monday with host Jon McComb

Time: Monday, July 4 at 8:40a.m.

Length: 6-7 minutes / No Calls

Recommendation/ Response:

Deadline: asap

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2016 11:14 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Media Release

Can I get a copy of their release?

Thanks

Mike

> On Jul 4, 2016, at 10:19 AM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>

> thanks

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX

> Sent: Monday, July 4, 2016 10:16 AM

> To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX

> Cc: Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX

> Subject: FW: Media Release

>

> FYI

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: s.22

> Sent: Monday, July 4, 2016 10:01 AM

> To: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX

> Cc: EDUC DM EDUC:EX

> Subject: Media Release

>

>

> Good Morning, Minister Bernier

>

> BCCPAC will be sending out a media release at about 11 am relating to the audit of the VSB. I have attached it to provide you a heads up.

>

> If you have any questions, please call.

>

> John Bird

> BCCPAC President

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2016 11:15 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Media Release

Oops. Was on a different email...sorry.

Thanks

Mike

> On Jul 4, 2016, at 10:19 AM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>

> thanks

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX

> Sent: Monday, July 4, 2016 10:16 AM

> To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX

> Cc: Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX

> Subject: FW: Media Release

>

> FYI

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: s.22

> Sent: Monday, July 4, 2016 10:01 AM

> To: Minister, EDUC EDUC:EX

> Cc: EDUC DM EDUC:EX

> Subject: Media Release

>

>

> Good Morning, Minister Bernier

>

> BCCPAC will be sending out a media release at about 11 am relating to the audit of the VSB. I have attached it to provide you a heads up.

>

> If you have any questions, please call.

>

> John Bird

> BCCPAC President

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2016 4:42 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: VSB TOR

Looks good to me... Just confirm with PO the time frame of Aug 31 though to ensure that works for them please...

Thanks

Mike

On Jul 4, 2016, at 4:33 PM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Final version for your approval.

From: Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2016 3:54 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: VSB TOR

Hi Andrew,

As discussed, here is the latest version of the VSB TOR, approved by George and Jason.

Thanks,

Jen

JENNIFER TRAVELBEA
A/Executive Director, Strategic Planning & Executive Operations
Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Education
p: 250-952-7350 | m: 250-893-3251

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 11:59 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL - media request / Vancouver Courier / infographic VSB

Perfect

Thanks

Mike

On Jul 5, 2016, at 11:40 AM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

For your approval

From: Thomson, Elizabeth GCPE:EX

Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 11:39 AM

To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX

Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Brooke, Daisy GCPE:EX

Subject: FOR APPROVAL - media request / Vancouver Courier / infographic VSB

Approval please – factual response below.

Media Request

Topic: VSB Infographic – <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016EDUC0065-001194>

Reporter: Rumana D'Souza, Vancouver Courier, rumanadsouza92@gmail.com, 778-681-4859

Requested received: July 5

Deadline: today at noon

Question: Will the minister comment on Patti Bachus's comment that the infographic used when is "misleading":

<https://twitter.com/BCGovNews/status/749313006266421248>

Response from the ministry:

The chart is factual. It is made from the info from chart 3.1 on Page 23 in the Ernst and Young Report released in 2015. You can find the entire report document how the Vancouver School Board is spending \$37 million on empty seats online at

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/rcsource-management/reports/moc_vsb_review_report_june_2015.pdf

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 9:19 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: VSB Action Plan

If there is some way to do it on Monday while I am in Van that would be great...^{s.22}
s.22

Thanks

Mike

On Jul 5, 2016, at 8:43 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

We're ready to roll when you are.

We are drafting materials tomorrow - NR SN KM and the like. Will be ready to review for Thursday meeting. Brett will attend as s.22 but I can call in.

We are waiting for a day but if we could carve out an hour on Monday we could do at PVO. I'm in Vancouver anyway that day so could adjust my schedule to do a noon or 1 pm scrum.

Jason

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 5, 2016, at 8:17 PM, Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX <Mike.Bernier@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Was a day considered yet? Is Jason working on something?

Mike

On Jul 5, 2016, at 6:48 PM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I don't know what they're expecting on roll out. I can note to them when I flag it with them that this is a draft and ask if they're good with the roll out plan.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 6:39 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: VSB Action Plan

This looks good if PO is expecting this kind of re public rollout???

Mike

On Jul 5, 2016, at 5:33 PM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
<Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,

Here is the timeline document. Let me know if this works for you or if you have any changes. If you approve I will send up to PO for their information.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX <Jennifer.Travelbea@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 5:18 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: VSB Action Plan

Hi Andrew,

Please see proposed VSB action plan attached. Please advise if Minister approves and if you'll be moving this upward so I can do the same.

Thanks!
Jen

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 9:21 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: VSB Action Plan

Ok. Makes sense.

Thanks

Mike

On Jul 5, 2016, at 9:06 PM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Monday in Vancouver is a no go. cadario said to have it ready to roll out by Monday but that it can't happen then due to other items rolling out that day.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 8:43 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: VSB Action Plan

We're ready to roll when you are.

We are drafting materials tomorrow - NR SN KM and the like. Will be ready to review for Thursday meeting. Brett will attend as ^{s.22} but I can call in.

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Jason

Sent from my iPhone

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Mike

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From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 6:39 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: VSB Action Plan

This looks good if PO is expecting this kind of re public rollout???

Mike

On Jul 5, 2016, at 5:33 PM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
<Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,

Here is the timeline document. Let me know if this works for you or if you have any changes. If you approve I will send up to PO for their information.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX <Jennifer.Travelbea@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 5:18 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: VSB Action Plan

Hi Andrew,

Please see proposed VSB action plan attached. Please advise if Minister approves and if you'll be moving this upward so I can do the same.

Thanks!
Jen

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 6, 2016 8:07 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: VSB Materials

This looks good to me.. Let's get started as soon as PO signs off.

Thanks

Mike

On Jul 6, 2016, at 2:57 PM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,
Final materials for VSB Advisor are attached. Speaking notes are being prepared as well.
I will flag these up to PO as well for their information.

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2016 9:16 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Clarification sent to

Perfect. Thanks.

Mike

On Jul 21, 2016, at 9:09 AM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

We've sent the following to the Vancouver Courier reporter regarding the story about how full the empty school is. Story is below.

Jason

Hi Rumana,

The Ministry of Education would like to clarify what appears to me some confusing language in your recent article regarding the Vancouver school district and Dr. A.R Lord Elementary. The article appears to link individual school utilization rates to Vancouver school district's failure to move forward with seismic upgrades.

The article states: "The East Side school located across the street from the Hastings Community Centre is one of 12 schools targeted for possible closure next year because it failed to meet the province's 95 per cent enrolment capacity - a requirement for the district to receive funding for much-needed seismic upgrades."

The Ministry of Education would like to clarify:

95% is a district-wide goal for Vancouver school district – it is not a hard target that has to be met before seismic upgrades are funded.

In fact there are eight seismic projects worth almost \$190 million under way right now in Vancouver – despite a district-wide utilization rate of 85%.

Our approach is flexible and we discuss the 95% target – and specific class circumstances – on a school by school basis.

The reason for this is simple – student safety is our priority.

Utilization for schools in B.C. is calculated the same way for each district – there is no special treatment for Vancouver.

Please cite the Ministry of Education if you would like to clarify for your readers.


I can call to discuss if you have any questions or would like further clarification from the Ministry.

Parent group worried flawed count could lead to school's closure

Vancouver Courier

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Page A04

By Rumana D'Souza 

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Page 131 to/à Page 132

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O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2016 6:01 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Jamieson announcement

Yep. All good.

Mike

On Aug 5, 2016, at 5:06 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Looks like VSB can't do the 13th but could do the 12th – would it be OK if we did Jamieson on the 12th and moved new curriculum to the 13th?

Jason A Keenan
Communications Director
Ministry of Education
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 9:27 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: NR - Seismic upgrades clarification

Like it. Same message so good to reenforce. Thanks. Good to send out tomorrow.

Thanks

Mike

On Jun 22, 2016, at 4:57 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Slight revision from Shane – getting the 95 is district wide not school target.

Education Minister addresses misinformation about seismic upgrades

VANCOUVER – Parents are being misled regarding seismic upgrades in Vancouver and Richmond, Education Minister Mike Bernier said today.

“As a parent, I share the same goals as parents – seeing schools seismically upgraded as quickly as possible, and seeing the maximum number of taxpayer dollars supporting the education of students,” Bernier said. “Unfortunately the Vancouver School Board’s main focus seems to be on defending its squandering of \$37 million a year on empty seats rather than students.”

There are 6,500 fewer students in Vancouver today than there were in 2001 – a drop of more than 10 per cent. At the same time provincial funding flowing into Vancouver has risen by 20%. And money for seismic upgrades has continued to go to Vancouver.

“The biggest challenge facing the Vancouver School Board isn’t a formula and it isn’t funding – it has been a chronic failure to act. The VSB is in a crisis because for years the board has short-changed students and chosen to put empty classrooms ahead of students,” Bernier said. “What upsets me is that it is the students who pay the price for the board short-changing student services in order to protect empty seats.”

Bernier also said the hyperbole around capacity rates – especially VSB’s instance there is a 95% school target that must be met -- has been misleading. There is no school-based target and the 95% is a district wide goal – to be met over time.

“The board is well aware that the capacity target for seismic upgrades in the MOU they signed in 2014 is a goal to be worked toward – not a cut-off. We’ve made that clear by announcing a pair of seismic projects this year while the district capacity sits at 85 per cent – well below the MOU goal,” Bernier added.

The province has financially supported two seismic upgrades in Vancouver since the MOU was signed:

- Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary, a \$25.9 million seismic replacement
- Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith Elementary, a \$11.6 million seismic upgrade

In addition, a number of seismic projects are currently under construction despite the large number of empty seats across the Vancouver School District:

- Lord Nelson Elementary, \$18 million seismic replacement
- Lord Strathcona Elementary, \$25.6 million seismic upgrade
- L’Ecole Bilingue Elementary, \$15.2 million seismic replacement
- General Gordon Elementary, \$14.7 million seismic replacement

- Kitsilano Secondary school, \$57.8 million seismic upgrade and replacement – the largest school seismic project in B.C. history

Bernier said other districts across B.C. have moved forward and gotten rid of empty seats – and focussed their budgets on education services. Districts like Greater Victoria followed up school closures with the opening of new schools like Oak Bay Secondary. In North Vancouver they have almost completed their seismic upgrade program.

Bernier also clarified that there are no specific targets for Richmond to get going on seismic upgrades. Instead, the Ministry is waiting for a long-term facilities plan from Richmond that will clearly identify their seismic priorities that lines up with schools slated to remain open. Enrolment has dropped by more than 11% in Richmond -- by 2,658 students. At the same time funding has gone up just shy of 20%. Since 2001 the province has invested more than \$1.12 billion to complete 153 high risk seismic projects across B.C.

"I'm disappointed that misinformation has impacted so many parents – and muddied the waters on how we can move forward on our key task – supporting students over empty seats," Bernier said. "I also want to add that I look forward to the VSB tabling its legally required balanced budget by the end of the month."

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX

Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 3:35 PM

To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX

Subject: NR - Seismic upgrades clarification

s.13

Page 136

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s.13

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:16 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; O'Connor-Dixon, Lara EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Roll Out - VSB Special Advisor

This looks good. News release was fine too.

Mike

On Jul 14, 2016, at 2:31 PM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,
Attached is the draft roll out for the announcement of Peter Milburn as special advisor to the VSB on Monday. Please let me know if you approve.
Also, have you had a chance to review the news release yet?
Lara – please upload this to the ipad.
Thanks,
Matt

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: FYI

Perfect. Thanks for the info.

Mike

On Aug 21, 2016, at 11:47 AM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Seismic status and VSB closure status included for two schools.

There are 5 statuses for seismic – completed, under way, business case, remaining high risk, and not on list)

So in other words, Dr H N MacCorkindale Elementary is closest school and does not require seismic upgrades.

Sir Guy Carleton Community Elementary is at 53% (business case being developed, slated for closure)

The closest schools are

Dr H N MacCorkindale Elementary 41% (not on list)

G T Cunningham Elementary 56% (remaining high risk)

Dr. George M. Weir Elementary School (no figures) (business case being developed)

Close but on other side of Kingsway

Graham Bruce Community Elementary 66% (remaining high risk, slated for closure)

Collingwood Neighbourhood School 67% (not on list)

Sir Wilfred Grenfell (no figures) (remaining high risk)

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX

Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2016 10:29 AM

To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX

Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX

Subject: Re: FYI

Ok. Good advice. Thanks.

Thanks

Mike

On Aug 21, 2016, at 10:28 AM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I will check on upgrades and closures when i get home. I do know graham Bruce was on the list for closure

Totally up to school district and i think no need for a statement. With Dix out pushing for fire damaged school to remain open i just think we need to be ready to respond to question of if will we fund rebuilding school if needed. So trying to line up facts for that.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 21, 2016, at 10:05 AM, Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX <Mike.Bernier@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Do I assume none of the ones close have been seismically upgraded at those numbers, or have they been looked at for closure by the SD.. If they were to amalgamate it would be then something to bring forward by the SD. Should I be putting out a statement or leave it with the SD do you think regarding the fire...

Thanks
Mike

On Aug 21, 2016, at 9:25 AM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister and Matt

I checked our list on how full schools are around Guy Carleton.

Sir Guy Carleton Community Elementary is at 53%

The closest schools are

Dr H N MacCorkindale Elementary 41%

G T Cunningham Elementary 56%

Dr. George M. Weir Elementary School (no figures)

Close but on other side of Kingsway

Graham Bruce Community Elementary 66%

Collingwood Neighbourhood School 67%

Sir Wilfred Grenfell (no figures)

Jason A Keenan

Communications Director

Ministry of Education

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: VSB

Don't send these messages out. Let's discuss VSB announcement first.

