

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division, to accompany a Capital Project Funding Agreement.

**SUBJECT:** Signing of Capital Project Funding Agreement No. 105242 for the replacement of Oak Bay High School, in School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)


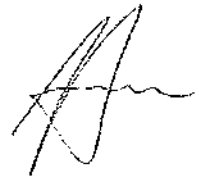
**BACKGROUND:**

- The east block of Oak Bay Secondary School in Victoria was constructed in 1929. Oak Bay Junior High School was constructed on the west side of the property in 1953 and the two schools were amalgamated in 1970.
- The capacity of the grade 9-12 high school is 1,500 students. The September 2011 enrolment was 1,019 students and this is projected to remain stable for several years with some modest increases after 2015/16.
- Oak Bay Secondary School was supported in the 2003/04 Capital Plan for two separate renovation projects totaling \$3.35 million. A subsequent Feasibility Study in 2004 recommended the best option was to construct a replacement facility but to retain the east gymnasium and convert it to a theatre and drama support space.
- In April 2008, the Ministry engaged Stantec Consultants Ltd to conduct an independent review of the project. The final report was received by the Ministry in October 2008, and concurred with earlier recommendations to replace the school.
- The replacement school will have a capacity for 1,200 students and will include a Neighbourhood Learning Centre, partnering with Oak Bay Parks and Recreation, with the intention of incorporating day care space, after school care, activity rooms, and a teen centre.
- The School District is funding 100 additional spaces for International students from its Local Capital reserve.
- In addition to these features, the District of Oak Bay has pledged \$1,000,000 to the development of a performing arts theatre that will be converted from an existing gymnasium.

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- Similar to the Vancouver Kitsilano Secondary project, the Oak Bay High School project budget was revised after the Board of Education Chair signed the project agreement. In this case, the body of the agreement has been amended by hand to indicate the revised funding amounts [Section 3.01 (a), (b), (c) on Page 4, and Section 3.04 on Page 6] and a revised Project Financial Summary, Schedule B, has been inserted.
- The original Agreement and Schedule B has also been amended to reflect the Board's Local Capital Reserve as the funding source for the additional 100 spaces for international students. The original document incorrectly records the source as Ministry of Education Restricted Capital
- An approval letter to the Board Chair, outlining specific conditions pertaining to the project, is included as part of this Project Agreement package. A revised Project Financial Summary, Schedule B, is included in the Project Agreement. The letter, amended agreement and accompanying documentation will lay out the obligations of the Board to deliver the capital project within the approved scope and budget.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:** n/a

<u>Contact Information</u>  Resource Management Div. 356-7984 12215-20/SD61-105242		Approved by:  
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: Feb. 3, 2012

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division.

**SUBJECT:** Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP)

### **BACKGROUND:**

Beginning in 2010, government and public sector organizations (including school districts) were required to be carbon neutral under the *Greenhouse Gas Reductions Targets Act*. For school districts to be carbon neutral they must purchase carbon offsets for operations-related emissions from the Pacific Carbon Trust. In 2010, the total cost of carbon offsets for all school districts was \$4.4 million; in 2011 it was \$4.8 million (aggregate \$9.2 million).

On April 5, 2012, the Minister of Environment announced a new annual capital program for school districts. The amount will be equal to or greater than the amount spent by school districts on carbon offsets the previous year, and for 2012/13 will be \$5 million. The Carbon Neutral Capital Program (CNCP) is to be administered by the Ministry of Education. Funding has been added to the Ministry of Education's 2012/13 capital budget; however Treasury Board has

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Staff from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment met with representatives from education partner associations (BC School Trustees Association, BC School Superintendents Association, BC Association of School Business Officials and the Education Facility Managers Association of BC) on April 24, 2012 to discuss program design. The participants agreed on a number of key points:

- In the first year, priority should be with school districts that did not receive funding from previous energy efficiency capital programs, i.e. the Public Sector Energy Conservation Agreement (PSECA) and the Energy Efficient Mechanical Upgrade (EEMU) program.
- Given the urgency to identify and complete projects before March 31, 2013, program design for Year One will be different than in future years of the program.
- The program should fund projects that will measurably reduce emissions, even if this means funding is not available for every school district every year.
- Program funding should be distributed equitably, at least over a certain number of years, so that all school districts benefit from the program over time.
- The program should attempt to leverage funds from other sources, such as school district AFG funds, Fortis BC, BC Hydro, etc., particularly after Year One.
- Some 2012/13 program funding should be made available to fund consulting services in school districts that do not have funded BC Hydro Energy Managers or Fortis BC Energy Specialists, to help them identify effective emissions-reducing projects.

## DISCUSSION:

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## LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES: Ministry of Environment Attachment

<u>Contact Information</u>  Resource Management Division  356-7814	<b>OSB KM</b>	<b>Approved by:</b>
	<b>ADM initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: May 29, 2012</b>

Page 5 redacted for the following reason:

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## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division

**SUBJECT:** Proposed gym expansion project at Clearview Elementary-Junior Secondary School in School District No. 60 (Peace River North)

### BACKGROUND:

- Clearview Elementary Jr. Secondary school is located in the community of Flatrock, situated 50 km east of Fort St. John.
- The current K-10 school was originally opened in September 1969 as an elementary school with a gymnasium designed for elementary students.
- The Board had included a \$6.5 million addition project for a new gym and community hall in its 2010/11 five-year capital plan submission, but without a supporting Project Identification Report (PIR).
- Based on a preliminary plan developed by KMBR Architects, the community and School District are now proposing a smaller scope gym expansion with a reduced budget of \$3.6 million.

### DISCUSSION:

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### LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES: n/a

<u>Contact Information</u>  Resource Management Div. 356-7814	<b>OSB DS for KM</b>	<b>Approved by:</b>
	<b>ADM Initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: May 10, 2012</b>

Pages 7 through 8 redacted for the following reasons:

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## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division, to accompany a Capital Project Agreement.

**SUBJECT:** Capital Project Agreement for New South East Yorkson Area Elementary School in School District No. 35 (Langley).


### BACKGROUND:

- In October 2011, Government conditionally approved the construction of one new Elementary school and one new Middle school in the Langley School District. The Projects were previously supported as a part of the 2010/2011 Capital Plan Submissions.
- Treasury Board delegated authority to the Minister to approve the elementary project.
- A Capital Project Agreement has been completed to deliver the new Southeast Yorkson Area Elementary School with three full day kindergarten and eighteen elementary classrooms to accommodate 450 grade 1 -7 students at a total cost of \$12,647,479. In addition an allowance for identified risks of \$1,159,588 is included as a part of the project agreement to cover potential LEED®, offsite, hazardous materials and soil issues, as well as escalation contingencies. The project also includes a Neighbourhood Learning Centre.
- An event is scheduled on May 11, 2012 in Langley where the Minister and the Chair, Langley Board of Education will sign the Agreement.
- Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2012 with an anticipated occupancy date of September 2013.
- Planning continues on the supported Middle School, and the Capital Project Agreement is expected to be ready for signing this summer.

### DISCUSSION:

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### LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES: n/a

<u>Contact Information</u>  Resource Management Div. 356-5067		Approved by: 
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister Date signed: May 4, 2012

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division, to accompany four Capital Project Funding Agreements.

**SUBJECT:** Capital Project Agreements for two new Elementary Schools and two Secondary School additions in School District No. 36 (Surrey)

**BACKGROUND:**

- In October 2011, Government conditionally approved the construction of two new Elementary Schools, the expansion of two Secondary schools and the acquisition of four school sites in School District No. 36 (Surrey). The projects were previously supported as part of the 2010/2011 Capital Plan Submissions.
- Treasury Board delegated authority to the Minister to approve these projects.
- Capital Project Agreements have been completed to deliver the projects as listed below. An event has been scheduled for May 25, 2012 in Surrey, where the Minister and the Chair, Surrey Board of Education, will sign the agreements.