Mike

On Aug 26, 2016, at 8:04 AM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I like it – here are revised bullets:

Key Messages Sir Guy Carleton School

- My sympathy goes out to the families facing uncertainty because of the fire at Sir Guy Carleton School – the start of the school should be filled with excitement, not questions.
- However I am surprised that the Vancouver School Board wants to spend millions of dollars repairing damage to a school they are considering closing and that has nearby schools where additional students would fill their classrooms.
- The Vancouver School Board is shortchanging its students of education services worth \$37 million a year by directing that money into empty seats instead of teachers, librarians, or arts and culture programs. Spending additional millions to fix a school they were considering closing is further denying students.
- I am also concerned that the board is positioning the fire as a reason to further delay delivering a required long-term facility plan. That plan could ensure the close to half a billion dollars taxpayers send to the VSB went to students and not to empty seats. They have failed to deliver.
- My fear is that the VSB has no intentions to develop a long-term plan – and in fact are merely using the process for partisan political purposes that will continue to see student services shortchanged of millions of dollars.
- This is yet another example of the elected school board members in Vancouver failing to look at creative or difficult decisions. They choose to deflect their responsibility rather than step up and do what all other school districts around the Province have been able to do.

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 7:55 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: VSB

It may also be good to say that

"this is yet another example of the elected school board members in Vancouver not willing to look at creative or difficult decisions and they would rather deflect their responsibility rather than step up and do what all other school districts around the Province have been able to do"

Just an idea.

Thanks
Mike

On Aug 25, 2016, at 10:34 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

s.13

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 25, 2016, at 10:29 PM, Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX <Mike.Bernier@gov.bc.ca>
wrote:

s.13

Thanks
Mike

s.13

Jason A Keenan

Communications Director

Ministry of Education

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2016 3:12 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; O'Connor-Dixon, Lara EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: VSB Call

Good. Thanks.

Thanks

Mike

On Sep 1, 2016, at 2:53 PM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,
FYI – you will see the call tomorrow with the PO in regards to the VSB is now cancelled.
Thanks,
Matt

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, September 5, 2016 5:51 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Tomorrow

Sounds great. See you in the morning. Just taking off now.

Mike

On Sep 5, 2016, at 5:48 PM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,

As I have my car on the mainland I can pick both you and Jason up at the Pinnacle. From there we can drive to the event in Kerrisdale. And just an FYI - I will be over at the Education office from 10:30-11 for a meeting with Dave to discuss the VSB. This will take place while you are in cabinet. I will be back before cabinet ends.

Thanks,

Matt

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 5:55 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: For Approval - School Enhancement Program

This looks great.

Mike

On May 17, 2016, at 5:07 PM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister,
Attached is the draft provincial news release for the School Enhancement Program.
If you could approve that would be great.
Thanks,
Matt

B.C.'s fix-it-fund supports school improvement projects in every school district

VICTORIA -- Students, teachers and staff at 124 schools across the province will see improvements thanks to today's announcement by Education Minister Mike Bernier of \$45 million being invested in 80 projects under the School Enhancement Program.

School districts across the province received the funding to help them extend the life of their facilities through various improvement projects, such as:

- Heating and ventilation upgrades,
- Roof repairs or replacement,
- Windows, lighting and electrical system upgrades, and
- Mechanical upgrades - including plumbing and boiler replacements,
- Safety enhancements - including fire protection.

Districts applied to the Ministry of Education this spring, and successful projects were chosen based on need, priority, and supporting student learning and must cost more than \$100,000.

This year's \$45-million School Enhancement Program builds on last year's \$35-million Routine Capital Program investment, which supported 109 school improvement projects throughout the province.

As a result of B.C.'s fiscal discipline and its balanced budget, the government is able to support key investments like the School Enhancement Program.

A full list of approved projects can be found in the below backgrounder. A detailed list of the project details is online at: xx

Quotes:

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

"This fix-it-fund will help make sure B.C. students have safe, healthy and modern places to learn. Not only will this help make schools in every district in the province more comfortable for students and staff, it's also going to make sure we are protecting and enhancing infrastructure worth millions of dollars."

XX, chair, XX School Board

XX, chair, XX School Board

Quick Facts:

- The projects have to be substantially complete by March 31, 2017.

- Budget 2016 provides \$1.7 billion in capital funding over three years to replace aging facilities, build more student spaces in growing communities, and improve seismic safety.

Learn More:

Last year's projects: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2015EDUC0075-001895>

A backgrounder follows.

BACKGROUNDER

School Enhancement Projects

The Government of B.C. has awarded \$45 million worth of improvement projects to schools throughout the province, as part of the Province's School Enhancement Program.

School districts were asked to identify priorities for routine capital upgrade projects to support healthy, efficient schools for students, teachers and staff. Approved projects include:

- Electrical upgrades (power supply and distribution systems);
- Energy upgrades;
- Health and safety upgrades (traffic safety, indoor air quality);
- Mechanical upgrades (heating, ventilation, plumbing); and
- Roofing upgrades.

The projects include:

SD 5 – Southeast Kootenay

- Mount Baker Secondary school (Cranbrook) - \$270,117 to replace HVAC system

SD 6 – Rocky Mountain

- Golden Secondary school - \$688,295 for roofing lifecycle replacement

SD 8 – Kootenay Lake

- Rosemont Elementary school (Nelson) - \$300,000 to replace retaining wall

SD 10 – Arrow Lakes

- Nakusp Elementary school - \$259,284 to replace roof

SD 19 – Revelstoke

- Arrow Heights Elementary school - \$600,000 Phase 2: Mechanical upgrades

SD 20 – Kootenay Columbia

- Twin Rivers Elementary school (Castlegar) - \$469,000 to replace boilers

SD 22 – Vernon

- Okanagan Landing Elementary school (Vernon) - \$1,440,000 for mechanical system replacement

SD 23 – Central Okanagan

- Dr. Knox Middle school (Kelowna) – \$176,276 in provincial funding and \$2,500 in district funding for sawdust collection system upgrade
- George Elliot Secondary school (Kelowna) – \$298,069 in provincial funding and \$2,500 in district funding for sawdust collection system upgrade
- Constable Neil Bruce Middle school (Kelowna) - \$129,159 in provincial funding and \$2,500 in district funding for sawdust collection system upgrade
- Kelowna Senior Secondary school (Kelowna) - \$176,276 in provincial funding and \$2,500 in district funding for sawdust collection system upgrade
- K L O Middle school (Kelowna) - \$149,225 in provincial funding and \$2,500 in district funding for sawdust collection system upgrade

SD 27 – Cariboo Chilcotin

- Dog Creek Elementary school and Likely Elementary school (Likely) - \$146,073 for HVAC upgrades

- Cataline Elementary school (Williams Lake) - \$175,000 for fire protection upgrades

SD 28 – Quesnel

- Correlieu Secondary school - \$815,500 Phase 1: Addition of biomass heating plant and boiler replacement

- Correlieu Secondary school - \$225,000 for electrical upgrades
- SD 33 – Chilliwack School District**
- Vedder Middle school - \$164,500 for electrical upgrades
- SD 34 – Abbotsford**
- Maple Grove - Aboriginal Education Centre - \$148,000 for roof replacement
- SD 35 – Langley**
- RC Garnett Elementary school, Langley Meadows Elementary school and Blacklock Elementary school - \$102,604 for mechanical upgrades
- SD36 – Surrey**
- Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary school - \$520,850 Phase 2: Boiler upgrade
-
- Various locations - \$2,400,000 in provincial funding and \$500,000 in district funding for mechanical HVAC upgrades to portable classrooms
- SD37 - Delta**
- Hawthorne Elementary school (Delta) - \$181,900 for electrical upgrades
- SD38 – Richmond**
- Archibald Blair Elementary school - \$235,000 for new roof
- SD39 – Vancouver**
- Queen Mary Elementary school - \$204,000 for window upgrades
-
- Lord Strathcona Elementary school- \$150,260 for roof repairs
-
- Lord Strathcona Elementary school - \$1,700,000 for window upgrades
- SD40 – New Westminster**
- Lord Kelvin Elementary school - \$350,000 for roof replacement
- SD41 –Burnaby**
- Stride Avenue Elementary school - \$1,658,000 Phase 1: for installation of new unit ventilators and boilers
-
- Aubrey Elementary school - \$1,411,190 for installation of new unit ventilators
- SD42 – Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows**
- Westview Secondary school - \$468,000 in provincial funding and \$30,000 in district funding Phase 2: Installation of 46 roof top heat pumps
- SD43 – Coquitlam**
- Maple Creek Middle school - \$156,500 in provincial funding and \$17,300 in district funding for LED lighting upgrades
- SD44 – North Vancouver**
- Cove Cliff Elementary school - \$650,037 for roof repairs
- SD45 – West Vancouver**
- Ridgeview Elementary school - \$716,000 for new roof

SD46 – Sunshine Coast

- Pender Harbour Elementary Secondary school (Pender Harbour) and Roberts Creek Elementary school (Roberts Creek) - \$750,000 for new roofs

SD47– Powell River

- Brooks Secondary school - \$430,000 in provincial funding and \$200,000 in district funding for roof replacement

SD48– Sea to Sky

- Brackendale Elementary school (Squamish) - \$100,000 Phase 1: Roof repairs
- Howe Sound Secondary school and Squamish Elementary school - \$465,000 in provincial funding and \$4,000 in district funding for biomass boiler plant to service both schools that share playing field

SD49– Central Coast

- Shearwater Elementary school (Denny Island) - \$475,000 for the development of a water source, site preparation and installation of pump houses and treatment works

SD50– Haida Gwaii

- George M Dawson Secondary school - \$1,352,835 in provincial funding and \$20,000 in district funding Phase 1: Replace roof, insulation, siding and windows

SD51– Boundary

- Christina Lake Elementary school - \$200,000 in provincial funding and \$50,000 in district funding for partial roof replacement

SD52– Prince Rupert

- All schools in district - \$150,000 in provincial funding and \$75,000 in district funding to install automatic flush valves to address elevated lead levels in drinking water

SD53 Okanagan- Similkameen

- Similkameen Elementary school (Keremeos) - \$1,390,000 in provincial funding and \$100,000 in school district funding Phase 2: Mechanical upgrade to gas fired roof top unit

SD54 Bulkley Valley

- Silverthorne Elementary school (Houston) - \$257,460 for water pipe replacement

SD57 Prince George

- Mackenzie Secondary school (Mackenzie) - \$206,600 in provincial funding and \$25,000 in school district funding for dust collection system replacement
- Nusdeh Yoh Elementary school (Prince George) - \$1,900,000 in provincial funding and \$25,000 in school district funding for thermal heating system replacement and upgrades to floors, millwork, frames and walls

SD 58 Nicola-Similkameen

- Princeton Secondary school (Princeton) - \$400,000 in provincial funding and \$200,000 in school district Phase 1: Upgrade to air source heat pumps

SD59 Peace River South

- Central Middle school (Dawson Creek) - \$288,900 for dust extractor replacement
- Ecole Frank Ross Elementary school (Dawson Creek) - \$1,060,725 Phase 1: Boiler ventilation upgrades
- Windrem Elementary school (Chetwynd) - \$700,000 for roof replacement

SD 60 Peace River North

- Robert Ogilvie Elementary school (Fort St. John) - \$1,562,000 Phase 2: Furnace replacement and classroom ventilators installation
- Bert Ambrose Elementary school (Fort St. John) - \$1,000,000 Phase 2: Furnace replacement and classroom ventilators installation

SD61 Greater Victoria

- Victoria West Elementary school - \$355,000 for automatic fire sprinkler installation and fire alarm upgrade

SD62 Sooke

- Edward Milne Community school - \$464,380 Phase 1: Roof replacement and envelope upgrade

SD63 Saanich

- Bayside Middle school (Brentwood Bay) - \$3,000,000 in provincial funding and \$1,000,000 in school district funding for Phase 1: Roof replacement
(\$3,100,000 next year in provincial funding for Phase 2: Roof replacement)
- Prospect Lake Elementary school (Saanich) - \$325,000 in provincial funding and \$83,000 in school district funding Phase 2: Replacing outdated heating equipment with new heat pump system

SD64 Gulf Islands

- Gulf Islands Secondary school and Salt Spring Island Middle school (Salt Spring) - \$243,500 for wood shop dust extraction system upgrades

SD67 Okanagan-Skaha

- Summerland Secondary school (Summerland) - \$1,115,000 in provincial funding and \$100,000 school district funding for exterior upgrades and roof replacement

SD68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith

- North Cedar Intermediate school and Nanaimo Senior Secondary school (Nanaimo) - \$173,314 for water line replacement

SD69 Qualicum

- Nanoose Bay Elementary school (Nanoose Bay) - \$144,000 Phase 2: Boiler replacement
- Bowser Elementary school (Bowser) - \$143,000 Phase 2: Boiler replacement

SD70 Alberni

- John Howitt Elementary school (Port Alberni) - \$1,000,000 for boiler and ventilation upgrades

SD71 – Comox Valley

- Courtenay Elementary school - \$364,700 for Phase 2: cladding replacement and exit upgrades

SD72 – Campbell River

- Pinecrest Elementary school – \$100,000 in provincial funding and \$50,000 in district funding for Phase 1: Mechanical upgrade

SD73-Kamloops/Thompson

- Raft River Elementary school (Clearwater) – \$715,900 in provincial funding and \$140,000 in district funding for decommissioning outdated septic fields and connecting the school sewer system to municipal sewer system

SD74 – Gold Trail

- David Stoddard Secondary school (Clinton) - \$313,390 in provincial funding and \$50,000 in district funding for a roof replacement

SD75 – Mission

- Hatzic Middle school - \$550,000 Phase 2: Installation of boilers, racking and heating water distribution pumps
- Windebank Elementary school - \$500,000 Phase 2: Replace remaining portion of old roof

SD78 – Fraser-Cascade

- Boston Bar Elementary-Secondary school (Boston Bar) - \$300,000 in provincial funding and \$20,000 in district funding for a boiler upgrade

SD79 – Cowichan Valley

- Maple Bay Elementary school and Cobble Hill Elementary school (Duncan) - \$176,000 in provincial funding and \$152,033 in district funding for a roof replacement

SD81 – Fort Nelson

- Fort Nelson Secondary school - \$123,474 in provincial funding and \$72,526 in district funding for electrical upgrades

SD82 – Coast Mountains

- Thornhill Elementary school (Terrace) - \$850,000 Phase 2: Heating and ventilation upgrades

SD83 – North Okanagan-Shuswap

- Hillcrest Elementary school (Salmon Arm) - \$1,532,000 Phase 2: Replace the existing HVAC equipment

SD84 Vancouver Island West

- Gold River Secondary school (Gold River) - \$155,500 for dust collection system upgrade and replacement

SD85 Vancouver Island North

- Port Hardy Secondary school (Port Hardy) - \$1,010,000 Phase 1: Classroom heating and ventilation systems replacement

SD87 Stikine

- Various locations - \$200,000 for fire alarms and emergency lighting

SD91 Nechako Lakes

- Nechako Valley Secondary school (Vanderhoof) - \$299,900 in provincial funding and \$25,000 in school district funding to upgrade wood dust system

SD92 Nisga'a

- Alvin A McKay Middle school (Greenville) - \$569,150 Phase 2: Roof replacement

SD93 Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique

- Ecole Franco-Nord (Prince George) - \$314,550 in provincial funding and \$34,950 in school district funding Phase 2: remaining roof replacement

Media Contact:

Government Communications and Public

Engagement

Ministry of Education

250 356-5963

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 12:04 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Vancouver School Board needs to face the facts about enrolment - The Globe and Mail

Great story

Thanks

Mike

> On Jun 21, 2016, at 11:06 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
>
> I'd say this was firmly in our column.
>
> This is what I was doing outside on the phone today during the long presentation! :)
>
>
> <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/vancouver-school-board-needs-to-face-the-facts-about-enrolment/article30551447/?service=mobile>
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2016 8:19 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: TNO: Trustees say they'll reject school budget - Andrea Woo - Globe and Mail

All good. Let's just stick with what I have been saying. No call needed.

Mike

On Jun 23, 2016, at 9:01 AM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I spoke with Shane. He said the consensus on the call this morning with Caderio was to not get into this issue today and stick with our lines of expecting the trustees to do what is right etc. I can try to have a call set up for you before you fly out from Cranbrook with Ben and Cadario?

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2016 7:31 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: TNO: Trustees say they'll reject school budget - Andrea Woo - Globe and Mail
This is why I need a meeting with Ben Chin and Cadario to figure some next steps.

Mike

On Jun 23, 2016, at 8:26 AM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Morning Minister,
Please see the story below. I expect you will get some questions on it. Shane is asking what your response will be. His suggested lines seem in line with what we've been saying and what our NR for today is saying.
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX <Shane.Mills@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2016 6:08 AM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Subject: Fwd: TNO: Trustees say they'll reject school budget - Andrea Woo - Globe and Mail

Hey Andrew

Can I see what MMB's response will be? Thinking it's along: trust trustees to meet their responsibilities. Won't talk next steps before vote actually votes.

Thanks

Shane

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: tno@gov.bc.ca

Date: 06-23-2016 3:41 AM (GMT-08:00)

To:

Subject: TNO: Trustees say they'll reject school budget - Andrea Woo - Globe and Mail

Trustees say they'll reject school budget

Globe and Mail

23-Jun-2016

Page S01

By Andrea Woo

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Page 155

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

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O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 8:36 AM
To: Mike Bernier
Subject: Fwd: ppt with speaking notes and QAs
Attachments: PP presentation June 28_Final Education with SN.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Thanks

Mike

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Holme, Matt EDUC:EX" <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 27, 2016 at 8:35:17 AM MST
To: "Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX" <Mike.Bernier@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: ppt with speaking notes and QAs

See attached.

-----Original Message-----

From: O'Connor-Dixon, Lara EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 8:20 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: ppt with speaking notes and QAs

I put this in calendar and iPad for June 28 - P&P

-----Original Message-----

From: Shaw, Courtney EDUC:EX
Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2016 8:06 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Travelbca, Jennifer EDUC:EX; O'Connor-Dixon, Lara EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: ppt with speaking notes and QAs

Hi Andrew,

Please find the attached.

Apologies for not sending this earlier, I was in Vancouver and had no access to a computer.

Thank you,
C.

-----Original Message-----

From: Shaw, Courtney EDUC:EX

Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2016 7:25 AM

To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX

Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX; O'Connor-Dixon, Lara EDUC:EX

Subject: Re: ppt with speaking notes and QAs

Hi Andrew,

Apologies for some reason my phone just loaded this now... I am current not able to access a computer but I will definitely get this for you!

Thank you,
C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 25, 2016, at 10:12 AM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
<Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

We need the speaking notes in a different document as it is not showing up on the iPad.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Original Message

From: Shaw, Courtney EDUC:EX

Sent: Saturday, June 25, 2016 8:23 AM

To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX

Cc: Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX; O'Connor-Dixon, Lara EDUC:EX;
Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX

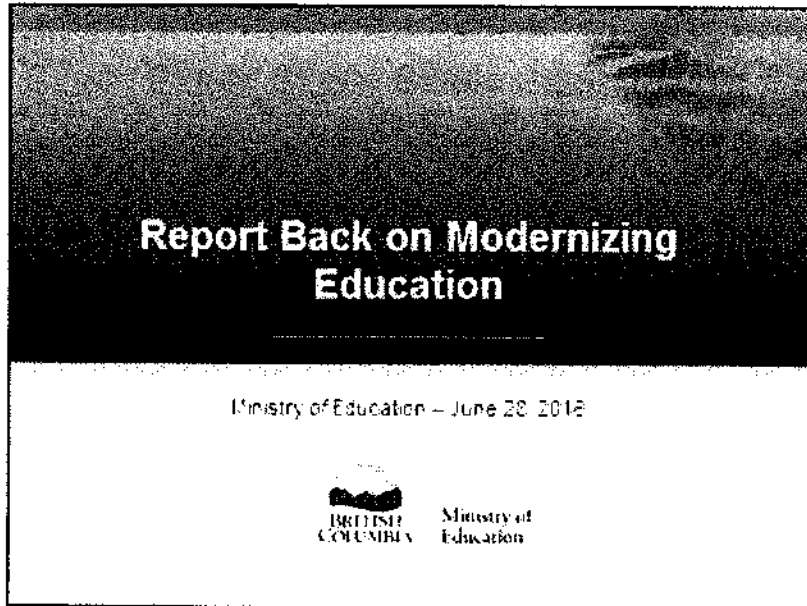
Subject: Fwd: ppt with speaking notes and QAs

Morning Matt,

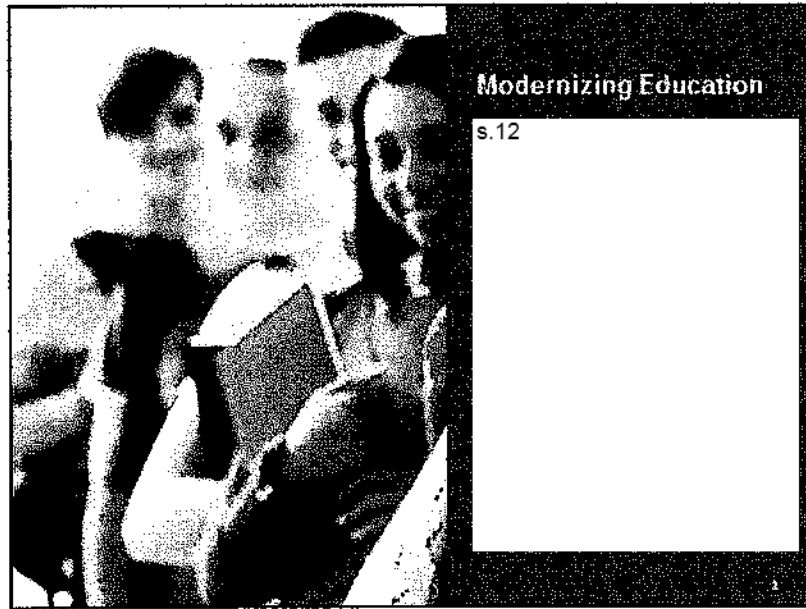
Attached are the speaking notes and Q&As for Ministers review in advance of the bear pit meeting Monday morning.

Thank you,
C.

slide1



2




s.12

[illegible]


161 of 245

slide4



Ministry of Education

s.12



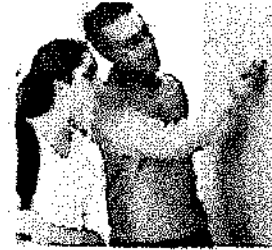
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s.12

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BRITISH
CERAMICS
FOUNDATION

s.12

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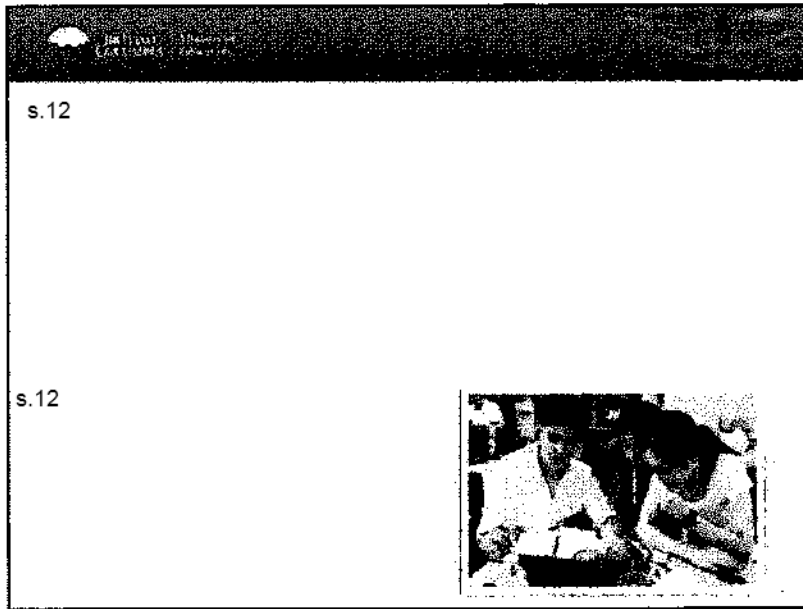
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BCIT/BCST - Institute of
Columbia - British Columbia

s.12

OLD PROGRAM s.12

- Math 10 – provincial exam
- English 10 – provincial exam
- Science 10 – provincial exam
- Social Studies 11 – provincial exam
- English 12 – provincial exam

7


s.12

slide10

PROJECT: *Advancing
Sustainability in the
Public Sector*

Communication and Engagement Plan

s.12



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slide12


Recommendations

s.12



s.12

slide11



Department of the
Environment and Heritage

Communications Plan on Options Presented

s.12

July 18, 2016 – ROLL-OUT

Time	Activity	Responsibility
8:30 am	<p>MO: Call School Board to schedule a conference call with Board Chair and Minister for 9:15am</p> <p>DMO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule a conference call with Secretary Treasurer^{s.22} and A/ Deputy Minister for 9:15am. Schedule kick-off meeting for 1:00pm with Special Advisor, A/Deputy Minister, VSB Chair, and senior VSB staff. 	MO/DMO
9:00 am	Letter from Minister to Board Chair Sent	DMO
9:15 am	Minister calls Chair to provide overview of letter and scope of review	Minister
9:15 am	A/Deputy Minister calls Secretary Treasurer ^{s.22} to provide overview of letter and scope of review.	A/Deputy Minister
10:00 am (Jason to confirm)	News Release sent out	GCPE
1:00 pm	Initial meeting with Special Advisor, VSB Chair, VSB senior staff, and A/Deputy Minister.	A/Deputy Minister/ SA/ VSB staff
3:00 pm	Minister debrief with Special Advisor	MMB/SA/EDUC EXEC/MO

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 8:59 AM
To: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Vancouver School District - Special Advisor Extension
Attachments: Scan_20160928.pdf; m274_2016 Milburn SA appointment.pdf

Hi everyone,

Attached is the ministerial order signed by Minister Bernier to extend Peter Milburn's appointment as special advisor to the Vancouver School District to October 7th, 2016. Please note this extension is at Peter Milburn's request. I have attached the original order from July 11th, 2016 for reference as well.

Thanks,
Matt

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA


Ministerial Order No.

ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

I, Mike Bernier, Minister of Education, hereby order that Order M274 (Special Advisor Appointment Order for School District No. 39 (Vancouver) (the "Order") be amended as follows:

In paragraphs number 1 and 4 of the Order, "September 30, 2016" is deleted and replaced with "October 7, 2016".

Sept. 28-2016
Date


Mike Bernier
Minister of Education

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: School Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 412, s. 171.1 (1)(a)

Other (specify): _____

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministerial Order No. M 274

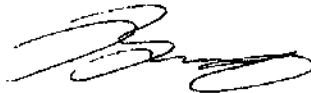
ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

I, Mike Bernier, Minister of Education, order that

- 1 Effective July 18, 2016, Peter Milburn is appointed as special advisor to the Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) (the "Board") for a term ending September 30, 2016.
- 2 The special advisor must inspect and evaluate the following matters:
 - (a) the board's expenditures, by conducting a forensic audit;
 - (b) the board's operations and governance, including an assessment of the extent to which the Board has considered information presented by school district staff in decision making;
 - (c) the effectiveness of the Board's oversight of the district, including the skills, training and experience of the board to fulfill its statutory and fiduciary duties;
 - (d) the district's 2016/17 budget reduction strategies, including potential opportunities to achieve a balanced budget that would have less of an impact on the portion of the budget allocated to classroom instruction; and
 - (e) the extent to which the Board has in place adequate systems and practices to monitor the performance of the district and the extent to which it operates accordingly.
- 3 The special advisor may engage and retain specialists and consultants to carry out the duties required to be performed under section 2.
- 4 The special advisor must submit to the Minister the final report by September 30, 2016.
- 5 Remuneration for the special advisor is set at a maximum of \$80 000, plus expenses for travel and accommodation at a rate equivalent to Group II rates, in accordance with chapter 10 of the Core Policy Manual.