New Elementary Schools				
School (Project #)	Capacity	Budget	Risk Allowance	Total
Clayton Area (108850)	80K/525E	\$14,027,699	\$1,503,121	\$15,530,820
South Newton (108852)	80K/475E	\$14,681,846	\$1,445,808	\$16,127,654
Total	160K/1000E	\$28,709,545	\$2,948,929	\$31,658,474

Secondary School Additions				
School (Project #)	Capacity Increase	Budget	Risk Allowance	Total
Fraser Heights (109840)	200	\$7,076,976	\$1,100,086	\$8,177,063
Panorama Ridge (115995)	300	\$8,372,798	\$855,486	\$9,228,284
Total	500	\$15,449,774	\$1,955,572	\$17,405,346


- All four projects will include a Neighbourhood Learning Centre component.
- The projects are expected to start construction in the summer of 2012 and to be completed for the September 2013 student enrolment.
- The Board continues to seek appropriate options for acquisition of the approved sites. These will be brought forward for final approval when appropriate.

**DISCUSSION:**

- Partnerships BC carried out a procurement review for these projects, and recommended using Design-Bid-Build (DBB) for each. The district will use a modified repeat design of Langley's Lynn Fripps Elementary for the new elementary schools. DBB was also recommended for the secondary additions, given the scope of these projects.

- As recommended in the review, the school district will tender the two elementary projects as a package, and the secondary additions as a second package on a separate tender.
- Included with the note is a letter for the Minister's signature acknowledging approval of these projects.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:** n/a

<u>Contact Information</u>  Resource Management Div. 356-7814		<b>Approved by:</b>  
	<b>ADM Initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: May 4, 2012</b>

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for Information,  
at the request of the Resource Management Division

**SUBJECT:** Ministerial signing of Disposal of Land or Improvements approval  
forms for three surplus properties pending immediate sale in  
SD No. 54 (Bulkley Valley), SD No. 59 (Peace River South) and  
SD No. 60 (Peace River North)

### BACKGROUND:

- The Disposal of Land and Improvements Order was amended in September 2008 to require Minister of Education approval for the disposal of any board-owned property either through sale, exchange, or lease of greater than 10 years.
- An approval form signed by the Minister, or designate, must be presented to Land Title Office to meet its documentation and registration requirements in allowing transfer of title of a board-owned property to the purchaser.

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- This initiative is across government and applies to all entities within the Government Reporting Entity (GRE) which includes boards of education

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### DISCUSSION:

#### a. Portion of an existing school site

- Attached for ministerial signature is a Disposal of Land or Improvements form in regards to the pending sale of a 1.36 hectare (3.36 acre) parcel of vacant agricultural land in SD 54 (Bulkley Valley).
- The parcel is adjacent to the current Quick Elementary School site, which was closed in 2008 due to declining local enrolment.
- The property was one of two separate parcels received in 1987 as part of a land exchange to secure a site for the replacement Quick Elementary School.
- The prospective buyer of the adjacent parcel is the S. 22
- The 2011 property assessment shows an assessed value of \$44,000 for the property.