July 11, 2016

Date



Mike Bernier
Minister of Education

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: School Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 412, s. 171.1 (1) (a)

Other (specify): _____

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2016 10:37 AM
To: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: VSB Acting Superintendent

FYI – copy of a note sent to MMB and the DM. – Matt

The following message is from Vancouver Board of Education Chairperson, Mike Lombardi

On behalf of the trustees of the Vancouver School Board, I can announce today that Steve Cardwell has been appointed Acting Superintendent of Schools effective immediately.

Dr. Cardwell is currently Director of the Transformative Educational Leadership Program and a professor at the University of British Columbia. He served as Superintendent of Vancouver School Board for five years until his departure at the end of 2015, after an exemplary 34-year career as an educator in the public school system, including 15 years as a member of district leadership teams in the Delta and Vancouver school districts.

A Past President of the BC School Superintendents' Association (BCSSA), Cardwell also served in several leadership roles with the BCSSA. He is a board member of Science World, the Technology Education and Careers Council, the BCIT Technology Teacher Education Advisory Committee and the Council of the Canadian Education Association.

To ensure that we have stability moving forward through very challenging times for Vancouver School Board, we are fortunate to have Steve Cardwell step in as Acting Superintendent. Steve is familiar with our district, and we appreciate him taking on this role at this time.

Board Chair, Mike Lombardi

donna wong
Administrative Assistant
Vancouver Board of Education
email ddwong@vsb.bc.ca
Tel 604-713-5100

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:03 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: VSB Prelim Closure List
Attachments: NR_Prelim_list_closures_June 20 16final[8][1].docx

FYI

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.



Vancouver School Board

VSB releases preliminary list of schools that might be considered for closure

Vancouver - (June 20, 2016) – As part of its long range facilities planning VSB has released a preliminary list of 12 schools that might be considered for closure before the start of the 2017-18 school year. As required by VSB policy and conforming to the *School Act*, this list is being published to give at least two months' notice to affected schools that extensive consultation will begin if the Board decides to consider those schools for closure.

Following the submission of the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP), where the public provided extensive input on priorities for school facilities, VSB's facilities planners reviewed all 110 VSB schools based on the factors for consideration identified in the LRFP. Then, in collaboration with district educators, they examined the impact of a closure on educational programs, student needs and learning. This list of 10 elementary and two secondary schools is the result of that process.

"Trustees and staff spent several months listening to the community about long range facilities planning. We heard from the public about their willingness to consider tradeoffs to ensure we have safe schools, new schools and quality learning environments for all VSB students in the future," said Mike Lombardi, Chair of the Vancouver School Board. "As we move forward with the LRFP trustees will examine this preliminary list of potential school closures. No decision has been made. We will consider information from staff, including a detailed report on each school they will develop this summer. After seeing that in September we will decide whether to proceed with any potential closures and, if so, begin significant consultation with affected communities in October and November before making any decisions."

The detailed staff report on each school will include reviewing the community and social impacts of closures on schools with high levels of student vulnerability. Principals will assist in identifying students who would need extra support if their school underwent a change.

If trustees approve proceeding with the potential closure process for any schools in September, extensive consultations with affected communities would begin in early October. Information meetings, feedback sessions, and online feedback methods would be used to hear from the public about ways of mitigating the impacts of a school closure in their community.

Members of the public can learn more about VSB long range facilities planning and public consultations related to school closures at engage.vsb.bc.ca.

For media inquiries contact:

communications@vsb.bc.ca



Vancouver School Board

Preliminary list of schools that might be considered for closure

- Queen Elizabeth Annex
- Champlain Heights Annex
- Tecumseh Annex
- McBride Annex
- Dr. A.R. Lord Elementary
- Admiral Seymour Elementary
- Graham D. Bruce Elementary
- Sir Guy Carleton Elementary
- Queen Alexandra Elementary
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary
- Britannia Secondary
- Gladstone Secondary

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 3:49 PM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: NR - Seismic upgrades clarification

Sure, we can add that. I saw Baldrey tweet that out.

My thinking was if we want to appeal more to public emotion or sentiment we should stick to this format. But we also need to strike that balance of being in control and appearing calm, which the fact sheet lends itself to. I will see where MMB's head is at on this decision point.

Thanks,
Matt

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 3:45 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: NR - Seismic upgrades clarification

Wonder if straight fact sheet would be most effective, also would be good to reference VSB q and a which is clear it's district wide target.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: "Holme, Matt EDUC:EX" <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca>
Date: 06-22-2016 3:42 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Chin, Ben PREM:EX" <Ben.Chin@gov.bc.ca>, "Mills, Shane PREM:EX" <Shane.Mills@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX" <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: NR - Seismic upgrades clarification

FYI – just draft at this point. MMB yet to approve.

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 3:35 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: NR - Seismic upgrades clarification

Minister

Here is my first cut of a release around clarifying seismic for Vancouver and Richmond.

If you want we can take it down and make it a simple fact sheet – without any of the quote statements.

Jason

Education Minister addresses misinformation about seismic upgrades

VANCOUVER – Parents are being misled regarding seismic upgrades in Vancouver and Richmond, Education Minister Mike Bernier said today.

“As a parent, I share the same goals as parents – seeing schools seismically upgraded as quickly as possible, and seeing the maximum number of taxpayer dollars supporting the education of students,” Bernier said. “Unfortunately the Vancouver School Board’s main focus seems to be on defending its squandering of \$37 million a year on empty seats rather than students.”

There are 6,500 fewer students in Vancouver today than there were in 2001 – a drop of more than 10 per cent. At the same time provincial funding flowing into Vancouver has risen by 20%. And money for seismic upgrades has continued to go to Vancouver.

“The biggest challenge facing the Vancouver School Board isn’t a formula and it isn’t funding – it has been a chronic failure to act. The VSB is in a crisis because for years the board has short-changed students and chosen to put empty classrooms ahead of students,” Bernier said. “What upsets me is that it is the students who pay the price for the board short-changing student services in order to protect empty seats.”

Bernier also said the hyperbole around capacity rates – especially VSB’s instance there is a 95% target that must be met -- has been misleading.

“The board is well aware that the capacity target for seismic upgrades in the MOU they signed in 2014 is a goal to be worked toward – not a cut-off. We’ve made that clear by announcing a pair of seismic projects this year while the district capacity sits at 85 per cent – well below the MOU goal,” Bernier added.

The province has financially supported two seismic upgrades in Vancouver since the MOU was signed:

- Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary, a \$25.9 million seismic replacement
- Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith Elementary, a \$11.6 million seismic upgrade

In addition, a number of seismic projects are currently under construction despite the large number of empty seats across the Vancouver School District:

- Lord Nelson Elementary, \$18 million seismic replacement
- Lord Strathcona Elementary, \$25.6 million seismic upgrade
- L’Ecole Bilingue Elementary, \$15.2 million seismic replacement
- General Gordon Elementary, \$14.7 million seismic replacement
- Kitsilano Secondary school, \$57.8 million seismic upgrade and replacement – the largest school seismic project in B.C. history

Bernier said other districts across B.C. have moved forward and gotten rid of empty seats – and focussed their budgets on education services. Districts like Greater Victoria followed up school closures with the opening of new schools like Oak Bay Secondary. In North Vancouver they have almost completed their seismic upgrade program.

Bernier also clarified that there are no specific targets for Richmond to get going on seismic upgrades. Instead, the Ministry is waiting for a long-term facilities plan from Richmond that will clearly identify their seismic priorities that lines up with schools slated to remain open. Enrolment has dropped by more than 11% in Richmond -- by 2,658 students. At the same time funding has gone up just shy of 20%.

Since 2001 the province has invested more than \$1.12 billion to complete 153 high risk seismic projects across B.C.

"I'm disappointed that misinformation has impacted so many parents – and muddied the waters on how we can move forward on our key task – supporting students over empty seats," Bernier said. "I also want to add that I look forward to the VSB tabling its legally required balanced budget by the end of the month."

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 9:23 AM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: Roll Out - VSB Special Advisor Announcement

Fraser called me after receiving the letter. There is no need for MMB to speak to her now. We agreed if he needed to chat with her later today I would set something up.

Thanks,
Matt

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 9:00 AM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: Roll Out - VSB Special Advisor Announcement

I have left messages for both Lombardi and Fraser. Lombardi's VM said he was away and not checking messages until August 10th. I have our staff in touch with VSB staff trying to track one of them down.

Regardless, MMB wants to proceed as planned. The letter will go at 9 am and the news release at 10 am.

Matt

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 7:18 PM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Roll Out - VSB Special Advisor Announcement

Hi all,

Attached is Monday's roll out for the announcement of Peter Milburn as special advisor to the VSB. MMB has approved. If you have any questions please let me know.

Thanks,
Matt

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 1:27 PM
To: Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Urgent meeting request re VBE 2016/2017 Operating Budget

Thanks Dave. Andrew sent up to MMB earlier. I am putting a list together of items for approval and consideration. I will add to the list.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 1:25 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Fwd: Urgent meeting request re VBE 2016/2017 Operating Budget

FYI

Dave Byng
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education
Province of British Columbia

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Maria Chona T. Caparas" <mcaparas@vsb.bc.ca>
Date: June 21, 2016 at 12:13:41 PM PDT
To: "Minister of Education (minister.educ@gov.bc.ca)" <minister.educ@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Group Trustees <GroupTrustees@vsb.bc.ca>, "Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX" <Dave.Byng@gov.bc.ca>, "Scott Robinson (Supt Office)" <smrobinson@vsb.bc.ca>, Russell Horswill <rhorswill@vsb.bc.ca>, Marlene Phillips <msphillips@vsb.bc.ca>
Subject: Urgent meeting request re VBE 2016/2017 Operating Budget

Attached is a letter from Vancouver Board of Education Chairperson, Mike Lombardi.

Regards,

Chona Caparas | Administrative Coordinator
VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD | Secretary Treasurer's Office
1580 West Broadway | Vancouver | BC V6J 5K8
604.713.5080 | mcaparas@vsb.bc.ca

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 1:13 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: VSB Budget Vote Statements

Minister,
For your approval – statements tonight for the VSB budget vote.
Thanks,
Matt

Minister Bernier responds to Vancouver School Board budget

s.13

Minister Bernier responds to Vancouver School Board budget

VANCOUVER – Minister of Education Mike Bernier released the following statement today in response to the budget submitted by the Vancouver School Board.

“I am disappointed that the Vancouver School Board chose to go against the School Act by failing to adopt a balanced budget.

Our offer was a simple one – we gave them the go-ahead to sell Kingsgate Mall and put the proceeds back into education services. We backed that up with a guarantee of almost \$6 million in exchange for a small ownership share in the mall if the sale does not happen in the next school year. Either option would have made sure the budget was balanced in Vancouver.

This proposal gave them the time and the resources they needed to avoid cuts, and they chose to reject that.

Just like many parents, I am disappointed that the Vancouver School Board has put their desire to own a mall ahead of services for students. Combined with their continued investment of \$37 million a year in empty seats, the VSB seems to have forgotten its mission is to educate students – not maintain ownership of as much property as possible.”

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 1:30 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: media request re: property taxes / Global / 3 p.m.

I will follow up.

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 1:29 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Fwd: media request re: property taxes / Global / 3 p.m.

I think we need to decide how to respond. Likely with PO

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Thomson, Elizabeth GCPE:EX" <Elizabeth.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 30, 2016 at 1:25:40 PM PDT
To: "Farkas, George EDUC:EX" <George.Farkas@gov.bc.ca>, "Fraser, Brian EDUC:EX" <Brian.Fraser@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX" <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca>, "Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX" <Brett.Lowther@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: media request re: property taxes / Global / 3 p.m.

Hi,
Here is a media request. Thanks!
Elizabeth

Media Request
Topic: Mayor of Vancouver's statement about property taxes
Reporter: Ted Chernecki, Global
Requested received: June 30
Question: What is the ministry's response to this release?
Deadline: June 30 at 3 p.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Office of the Mayor

Statement from Mayor Gregor Robertson on the Vancouver School Board

June 30, 2016 (Vancouver, BC) - The Vancouver School Board was elected by residents of Vancouver to act in the best interest of children and youth in Vancouver's public schools. Over the past seven years I have seen

them serve with dedication and passion, while taking a pragmatic approach that has used shrinking resources to help build a supportive school system for our kids.

That's why when this Vancouver School Board says that another \$21.4 million in funding cuts is too deep to support the learning needs of Vancouver's children and youth – the most complex of all the districts in the Province - the only response for me is how we can help to support them.

In 2015, for the first time, Vancouver provided more in school taxes (\$463 million) than it received in provincial funding (\$448 million) - a loss of \$15 million. On Tuesday, City Council unanimously passed a motion supporting the Vancouver School Board's request for our fair share of provincial funding and encouraging the Minister of Education to meet with the Vancouver School Board in order to find a solution.

We took this action not just in the best interests of children and youth in Vancouver public schools, but in the best interests of our entire city's future. Everything from our economy to our ability to create safe and inclusive communities rests on the investment we put into supporting public education. Indeed the strength of our public education system is a key draw of people to Vancouver.

I am urging the Minister to work with the Vancouver School Board to find a way forward that respects the wishes of Vancouver voters and provides stable, long-term and predictable funding that responds to the complexity of needs in our schools, and avoids the cuts that will fall disproportionately on our most vulnerable kids.

- 30 -

Media contact:
Sarah Zaharia
Communications Strategist
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver
604.754.3847

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 6:51 AM
To: Godin, Keith EDUC:EX
Cc: Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX; Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Ministerial Order - Milburn

Thanks Keith. Will let you know.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Godin, Keith EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 6:36 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX; Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX
Subject: Ministerial Order - Milburn

Please find attached the original order appointing Peter Milburn and the new order extending his appointment for seven days. If Minister is ok with the attached please confirm application of his signature and we will process ASAP.

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 2:26 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: for approval

Jason is sending to Virginia. We are on it.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 2:25 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: for approval

MATT. Can you print off a copy of this and get it into me in my meeting please.

Thanks

Mike

On Sep 21, 2016, at 12:03 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hasn't gone to program yet.

Province eliminates utilization rates for school construction

VANCOUVER – Education Minister Mike Bernier released the following statement today on the elimination of utilization rates for school construction in B.C.:

"There has been a great deal of confusion about utilization rates lately –much of that confusion driven by misinformation pushed out by various parties. We are ending that confusion today by getting rid of utilization rates as part of our school investment process.

"Since the early 2000s utilization rates have been a highly-technical planning tool for school districts and the province when it comes to building new schools and expanding existing ones. The rationale is quite simple – making sure existing schools were being used as much as possible before making a multi-million dollar investment in a new school or a school expansion.

"Getting rid of the sliding scale of utilization rates used across the province based on a district's size better reflects the reality of how school projects are approved in B.C. – on a case by case basis.

Vancouver is the best example of this. We are funding the new International Village school because of the growing student population in the area even though across Vancouver there are thousands of empty seats, 10 per cent fewer students, and utilization rates in the 80-to-85 per cent range – well below the 95 per cent target.

"Student safety is key and that is why utilization rates have never been a requirement for seismic upgrades. The province has worked with districts on a case-by-case basis to ensure schools are upgraded as quickly as possible. Districts like North Vancouver, Delta, and Greater Victoria have made incredible progress getting schools upgraded and ensuring the right amount of space for the right number of students.

"Vancouver is unique because it is the only district that has a district-wide goal related to seismic upgrades – something the board agreed to in an MOU with the province. It takes wilful misrepresentation to make this out as a requirement rather than a goal since there is \$200 million worth of provincially funded seismic upgrades under way today in Vancouver. To reflect this reality of

funding upgrades when a solid case is brought forward, we will remove the 95% goal if the Vancouver School Board agrees.

“School districts will still need to justify their applications to build new schools or expand existing ones. Taxpayers expect to be investing in the right number of schools for the actual number of students. The reason is simple – putting massive efforts into maintaining empty classrooms short-changes students of better classroom services, more teachers, and more education assistant.”

Jason A Keenan
Communications Director
Ministry of Education
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 2:20 PM
To: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Subject: RE: FYI -- Education media requests in process / for review and/or for approval

That was our thought. I can certainly check with our finance team.

From: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 2:14 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Subject: RE: FYI -- Education media requests in process / for review and/or for approval

RE:

In 2015, for the first time, Vancouver provided more in school taxes (\$463 million) than it received in provincial funding (\$448 million) - a loss of \$15 million. On Tuesday, City Council unanimously passed a motion supporting the Vancouver School Board's request for our fair share of provincial funding and encouraging the Minister of Education to meet with the Vancouver School Board in order to find a solution.

Jamie and I connected.....Can you check with your funding folks.... If we followed this approach he is calling for wouldn't areas that don't have the large property base – with high property values end up losing provincial funding?

In other words – if we went this route we would take money out of other area and give it to Vancouver?

Matt Gordon
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations
Government of British Columbia
250 356.7398 office | 250 896.4923 mobile

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 1:54 PM
To: Thomson, Elizabeth GCPE:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Brooke, Daisy GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: FYI -- Education media requests in process / for review and/or for approval

The Chernecki Global request has been referred over to the Ministry of Finance.

Thanks,
Matt

From: Thomson, Elizabeth GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 1:48 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Brooke, Daisy GCPE:EX
Subject: FYI -- Education media requests in process / for review and/or for approval
Importance: High

Here are new requests we are working on right now.
Thanks, Elizabeth

NEW

Media Request 1

Topic: Mayor of Vancouver's statement about property taxes today

Reporter: Ted Chernecki, Global

Requested received: June 30

Question: What is the ministry's response to this release?

Deadline: June 30 at 3 p.m.

Media Request 2

Topic: Kinsgate Mall / Beedie

Reporter: Katie Hyslop, Tyee C: 778-887-3951 khyslop@thetyee.ca

Request Received: June 30 at 1:30 pm

Question: <https://lailayule.com/2016/06/30/things-that-make-you-go-hnnmmmm-mike-bernier-vs-vs-b-edition/>.

I'd like government response to her point that both the letter sent requests that the ministry not speak publicly about the mall negotiations under sections of the FOI Act, and the relationship between the BC Liberals and the Beedie family, who have donated over \$300k to the party, and whether the minister thinks this could impact the lease negotiations.

Recommendation/ Response: **Deadline:** June 30 at 4 pm firm

Media Request 3

Topic: VSB Budget

Reporter: John O'Dowd, Producer at CKNW, 604.331.2795

Request Received: June 30

Details: Producer is asking if MMB can join for an interview with host Jon McComb

Time: Friday, July 1 at 7:35 a.m.

Length: 6-7 minutes / No Calls

Recommendation/ Response: *Please advise if MMB can join for an interview.*

Deadline: June 30

Media Request 4

Topic: Drinking water results

Outlet: Burnaby Now

Reporter: Cornelia Naylor, 604 444 3460 - cnaylor@burnabynow.com

Questions: Reporter is looking for information about result of lead testing of drinking water in Burnaby and New Westminster school districts

Recommendation/ Response:

Date & Time: 11:10 **Deadline:** today

INTERVIEW REQUESTS

Media Request 5

Topic: VSB Budget

Reporter: John O'Dowd, Producer at CKNW, 604.331.2795

Request Received: June 30

Details: Producer is asking if MMB can join for an interview with host Jon McComb

Time: Friday, July 1 at 7:35 a.m.

Length: 6-7 minutes / No Calls

Recommendation/ Response: *Please advise if MMB can join for an interview.*

Deadline: June 30

Media Request 5

Topic: VSB audit

Reporter: Pulse FM

Request Received: June 30

Details: Producer is asking if MMB can join for an interview on Cash Heed show

Time: July 5 or 6

Length: 10 mins LIVE

Recommendation/ Response: *Please advise if MMB can join for an interview.*

Deadline: July 4

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 1:43 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Menzies, Brian FIN:EX; Miniaci, Mario EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: Global Media Request

Sounds good. Brian, Mario – over to you.

From: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 1:42 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Menzies, Brian FIN:EX; Miniaci, Mario FIN:EX
Subject: Re: Global Media Request

Yes have referred to Edwardson

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 1:39 PM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Menzies, Brian FIN:EX; Miniaci, Mario FIN:EX
Subject: Global Media Request

Ben, Shane,

See below. Do you have any advice for this request?

MoF might need to weigh in here as the mayor is asking for a higher share of the School Tax. My guess is there is an equity component to this in terms of tax dollars being spent on education province-wide. If the School Tax is based on property taxes (I could be wrong on that point), then the mayor is asking for Vancouver to be favoured in how in the education funding pie is divided up.

Thanks,

Matt

Media Request

Topic: Mayor of Vancouver's statement about property taxes

Reporter: Ted Chernecki, Global

Requested received: June 30

Question: What is the ministry's response to this release?

Deadline: June 30 at 3 p.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of the Mayor

Statement from Mayor Gregor Robertson on the Vancouver School Board

June 30, 2016 (Vancouver, BC) - The Vancouver School Board was elected by residents of Vancouver to act in the best interest of children and youth in Vancouver's public schools. Over the past seven years I have seen them serve with dedication and passion, while taking a pragmatic approach that has used shrinking resources to help build a supportive school system for our kids.

That's why when this Vancouver School Board says that another \$21.4 million in funding cuts is too deep to support the learning needs of Vancouver's children and youth – the most complex of all the districts in the Province - the only response for me is how we can help to support them.

In 2015, for the first time, Vancouver provided more in school taxes (\$463 million) than it received in provincial funding (\$448 million) - a loss of \$15 million. On Tuesday, City Council unanimously passed a motion supporting the Vancouver School Board's request for our fair share of provincial funding and encouraging the Minister of Education to meet with the Vancouver School Board in order to find a solution.

We took this action not just in the best interests of children and youth in Vancouver public schools, but in the best interests of our entire city's future. Everything from our economy to our ability to create safe and inclusive communities rests on the investment we put into supporting public education. Indeed the strength of our public education system is a key draw of people to Vancouver.

I am urging the Minister to work with the Vancouver School Board to find a way forward that respects the wishes of Vancouver voters and provides stable, long-term and predictable funding that responds to the complexity of needs in our schools, and avoids the cuts that will fall disproportionately on our most vulnerable kids.

- 30 -

Media contact:
Sarah Zaharia
Communications Strategist
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver
604.754.3847

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 9:30 AM
To: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Global News: BC 1: Bernier/Dix - school closures

Yes. Jason has sent the correct info to the outlets and we are looking to set up a 4 pm conference call.
The 95% rule is a flexible, district-wide rule in Vancouver. It is not a school specific rule.
Thanks,
Matt

From: Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 9:14 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Global News: BC 1: Bernier/Dix - school closures

Hey Matt

Just to confirm plan for today -- correcting misinformation as needed (specifically around 95 per cent) and then respond actively after the list is released.

Thanks
Shane

From: tno@gov.bc.ca [<mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 9:07 AM
Subject: Global News: BC 1: Bernier/Dix - school closures

Global News: BC 1 (Vancouver)

20-Jun-2016 09:00

Copyright

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2016 2:17 PM
To: Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX
Cc: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX; Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX; Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: Letter regarding SD 39

Thank you Dave. I will inform Minister Bernier.
Matt

From: Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Baskerville, Shannon JTST:EX; Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX; Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: Letter regarding SD 39

Matt,

For your information and discussion with Minister Bernier. It is my understanding from subsequent conversations with Trevor that the investigation methodology is still being considered by WorksafeBC as they gather additional information and consider their approach.

I'll keep you advised as things proceed.

Dave

From: O'Brien, Audrey [<mailto:Audrey.O'Brien@worksafebc.com>] **On Behalf Of** Miles, Diana
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2016 11:40 AM
To: Byng, Dave A EDUC:EX
Cc: Johnson, Allan WCB:EX
Subject: Letter regarding SD 39

Dear Mr. Byng:

Please find attached Diana Miles' response to your letter dated September 29, 2016.

Regards,

Audrey O'Brien, Assistant to the President & CEO and the Board of Directors
WorkSafeBC
Phone (604)279-7613 **Email** audrey.obrien@worksafebc.com

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O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 11:53 AM
To: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Subject: RE: Letter to Chair Lombardi Following Budget Vote
Attachments: Board Chair draft v1.docx

Just trying to figure out where that statement would fit the best. It is probably the first paragraph. I have added it in there. Let me know what you think.

Thanks,
Matt

From: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 11:18 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Subject: Re: Letter to Chair Lombardi Following Budget Vote

Should we mention the increase in funding over the past 5 years and the decline in students as a context as well?

M

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Subject: RE: Letter to Chair Lombardi Following Budget Vote

Thanks Ben. See the track changes in the document. I have specifically mentioned the forensic audit. If this works let me know.

From: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 10:48 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Subject: Re: Letter to Chair Lombardi Following Budget Vote

Wondering if we need to re-iterate audit in the context of the special advisor.

A couple of phrasing changes:

I'd drop "to me" and just say board's failure to balance is disappointing.

Similarly, instead of 'I would like to request your and your board's full cooperation', I'd suggest 'I am requesting your...etc'

Ben Chin
Executive Director
Communications and Issues Mgmt
Office of Premier Christy Clark

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 10:31 AM
To: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Subject: Letter to Chair Lombardi Following Budget Vote

Michele, Ben,
MMB has reviewed this letter and approved. It essentially formalizes what was said in the media avail yesterday. Do you have any issue with sending to the VSB?
Thanks,
Matt

Mr. Mike Lombardi, Chair
Vancouver School Board
1580 W. Broadway Street
Vancouver BC V6J 5K8

Re: 2016/17 Operating Budget

Dear Chair Lombardi:

It comes with great disappointment to me that the Vancouver School Board has decided not to pass a balanced budget for 2016/17. This is not only in violation of section 111 of the *School Act*, but also demonstrates the inability of the Board to effectively manage the resources of the district.

s.21

Sincerely,

Hon. Mike Bernier

Minister of Education

Mr. Mike Lombardi, Chair
Vancouver School Board
1580 W. Broadway Street
Vancouver BC V6J 5K8

Re: 2016/17 Operating Budget

Dear Chair Lombardi:

| It comes with great disappointment to me that disappointment that the Vancouver School Board has decided not to pass a balanced budget for 2016/17. This is not only in violation of section 111 of the *School Act*, but also demonstrates the inability of the Board to effectively manage the resources of the district. In failing to pass a balanced budget it should also be noted that the funding received by the Vancouver School District has increased by 20 per cent since 2001, despite a decrease in enrolment of 6,500 students during that same period of time.

s.21

Sincerely,

Hon. Mike Bernier
Minister of Education

188585

Mr. Mike Lombardi, Chair
Vancouver School Board
1580 W. Broadway Street
Vancouver BC V6J 5K8

Re: 2016/17 Operating Budget

Dear Chair Lombardi:

| It comes with great ~~disappointment to me that~~ disappointment that the Vancouver School Board has decided not to pass a balanced budget for 2016/17. This is not only in violation of section 111 of the *School Act*, but also demonstrates the inability of the Board to effectively manage the resources of the district.

s.21

Sincerely,

Hon. Mike Bernier

Minister of Education

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Sunday, July 3, 2016 7:45 PM
To: Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Letter to Chair Lombardi Following Budget Vote

Keith should have one last look anyway. Tomorrow is fine.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Travelbea, Jennifer EDUC:EX
Sent: Sunday, July 3, 2016 6:44 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: Letter to Chair Lombardi Following Budget Vote

Thanks Andrew - sorry I've been away from my computer most of the day, are you good with me sending it out first thing tomorrow morning?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 3, 2016, at 9:55 AM, Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hey Jen,

Attached is an updated version of the Lombardi letter that has been approved by MMB. Is good to go out. Can you let me know when it does?

Andrew

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request 2 - Kim Pemberton, Vancouver Sun - bus pass for students

FYI

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 2:42 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request 2 - Kim Pemberton, Vancouver Sun - bus pass for students

MMB is on the plane. This is consistent with what we have said previously. I would just send this from the ministry.

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: Fwd: Media Request 2 - Kim Pemberton, Vancouver Sun - bus pass for students

Minister.