**b. School site for alternate community use**

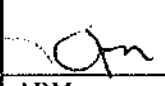
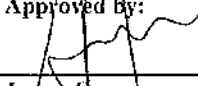
- SD 59 (Peace River South) is seeking to complete the sale of Parkhill Elementary School located in Dawson Creek to an independent school, Mountain Christian School.
- Parkhill School was built in 1958 and has remained closed since June 2010, partly due to its poor building condition.
- The recent VFA facility condition assessment identified a Facility Condition Index (FCI) of 0.65, confirming the poor condition of the unoccupied school, which has remained unheated by the District to avoid energy costs.
- Mountain Christian School was aware of the building condition when it entered into the sales agreement, having secured financing to purchase the school for \$200,000 and to make necessary upgrades for occupancy in September 2012.
- The School District indicates an estimated cost of \$350,000 to demolish the deteriorating building, which would leave vacant land valued at approximately \$200,000.
- Under the Disposal of Land or Improvements Order, boards are authorized to dispose of land or improvements to an independent school for continued educational purposes without ministerial approval.
- This condition will cause Land Title Office to place a restrictive covenant on title of the Parkhill Elementary property, limiting its current and future use to educational purposes.
- Attached for ministerial signature is a Disposal of Land or Improvements form, which is required by Land Title Office to allow transfer of title to the Peace Christian School without placement of a restrictive covenant.

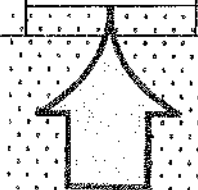
**c. Non-school sites**

- Attached for ministerial signature is a Disposal of Land or Improvements form in regards to the pending sale of a house constructed in Fort St. John by Grade 12 students enrolled in the Residential Construction Program in SD 60 (Peace River North).
- The disposal proceeds will be used by the District to offset ongoing Program costs.
- Ministerial approval has previously been granted for the disposal of similar houses constructed in this School District, as well as in SD No. 23 (Central Okanagan).

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:** Land Title and Survey Authority of BC

Attachments

Contact Information		Approved by:
Resource Management Division		
250-356-7814	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: April 30/12



Date Drafted: April 23, 2012  
Revision No.:

**HERE  
SIGN**

Cliff No: 158910



## DISPOSAL OF LAND OR IMPROVEMENTS

The Board of Education of School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) is seeking to dispose of land or improvements in accordance with Section 96 (3) of the *School Act* and Section 5 of the Disposal of Land or Improvements Order (M193/08), as follows:

☒ Sale of Land or/  
Improvements      ☐ Conveyance      ☐ Dedication  
☐ Exchange      ☐ Lease      ☐ Other

### Description:

The Board of Education of School District No. 54 (Bulkley Valley) requests that ministerial approval be granted to dispose of the property located in the rural community of Quick, and more particularly described as:

### Legal Description:

PID: 012-057-550

BLOCK 2 DISTRICT LOT 2124 RANGE 5 COAST DISTRICT PLAN 3448

with boundaries approximately as shown in the attached site plan.

The request and supporting documentation have been reviewed and the granting of ministerial approval for the disposition of the property is recommended.