Media request for approval.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX" <Craig.Sorochan@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 21, 2016 at 2:40:17 PM PDT
To: "Holme, Matt EDUC:EX" <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca>, "Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX" <Andrew.Koolsbergen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX" <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca>, "Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX" <Brcitt.Lowther@gov.bc.ca>, "Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX" <Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Media Request 2 - Kim Pemberton, Vancouver Sun - bus pass for students

NEW

Media Request 2

Kim Pemberton, Vancouver Sun, kpemberton@postmedia.ca 604-605-2219

Topic: VSB bus passes

Request: the reporter's question originated in from a conversation with VSB board chair Mike Lombardi, who said he is hoping that the government comes up with some free bus passes for students if schools close and students have to travel farther to attend another school.

Reporter: I am doing an overnight story about possible school closures in Vancouver and the issue of transportation should it proceed. Many of these students would have to walk further or take a bus to get to new schools so the question was raised would the provincial government consider offering students free bus passes?

I understand the school board has advocated for the provincial government in the past to provide free transportation to students and wondering where this is at?

Recommendation/ Responses:

- **Vancouver took some much needed action yesterday to deal with their issue of declining student enrolment and empty classroom seats.**
- **Every dollar spent keeping an empty seat open is a dollar that is not spent on teachers or on educating students.**
- **That cost is \$37 million a year. Imagine the number of teachers that \$37 million could hire. Imagine the student services – like- busing that could be provided.**
- **It's also important to note that instead of targeted transportation funding, school boards have the flexibility to make spending decisions based on local priorities, consistent with the rest of the funding model**
- **School districts decide how to use their operating grant to best meet the needs of their students – whether it's in the classroom or for transportation.**
- **They review these plans annually and make adjustments as necessary.**

Date/Time: June 21 11:30 a.m. **Deadline:** 3 p.m.

OUTSTANDING

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request 3 - Rob Shaw, Vancouver Sun, rural education enhancement fund

This one too... fyi

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 3:04 PM
To: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Media Request 3 - Rob Shaw, Vancouver Sun, rural education enhancement fund

I just added the one portion in red below.
MMB is on a plane to Cranbrook, so let's just send this. Thanks Craig.

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 3:01 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 3 - Rob Shaw, Vancouver Sun, rural education enhancement fund

NEW

Media Request 3

Rob Shaw, Legislative Reporter, The Vancouver Sun, cell 250-893-0841 rshaw@vancouver.sun.com

Topic: rural education enhancement fund

Request: Questions followed by Ministry responses.

Recommended Responses: *Send information from the Ministry:*

- 1) Has ministry addressed the issue of Yahk elementary and if it's willing to provide funding for a school with no students?**
- 2) Bridge Lake Elementary – closing, rural school in Cariboo, why doesn't it qualify for list?**

The list of schools included with the news release was based on an initial scan of available data within the Ministry and the eligibility criteria.

It's up to school districts if they want to apply for the funding to keep a school open if it meets the criteria – whether it's on the list we provided or not.

If a school district feels that an application should be made for a particular school based on the eligibility criteria, then they are encouraged to make application for that school.

3) What is total number of school closures in province since 2001?

There have been approximately 300 school closures since 2001.

However, since 2001, we've built 48 new schools, replaced 70 aging schools, added space at 186 schools, and seismically upgraded 153 schools.

Date/Time: June 21 Deadline: asap

OUTSTANDING

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 11:29 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request 3- Rob Shaw, Vancouver Sun, water testing

FYI – our outstanding media requests.

The response to Rob Shaw will be the same as we sent Lindsay Kines yesterday.

Matt

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 11:27 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 3- Rob Shaw, Vancouver Sun, water testing

NEW

Media Request 2

Rob Shaw, Legislative Reporter, The Vancouver Sun, cell 250-893-0841 rshaw@vancouver.sun.com

Topic: water testing

Request: Reporter is asking for a statement on water testing

Recommended Responses: *Send statement from the Ministry:*

"Our reminder in February 2016 to districts of their duty to provide safe drinking water and to test for lead worked. Based on what we saw in what districts shared with us and with the Vancouver Sun after the testing, we are going to provide districts an annual reminder on water testing – and have them report back on any problems they find, and any mitigation they put in place."

"We will develop standard questions so that information received from districts is consistent. We will also establish a deadline for reports back to the ministry. We expect all districts to test – or provide details on what indications they have that testing is not needed (age of facilities, local water conditions, advice from the local health authority).

"We provide the School Districts with \$110 million in Annual Facilities Grants, which is intended for maintaining schools, including this type of testing and maintenance."

"It is the duty of all school districts to comply with all health and safety requirements under the Health Authorities, WorksafeBC, BC Building Code, including the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality etc."

Date/Time: June 14 at 10 a.m. **Deadline:** June 14 at 3 p.m.

OUTSTANDING FOR APPROVAL:

Media Request 2

Alison Bailey, News 1130, Alison.bailey@rci.rogers.com 604-877-4400

Topic: VSB budget

Request: Reporter is hoping to speak with MMB for a short interview. +

Questions: the reporter says she just got off the phone with Mike Lombardi. She claims Mr. Lombardi said he has "no intention of voting for a balanced budget."

What will the Minister do if VSB fails to submit a balanced budget?

Recommended/ responses: Please advise if MMB can call the reporter.

Possible messaging:

Education funding is at record levels. We're investing a record \$5.1 billion in public education this year. That's \$1.2 billion more, or a 32% increase since 2000/01. And it's a 5.8% increase since 2010/11.

In Vancouver operating funding has risen by more than 20% since 2001 to almost \$440 million. At the same time enrollment has dropped by more than 10% -- with 6,200 fewer students.

In addition, we just redirected \$25 million from administrative savings to districts to invest in their priorities. In Vancouver this provided almost \$2.3 million the district can use for services to students.

I am looking forward to the VSB submitting its long term facility plan in a few weeks -- something that should ensure the maximum investments are made in services to students rather than empty seats..

I expect the VSB will submit a balanced budget into the Ministry for June 30.

The June 30 budget deadline applies to all districts.

There are 60 school districts in BC and we have to ensure they are funded in the same way.

We can't provide extra funds to one district at the expense of all the others.

Date & Time: June 14 at 10:30 a.m. **Deadline:** Today at 3:30 p.m.

Media Request 1

Lindsay Kines, Times Colonist, LKines@timescolonist.com 250-382-9006

Topic: Water testing + Victoria

Request: Reporter has the statement from yesterday but he is hoping to interview MMB.

Questions:

Rob Flemming claims school districts should get extra money to undertake further testing... given the apparent scope of the problem, will the province provide school districts with extra funds?

Is there a need for a provincial strategy?

Will the Ministry consider bringing in any legislation mandating testing?

Recommended/ responses: Please advise if MMB can call the reporter.

Yesterday's statement responds to the questions... he said he can use it but would like to speak with MMB.

Date & Time: June 14 at 10 a.m. **Deadline:** Today at 2:30 p.m.

We sent this statement yesterday:

Our reminder in February 2016 to districts of their duty to provide safe drinking water and to test for lead worked. Based on what we saw in what districts shared with us and with the Vancouver Sun after the testing, we are going to provide districts an annual reminder on water testing – and have them report back on any problems they find, and any mitigation they put in place.”

“We will develop standard questions so that information received from districts is consistent. We will also establish a deadline for reports back to the ministry. We expect all districts to test – or provide details on what indications they have that testing is not needed (age of facilities, local water conditions, advice from the local health authority.

“We provide the School Districts with \$110 million in Annual Facilities Grants, which is intended for maintaining schools, including this type of testing and maintenance.”

“It is the duty of all school districts to comply with all health and safety requirements under the Health Authorities, WorksafeBC, BC Building Code, including the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality etc.”

“The Provincial Health Officer has noted we have no evidence of children being adversely affected by lead in BC.”

Media Request (from yesterday. They would like confirmation either way ASAP.)

Jaimie Kehler, Reporter, CBC Radio Kelowna, 250-861-3781 jaimie.kehler@cbc.ca

Topic: school closures

Request: This Friday, CBC Daybreak South is holding a show focussed on school closures in the Okanagan.

The reporter is hoping MMB can join either live or for a pre-taped interview.

The show is on June 17. Time requested for the live interview is 8:10 a.m. on Friday

Length: 5 minutes 1 on 1

Other guests: not on with MMB but this is an education focused show. Will feature local officials etc.

Pre-tape: If MMB cannot join Friday, they can record a pre-taped interview any day this week in the lead up to the show.

Recommendation/ Response: *Please advise if MMB can join the show for a pre-tape this week or a live interview on Friday Morning.*

Schools aren't closing because of a lack of funding. Schools are closing because of a lack of students.

Students can reap the benefits of small, almost empty schools being amalgamated – because higher numbers means more high-quality and specialized programs are available.

Closing a school is never an easy decision, but local trustees are best able to make these decisions.

Trustees know their communities. They live and work in the community and have children, grandchildren, and neighbours at their schools.

Suggestions that the Minister is able to overturn closures under the School Act are incorrect – that power does not exist in the law.

As well, making decisions at the provincial level would lose the advantage of trustees' local perspective and insights into community priorities.

SD 67 Okanagan Skaha: Since 2000/2001, despite decreasing enrolment of 2057 funding has gone up considerably by \$5.6 million.

2000/01

Enrolment Full Time Equivalents: 7,646

Operating Funding: \$47,002,691

2015/16

Enrolment Full Time Equivalents: 5,589

Operating Funding \$52,573,868

SD 53 Okanagan Similkameen: Since 2000/2001, despite decreasing enrolment of 3,278 funding has gone up by \$1.9 million.

2000/2001: Enrolment of Full time Equivalents 3,197

Funding \$21,420,515

2015/16: Enrolment of Full Time Equivalents 2,311

Funding \$23,277,834

DATE & TIME: June 11 at 4:00 p.m. **Deadline:** June 12 at 4:30 p.m.

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 11:52 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request 4 - CKNW Interview request - Linda Steele Show - re: VSB school closures

FYI – our outstanding media requests.
Matt

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 11:50 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 4 - CKNW Interview request - Linda Steele Show - re: VSB school closures

NEW

Media Request 4

Katherine Stewart, Producer, CKNW 604-331-2733

Topic: VSB announcement today and school closures - and clarity on the 95% threshold.

Request: Producer would like MMB to go on the Linda Steele Show.

When: One on One interview. Sometime today between 2-6 p.m. for a 7 or 8 minute phone interview.

Response: If MMB is unavailable use the statement below.

Statement from Education Minister Mike Bernier.

"Schools aren't closing because of a lack of funding. Schools are closing because of a lack of students. Since 2001 enrolment has dropped by more than 10% in Vancouver -- by 6,200 students. At the same time funding has gone up more than 20%. As well with our May 31 announcement that districts would be able to redirect Administrative Savings to front-line education services – this coming school year and moving forward. In Vancouver this provided \$2,251,318."

"We're investing a record \$5.1 billion in public education this year. Annual education funding is \$1.2 billion higher than it was in 2000/01 - a 32% increase."

"Vancouver needs to ensure every possible dollar goes to students, not empty seats or buildings. Addressing its empty seats could save the district up to \$37 million a year – money that could provide a lot of programs for students. Students can reap the benefits of small, almost empty schools being amalgamated – because higher numbers means more high-quality and specialized programs are available."

"It is important to note that the 95% capacity target in Vancouver is part of the MOU between the school district and the province signed by then board chair Patty Bacchus. It is a goal – not a cut-off as evidenced by the fact that the province has announced two multi-million dollar seismic upgrades in Vancouver this year – Sir Sanford Fleming and Sir Charles Kingsford Smith schools. Both are below 95% capacity – as is the entire VSB."

Date & Time: June 20 at 8 a.m. **Deadline:** ASAP **Responded:**

OUTSTANDING

Media Request 3

Bal Brach, Producer, CBC the Early Edition, 778-233-7858 bal.brach@cbc.ca

Topic: VSB school closures

Request: Producer would like MMB to join Stephen Quinn for a 1 on 1 interview tomorrow morning.

Questions: What is the minister's reaction to the VSB's list possible school closures?

Times requested: 7:10 am, 7:50 am, 8:10 am

Length: 7 minutes.

Response: If MMB is unavailable use the statement below.

Can provide messaging if MMB can join

Date & Time: June 20 at 11 a.m. **Deadline:** June 20 at 4 p.m. **Responded:**

Media Request 2

Andrea Woo, Globe and Mail Woo, AndreaWoo@globeandmail.com o: 604.631.6602

Topic: VSB announcement today and school closures

Request: Reporter: Can you please send me some information on the ministry's target to have school occupancy levels up to 95 per cent capacity to qualify for provincial funding (how much?) for seismic upgrades? I'm wondering who set the target at 95 per cent and why. As I'm sure you know, the NDP education critic and some parent groups have called it "arbitrary."

Recommendation/ Response: Send message from MMB.

Statement from Education Minister Mike Bernier:

It's disappointing to see the opposition misrepresent capacity. There are no capacity targets for seismic upgrades.

The 95% threshold is for large urban districts only, is a districtwide target, and applies only when looking for new schools or expansions. It is NOT a seismic target. These targets have been in place since the early 2000s.

We have discussions with districts to ensure we are not upgrading schools that may close. That's why we ask districts with declining enrolment to take a hard look and prioritize their seismic upgrades.

It is important to note that the 95% capacity target in Vancouver is part of the MOU between the school district and the province signed by then board chair Patty Bacchus.

It is a goal – not a cut-off as evidenced by the fact that the province has announced two multi-million dollar seismic upgrades in Vancouver this year – Sir Sanford Fleming and Sir Charles Kingsford Smith schools. Both are below 95% capacity – as is the entire VSB.

It's also important to remember that every dollar spent keeping an empty seat open is a dollar that is not spent on teachers or educating students.

Date & Time: June 20 at 11 a.m. **Deadline:** ASAP **Responded:**

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 3:42 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: NR - Seismic upgrades clarification
Attachments: NR - Seismic upgrades clarification.docx

FYI – just draft at this point. MMB yet to approve.

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 3:35 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: NR - Seismic upgrades clarification

Minister

Here is my first cut of a release around clarifying seismic for Vancouver and Richmond.

If you want we can take it down and make it a simple fact sheet – without any of the quote statements.

Jason

Education Minister addresses misinformation about seismic upgrades

VANCOUVER – Parents are being misled regarding seismic upgrades in Vancouver and Richmond, Education Minister Mike Bernier said today.

“As a parent, I share the same goals as parents – seeing schools seismically upgraded as quickly as possible, and seeing the maximum number of taxpayer dollars supporting the education of students,” Bernier said. “Unfortunately the Vancouver School Board’s main focus seems to be on defending its squandering of \$37 million a year on empty seats rather than students.”

There are 6,500 fewer students in Vancouver today than there were in 2001 – a drop of more than 10 per cent. At the same time provincial funding flowing into Vancouver has risen by 20%. And money for seismic upgrades has continued to go to Vancouver.

“The biggest challenge facing the Vancouver School Board isn’t a formula and it isn’t funding – it has been a chronic failure to act. The VSB is in a crisis because for years the board has short-changed students and chosen to put empty classrooms ahead of students,” Bernier said. “What upsets me is that it is the students who pay the price for the board short-changing student services in order to protect empty seats.”

Bernier also said the hyperbole around capacity rates – especially VSB’s instance there is a 95% target that must be met -- has been misleading.

“The board is well aware that the capacity target for seismic upgrades in the MOU they signed in 2014 is a goal to be worked toward – not a cut-off. We’ve made that clear by announcing a pair of seismic projects this year while the district capacity sits at 85 per cent – well below the MOU goal,” Bernier added.

The province has financially supported two seismic upgrades in Vancouver since the MOU was signed:

- Sir Sandford Fleming Elementary, a \$25.9 million seismic replacement
- Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith Elementary, a \$11.6 million seismic upgrade

In addition, a number of seismic projects are currently under construction despite the large number of empty seats across the Vancouver School District:

- Lord Nelson Elementary, \$18 million seismic replacement
- Lord Strathcona Elementary, \$25.6 million seismic upgrade
- L'Ecole Bilingue Elementary, \$15.2 million seismic replacement
- General Gordon Elementary, \$14.7 million seismic replacement
- Kitsilano Secondary school, \$57.8 million seismic upgrade and replacement – the largest school seismic project in B.C. history

Bernier said other districts across B.C. have moved forward and gotten rid of empty seats – and focussed their budgets on education services. Districts like Greater Victoria followed up school closures with the opening of new schools like Oak Bay Secondary. In North Vancouver they have almost completed their seismic upgrade program.

Bernier also clarified that there are no specific targets for Richmond to get going on seismic upgrades. Instead, the Ministry is waiting for a long-term facilities plan from Richmond that will clearly identify their seismic priorities that lines up with schools slated to remain open. Enrolment has dropped by more than 11% in Richmond – by 2,658 students. At the same time funding has gone up just shy of 20%.

Since 2001 the province has invested more than \$1.12 billion to complete 153 high risk seismic projects across B.C.

"I'm disappointed that misinformation has impacted so many parents – and muddied the waters on how we can move forward on our key task – supporting students over empty seats," Bernier said. "I also want to add that I look forward to the VSB tabling its legally required balanced budget by the end of the month."

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
Month xx, 2015

Ministry of Education

Education Minister addresses misinformation about seismic upgrades

VANCOUVER – Parents are being misled regarding seismic upgrades in Vancouver and Richmond, Education Minister Mike Bernier said today.

“As a parent, I share the same goals as parents – seeing schools seismically upgraded as quickly as possible, and seeing the maximum number of taxpayer dollars supporting the education of students,” Bernier said. “Unfortunately the Vancouver School Board’s main focus seems to be on defending its squandering of \$37 million a year on empty seats rather than students.”

There are 6,500 fewer students in Vancouver today than there were in 2001 – a drop of more than 10 per cent. At the same time provincial funding flowing into Vancouver has risen by 20%. And money for seismic upgrades has continued to go to Vancouver.

“The biggest challenge facing the Vancouver School Board isn’t a formula and it isn’t funding – it has been a chronic failure to act. The VSB is in a crisis because for years the board has short-changed students and chosen to put empty classrooms ahead of students,” Bernier said. “What upsets me is that it is the students who pay the price for the board short-changing student services in order to protect empty seats.”

Bernier also said the hyperbole around capacity rates – especially VSB’s instance there is a 95% target that must be met -- has been misleading.

“The board is well aware that the capacity target for seismic upgrades in the MOU they signed in 2014 is a goal to be worked toward – not a cut-off. We’ve made that clear by announcing a pair of seismic projects this year while the district capacity sits at 85 per cent – well below the MOU goal,” Bernier added.

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"I'm disappointed that misinformation has impacted so many parents – and muddied the waters on how we can move forward on our key task – supporting students over empty seats," Bernier said. "I also want to add that I look forward to the VSB tabling its legally required balanced budget by the end of the month."

Contact: Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 2:17 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: RE: Draft MMB Statements - VSB

MMB has now approved. Let me know if you have any feedback.

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 1:49 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Draft MMB Statements - VSB

FYI - Two draft statements below on the VSB budget. They are with MMB for approval.

Thanks,
Matt

Minister Bernier responds to Vancouver School Board budget

s.13

Minister Bernier responds to Vancouver School Board budget

VANCOUVER – Minister of Education Mike Bernier released the following statement today in response to the budget submitted by the Vancouver School Board.

"I am disappointed that the Vancouver School Board chose to go against the School Act by failing to adopt a balanced budget.

Our offer was a simple one – we gave them the go-ahead to sell Kingsgate Mall and put the proceeds back into education services. We backed that up with a guarantee of almost \$6 million in exchange for a small ownership share in the mall if the sale does not happen in the next school year. Either option would have made sure the budget was balanced in Vancouver.

This proposal gave them the time and the resources they needed to avoid cuts, and they chose to reject that.

Just like many parents, I am disappointed that the Vancouver School Board has put their desire to own a mall ahead of services for students. Combined with their continued investment of \$37 million a year in empty seats, the VSB seems to have forgotten its mission is to educate students – not maintain ownership of as much property as possible.”

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 6:17 PM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Fw: Media Request 1- CKNW Vancouver School closures

FYI
Matt

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 5:15 PM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Subject: Re: Media Request 1- CKNW Vancouver School closures

Statement for now. I just did some live media with them anyways in the Dawson Creek scrum.

Mike

On Jun 19, 2016, at 4:46 PM, Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Keenan@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Minister - CKNW request for you to talk about Vancouver school closures.

May be good to decide now if we just want to issue a statement from the Minister (see below) or have you do actual media when the list of schools is released.

Jason

Jason A Keenan
Communications Director
Ministry of Education
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Office: 250-356-8713 Mobile: 778-679-5546

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 4:44 PM
To: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 1- CKNW Vancouver School closures

NEW
Media Request 1

John O'Dowd, CKWN, john@cknw.com, 604.331.2795

Topic: Vancouver School Closures

Questions: Reaction to Vancouver plan to close schools to be announced Monday - and why these steps must be taken, and likely questions about funding and capacity rates.

Request: live 6-7 minute phone interview on Jon McComb Show on CKNW at 7:46am PT regarding the school

Recommendation/ Response: (MMB do the show, or we could provide messaging for when other guests like opposition critic or VSB appear):

- Schools aren't closing because of a lack of funding. Schools are closing because of a lack of students.
- Since 2001 enrolment has dropped by more than 10% in Vancouver -- by 6,200 students. At the same time funding has gone up more than 20%.
- As well with our May 31 announcement that districts would be able to redirect Administrative Savings to front-line education services -- this coming school year and moving forward. In Vancouver this provided \$2,251,318
- We're investing a record \$5.1 billion in public education this year. Annual education funding is \$1.2 billion higher than it was in 2000/01 - a 32% increase.
- Vancouver needs to ensure every possible dollar goes to students, not empty seats or buildings.
- Addressing its empty seats could save the district up to \$37 million a year -- money that could provide a lot of programs for students.
- Students can reap the benefits of small, almost empty schools being amalgamated -- because higher numbers means more high-quality and specialized programs are available.

Date & Time of Inquiry: 4 pm **Deadline:** 6 pm **Responded:**

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 11:33 AM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Fw: Media Request 1- Marcella Bernardo, Roundhouse radio, VSB special advisor

Minister, just confirming you are ok with the statement?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 1- Marcella Bernardo, Roundhouse radio, VSB special advisor

NEW

Media Request 1

Marcella Bernardo, Reporter, Roundhouse radio, marcella@roundhouse.com 604-449-5517

Topic: VSB special advisor

Request: Can the Minister do a brief interview today over the phone?

Question: What does the Minister expect from Mr. Milburn?

Recommendation/ Response: *Can send statement from MMB:*

I have appointed Peter Milburn, a former deputy minister of finance, as a special advisor to lead the review and forensic audit of the VSB. Peter will be supported by Ernst and Young in this work and report back by the end of September.

Peter and his team will be taking an unflinching look at the budget and the board of governance of the VSB. His terms of reference include a forensic audit of the board's expenditures, as well as a full review of the board's operations and governance and its effectiveness in overseeing the district. He will also be assessing the district's 2016-17 budget reduction strategies and looking at opportunities for the VSB to achieve a balanced budget.

I look forward to the report and recommendations as I am confident that it will provide clear and direct recommendations to make sure that every available dollar is going to Vancouver students.

Date & Time of Inquiry: July 18 at 10:30 a.m. **Deadline:** July 18 at 1:30 p.m. **Responded:**

OUTSTANDING

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 8:59 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Fw: Media Request 1- Simon Little, CKNW, VSB Budget

Minister,
See below. Do you want to do media before the VSB meeting tomorrow?
Matt

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 8:47 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Brooke, Daisy GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 1- Simon Little, CKNW, VSB Budget

NEW

Media Request 1

Simon Little | CKNW Digital Reporter | C. [604.710.0693](tel:604.710.0693) | simon@cknw.com

Topic: VSB budget

Reporter:

The VSB is holding a special operating budget meeting on Wednesday, and has suggested it is open to re-opening the debate on its operating budget if the education minister offers up a new proposal, possibly with more funding.

Recommendation/ Response: *send background information from the Ministry:* We are hopeful the VSB will table a balanced budget as required.

Date & Time: June 27 at 8 pm **Deadline:** asap **Responded:**

OUTSTANDING

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 12:39 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request 2 - Andrea Woo, Globe and Mail, Funding and VSB budget

Minister,

See below. Given our conversation earlier I assume you are good with this coming from the ministry. If you are thinking something different please let me know.

Matt

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 12:35 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: EDUC DL Communications; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 2 - Andrea Woo, Globe and Mail, Funding and VSB budget

NEW

Media Request 2

Andrea Woo, Globe and Mail Woo, AndreaWoo@globeandmail.com o: 604.631.6602

Topic: Funding

Reporter: Is it possible to have the minister give me a quick call today? Only need five mins or so. Looking for two things:

1. A response for this funding story. Both sides have been pretty clear in their positions ("chronic underfunding" vs record funding and 70,000 fewer students), but would be great to get a comment from the Minister that isn't just the standard talking points.
2. VSB Chair Mike Lombardi has called a special budget meeting for tomorrow, saying a new vote is possible if the province pitches a new offer. Might it?

Recommendation/ Response: *Please advise if MMB can call the reporter. If not - we can decline and send a statement or messaging.*

Possible funding messaging:

We're investing a record \$5.1 billion in public education this year. That's \$1.2 billion more, or a 32% increase since 2000/01. And it's a 5.8% increase since 2010/11. This is despite a drop of 70,000 students.

In B.C., school districts are funded per pupil and based on an individual student's needs. Average per pupil funding is estimated to be \$8,963 for 2016/2017, that's up 43% since 2000-01 (\$6,262).

VSB Messaging:

We are hopeful the VSB will table a balanced budget as required.

Since 2001 enrolment has dropped by more than 10% in Vancouver -- by 6,200 students. At the same time funding has gone up more than 20%. And it's a 5.8% increase since 2010/11.

The June 30 budget deadline applies to all districts.

Date & Time: June 28 at 11 a.m. **Deadline:** June 28 at 4 p.m. **Responded:**

We sent this to the reporter yesterday and Friday: Questions followed by Ministry responses

Reporter: "A quick follow-up: What about inflation? \$3.85-billion in 2000 would equal \$5.2-billion today.. which means that the increase would account for that, but only that. Also, what about other costs such as Hydro, ICBC rates and MSP premiums?"

Response:

Despite 70,000 fewer students we are providing \$5.1 billion in record funding for public education.

In B.C., school districts are funded per pupil and based on an individual student's needs.

Average per pupil funding is estimated to be \$8,963 for 2016/2017, that's up 43% since 2000-01 (\$6,262).

From Friday:

Question 1: *I'm looking for a breakdown of the "\$1.2-billion more annually than in 2001" that the B.C. government is providing in education funding. As I'm sure you know, teachers groups and parent groups say this is misleading as it doesn't factor in inflation, various amounts that were moved to other ministries, etc. Can you please provide me a detailed breakdown of the 2001 amounts compared to the current amounts?*

Response 1: Despite a drop in enrolment of 70,000 students, annual public education funding is \$1.2 billion higher than it was in 2000/01 – a 32% increase.

Education funding to public schools in 2016/17 is \$5.088 billion. This includes the operating block, special grants, and the Learning Improvement Fund.

By comparison, restated 2000/01* education funding to public schools was \$3.853 billion. This results in a \$1.234 billion difference.

*This restated 2000/2001 total removes federal funding from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada that was previously included in the education budget, it has been removed in the 2016/2017 budget. This allows for an apples to apples comparison of the two budgets.

The \$1.2 billion increase is primarily due to collective agreements, implementing full day kindergarten, pension adjustment, and a MSP adjustment. These funding increases are identified as follows:

\$1.2 Billion annual lift to Public Schools since 2000/01

Description	\$M	
Collective Agreement September, 2002	\$116.05	
Composition lift (i.e. special education, class size)	\$25.70	(02/03)
MSP	\$18.25	(02/03)
Collective Agreement September, 2006	\$496.00	
Pension Adjustment	\$41.00	(07/08)
Collective Agreement September, 2010	\$54.00	
Full Day Kindergarten	\$120.00	(10/11)
Learning Improvement Fund	\$100.00	(12/13)
Collective Agreement September, 2014	\$229.00	
	<u>\$1,200.00</u>	

Question 2: Looking over some numbers and wondering if this would be a quick thing to answer:

According to the 2001 budget, \$4.779-billion was allocated to the Ministry of Education:

And in 2016, it's \$5.608-billion. How does that equal \$1.2-billion more than in 2001? Should it not be \$829.5-million more?

Response 2: The two budgets presented above represent total funding to the entire education system – for both public and independent school systems, as well funding for other partners and administrators of Ministry programs (scholarships, public libraries etc.).

When doing historical comparisons of public education budgets over the years, we make adjustments to enable a fair comparison. This allows for an “apples to apples” comparison. The main adjustments are: debt service costs (\$351 million) and the amortization of prepaid capital expenses (\$173 million) were included in the 2000/01 Education Budget as expenses – since 2009/10 those two major expenses are found in the Ministry of Finance’s budget.

The accurate restated totals for comparing 2000/2001 and 2015/2016 public education budgets are listed above in **Response 1**.

OUTSTANDING

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 12:37 PM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Fw: Media Request 2- Ronal Psang, Fairchild, VSB special advisor

Minister, another VSB request - now from Fairchild. Can we send the statement?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 12:26 PM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 2- Ronal Psang, Fairchild, VSB special advisor

NEW

Media Request 2

Ronald Psang, Fairchild, 604-295-1234 ext. 1508 ronaldpsang@am1470.com

Topic: VSB special advisor

Request: Can the Minister call for a phone interview?

Question: Why Peter Milburn? What can we expect moving forward?

Recommendation/ Response: *Please advise if MMB can call the reporter. Can send statement from MMB:*

I have appointed Peter Milburn, a former deputy minister of finance, as a special advisor to lead the review and forensic audit of the VSB. Peter will be supported by Ernst and Young in this work and report back by the end of September.

Peter and his team will be taking an unflinching look at the budget and the board of governance of the VSB. His terms of reference include a forensic audit of the board's expenditures, as well as a full review of the board's operations and governance and its effectiveness in overseeing the district. He will also be assessing the district's 2016-17 budget reduction strategies and looking at opportunities for the VSB to achieve a balanced budget.

I look forward to the report and recommendations as I am confident that it will provide clear and direct recommendations to make sure that every available dollar is going to Vancouver students.

Date & Time of Inquiry: July 18 at 11:30 a.m. **Deadline:** July 18 at 3:30 p.m. **Responded:**

OUTSTANDING

Media Request 1

Marcella Bernardo, Reporter, Roundhouse radio, marcella@roundhouse.com 604-449-5517

Topic: VSB special advisor

Request: Can the Minister do a brief interview today over the phone?

Question: What does the Minister expect from Mr. Milburn?

Recommendation/ Response: *Can send statement from MMB:*

I have appointed Peter Milburn, a former deputy minister of finance, as a special advisor to lead the review and forensic audit of the VSB. Peter will be supported by Ernst and Young in this work and report back by the end of September.

Peter and his team will be taking an unflinching look at the budget and the board of governance of the VSB. His terms of reference include a forensic audit of the board's expenditures, as well as a full review of the board's operations and

governance and its effectiveness in overseeing the district. He will also be assessing the district's 2016-17 budget reduction strategies and looking at opportunities for the VSB to achieve a balanced budget.

I look forward to the report and recommendations as I am confident that it will provide clear and direct recommendations to make sure that every available dollar is going to Vancouver students.

Date & Time of Inquiry: July 18 at 10:30 a.m. **Deadline:** July 18 at 1:30 p.m. **Responded:**

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 11:30 AM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Media Request 3 - Interview Request - The Early Edition, Host Stephen Quinn, VSB school closures

Minister, VSB media requests for your approval.

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 11:28 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX
Subject: Media Request 3 - Interview Request - The Early Edition, Host Stephen Quinn, VSB school closures

NEW

Media Request 3

Bal Brach, Producer, CBC the Early Edition, 778-233-7858 bal.brach@cbc.ca

Topic: VSB school closures

Request: Producer would like MMB to join Stephen Quinn for a 1 on 1 interview tomorrow morning.

Questions: What is the minister's reaction to the VSB's list possible school closures?

Times requested: 7:10 am, 7:50 am, 8:10 am

Length: 7 minutes.

Response: If MMB is unavailable use the statement below.

Can provide messaging if MMB can join

Date & Time: June 20 at 11 a.m. . **Deadline:** June 20 at 4 p.m. **Responded:**

OUTSTANDING

Media Request 2

Andrea Woo, Globe and Mail Woo, AndreaWoo@globeandmail.com o: 604.631.6602

Topic: VSB announcement today and school closures

Request: Reporter: Can you please send me some information on the ministry's target to have school occupancy levels up to 95 per cent capacity to quality for provincial funding (how much?) for seismic upgrades? I'm wondering who set the target at 95 per cent and why. As I'm sure you know, the NDP education critic and some parent groups have called it "arbitrary."

Recommendation/ Response: Send message from MMB.

Statement from Education Minister Mike Bernier.

It's disappointing to see the opposition misrepresent capacity. There are no capacity targets for seismic upgrades.

The 95% threshold is for large urban districts only, is a districtwide target, and applies only when looking for new schools or expansions. It is NOT a seismic target. These targets have been in place since the early 2000s.

We have discussions with districts to ensure we are not upgrading schools that may close. That's why we ask districts with declining enrolment to take a hard look and prioritize their seismic upgrades.

It is important to note that the 95% capacity target in Vancouver is part of the MOU between the school district and the province signed by then board chair Patty Bacchus.

It is a goal – not a cut-off as evidenced by the fact that the province has announced two multi-million dollar seismic upgrades in Vancouver this year – Sir Sanford Fleming and Sir Charles Kingsford Smith schools. Both are below 95% capacity – as is the entire VSB.

It's also important to remember that every dollar spent keeping an empty seat open is a dollar that is not spent on teachers or educating students.

Date & Time: June 20 at 11 a.m. **Deadline:** ASAP **Responded:**

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 8:38 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX
Subject: Draft Materials - VSB Special Advisor
Attachments: KM's special advisor.docx; NR VSB special advisor.docx; MMB statement VSB special advisor.docx

Ben, Shane,

Attached are the draft materials for the announcement of Peter Milburn as VSB Special Advisor, slated for Monday.

These are with MMB for approval.

Let me know if you have any feedback.

Thanks,

Matt

Key Messages – VSB special advisor – July, 2016

- We are taking a major step forward to end the financial rollercoaster that the Vancouver School Board has been riding for years.
- I have appointed Peter Milburn, a former deputy minister of finance, as a special advisor to lead a forensic audit of the VSB.
- Peter will be supported by Ernst and Young in this work and report back by the end of September.
- Peter and his team will be taking an unflinching look at the budget and the board of governance of the VSB.
- His terms of reference include a forensic audit of the board's expenditures, operations and governance.
- He will also be assessing the district's 2016-17 budget reduction strategies and looking at opportunities for the VSB to achieve a balanced budget.
- Peter has the skills and experience to get answers.
- In addition to his financial expertise, he has led major projects in this province and also chaired many capital boards so he's familiar with what works and what doesn't.
- I'm confident that the results of this audit will result in clear and direct recommendations to make sure that every available dollar is going to Vancouver students.
- Parents and students need that kind of certainty.
- There are 6,500 fewer students in Vancouver today than there were in 2001 – a drop of more than 10%.
- At the same time provincial funding flowing into Vancouver has risen by 20%.
- The budget problems of the VSB don't add up.
- The goal of the review of VSB is to find a way forward and we've got the right people to carry out this task.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Education

[release number]

July xx, 2016

Special Advisor Appointed to Lead Forensic Audit, VSB Review

VICTORIA – Education Minister Mike Bernier today appointed Peter Milburn to lead the forensic audit and full review of the Vancouver School Board.

Milburn, who recently retired as B.C.'s Deputy Minister of Finance, has been appointed as a special advisor, and will be supported in the review and audit by Ernst and Young, the same organization that conducted the review of the VSB in 2015. The forensic audit and review are due back to the Ministry of Education by September 30, 2016.

"With his years of experience and his leadership on numerous financial files, Milburn is the right person to lead the forensic audit that will scrutinize the financial situation and board operations in Vancouver," Bernier said. "Close to half a billion dollars are invested by taxpayers in the Vancouver School District and we need to know that money is going to services that directly support students."

While 59 of 60 school districts in B.C. passed balanced budgets by the end of June, Vancouver failed to do so. At the same time, the board said staff were making cuts to achieve a balanced budget.

"This refusal to follow the School Act and pass a balanced budget to stop cuts while at the same time claiming staff are implementing cuts is confusing for parents and students," Bernier said. "Worst of all, it's part of an ongoing pattern in Vancouver where claims of budget shortfalls have preceded the board adding to its accumulated surplus almost every year. This has to end."

There are 6,500 fewer students in Vancouver today than there were in 2001 – a drop of more than 10%. And yet provincial funding flowing into Vancouver has risen by 20%. At the same time, the Vancouver School Board has chosen to put \$37 million a year towards empty seats – instead of student services.

"We are providing record education funding in Vancouver and across the province," Bernier said. "This forensic audit and review will help us make sure that record funding is going to support students – and point to next steps that will benefit students."

Contact: Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUND

Biography of Peter Milburn:

Peter Milburn has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering from the University of British Columbia. In 1983, he started with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as an Engineer-in-Training. His career has seen him work in all areas of the Province and in a variety of positions including District Manager in four districts, Regional Director, and Executive Director of the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project.

He then moved to Victoria to become the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Highways Department and soon after was promoted to Chief Operating Office and then Deputy Minister. In 2011 he was appointed as the Deputy Minister of Finance.

Mr. Milburn led numerous P3 projects including the Sea to Sky Improvement project, WA Bennett Bridge and the South Fraser Perimeter Road. He has chaired many capital boards including the Transportation Investment Corporation, the Children's and Women's Hospital Redevelopment, the Interior Heart and Surgical Centre/Kelowna Vernon Hospitals Projects, and the Surrey Memorial Hospital Critical Care Tower.

Terms of Reference for Review of Vancouver School Board:

Minister of Education, orders:

1. A special advisor to the Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) (the "Board") be appointed for a term ending September 30, 2016.
2. The special advisor will:
 - a. Conduct a forensic audit of the board's expenditures.
 - b. Conduct a full review of the board's operations and governance, including assessment of the extent to which the board has considered the information presented by management in decision making.
 - c. Assess the effectiveness of the Board's oversight of the district, including the skills, training and experience of the board to fulfill its statutory and fiduciary duties.
 - d. Assess the district's 2016-17 budget reduction strategies and consider other potential opportunities to achieve a balanced budget that would have less of an impact on classroom instruction.
 - e. Assess the extent to which the Board of Trustees has in place adequate systems and practices to monitor the organization's performance; and the extent to which it operates accordingly.
 - f. Submit a final report to the Minister no later than September 30, 2016.

4. s.13

Statement to be used in response to media enquiries after news release on VSB special advisor goes out:

"I have appointed Peter Milburn, a former deputy minister of finance, as a special advisor to lead the review and forensic audit of the VSB. Peter will be supported by Ernst and Young in this work and report back by the end of September.

Peter and his team will be taking an unflinching look at the budget and the board of governance of the VSB. His terms of reference include a forensic audit of the board's expenditures, as well as a full review of the board's operations and governance and its effectiveness in overseeing the district. He will also be assessing the district's 2016-17 budget reduction strategies and looking at opportunities for the VSB to achieve a balanced budget.

I look forward to the report and recommendations as I am confident that it will provide clear and direct recommendations to make sure that every available dollar is going to Vancouver students.

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:00 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX
Subject: Re: 95 Per Cent

None

Ben Chin
Executive Director
Communications and Issues Mgmt
Office of Premier Christy Clark
250.588.3113

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX; Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX
Subject: 95 Per Cent

Ben,
We have had a look at the corporate calendar for tomorrow to do an announcement on the 95% policy. Tomorrow is pretty full corporately. We are worried Friday might be too late as well.
Do you have any issue if MMB makes the announcement today at 3 pm? The minister is good with doing it today.
Thanks,
Matt

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:24 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Cc: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: MA for today

Instead of "discuss", put "make announcement around". ????

Thanks

Mike

On Sep 21, 2016, at 11:16 AM, Holme, Matt EDUC:EX <Matt.Holme@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Looks good to me.

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:13 AM
To: Bernier, Mike EDUC:EX; Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: MA for today

Look OK? Good to send out at 1 pm?

From: Sorochan, Craig GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Cc: Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX
Subject: MA for today

September 21, 2016

MEDIA ADVISORY – Ministry of Education – Media Availability

VANCOUVER – Education Minister Mike Bernier will be holding a media availability to discuss school utilization rates.

Event Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: Out front of Canada Place

999 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC

Special Instructions:

Media are asked to arrive 5 minutes in advance.

Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

O'Callaghan, Jacqueline EDUC:EX

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Subject: RE: Letter to Chair Lombardi Following Budget Vote
Attachments: Board Chair draft v1.docx

Thanks Ben. See the track changes in the document. I have specifically mentioned the forensic audit. If this works let me know.

From: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 10:48 AM
To: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Subject: Re: Letter to Chair Lombardi Following Budget Vote

Wondering if we need to re-iterate audit in the context of the special advisor.

A couple of phrasing changes:

I'd drop "to me" and just say board's failure to balance is disappointing.

Similarly, instead of 'I would like to request your and your board's full cooperation', I'd suggest 'I am requesting your...etc'

Ben Chin
Executive Director
Communications and Issues Mgmt
Office of Premier Christy Clark

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 10:31 AM
To: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Cc: Koolsbergen, Andrew EDUC:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX
Subject: Letter to Chair Lombardi Following Budget Vote

Michele, Ben,
MMB has reviewed this letter and approved. It essentially formalizes what was said in the media avail yesterday. Do you have any issue with sending to the VSB?
Thanks,
Matt