  
Resource Management Division

26 - Apr - 2012  
Date

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Ministry of  
Education

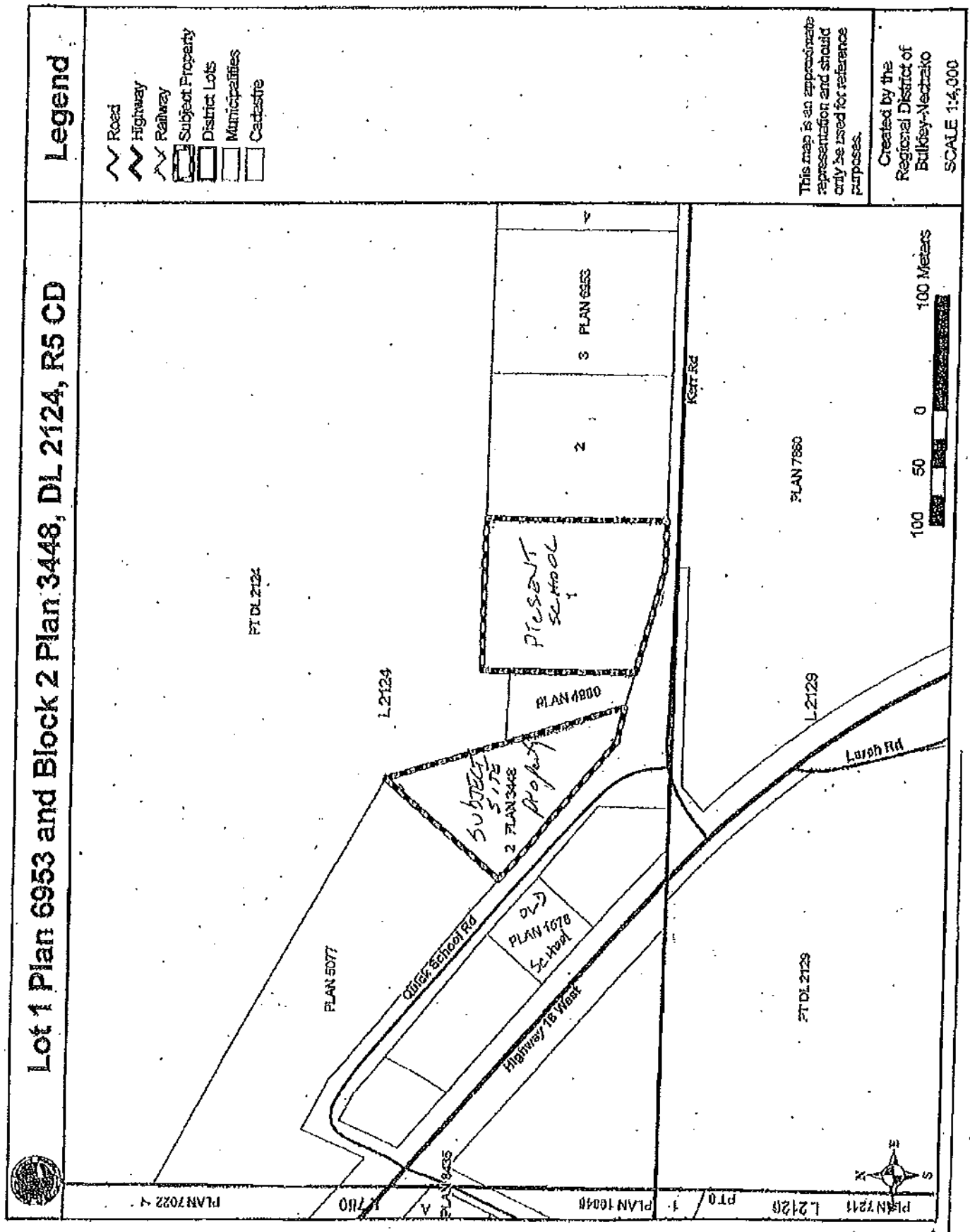
Resource Management  
Division

Mailing Address:  
PO BOX 9151 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9H1  
Telephone: (250) 356-2588  
Facsimile: (250) 953-4985

Location:  
5th Floor  
620 Superior St  
Victoria BC

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## DISPOSAL OF LAND OR IMPROVEMENTS

The Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) is seeking to dispose of land or improvements in accordance with Section 96 (3) of the *School Act* and Section 5 of the Disposal of Land or Improvements Order (M193/08), as follows:

☒ Sale of Land or/  
Improvements      ☐ Conveyance      ☐ Dedication  
☐ Exchange      ☐ Lease      ☐ Other

### Description:

The Board of Education of School District No. 59 (Peace River South) requests that ministerial approval be granted to dispose of the property commonly known as 9700 – 5<sup>th</sup> Street, City of Dawson Creek, and more particularly described as:

### Legal Description:

PID: 013-293-338

LOT 2 BLOCK 3 PLAN 8308 PEACE RIVER LAND DISTRICT

The request and supporting documentation have been reviewed and the granting of ministerial approval for the disposition of the property is recommended.

  
Resource Management Division

26-Apr-12  
Date

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Ministry of  
Education

Resource Management  
Division

Mailing Address:  
PO BOX 9151 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9H1  
Telephone: (250) 356-2588  
Facsimile: (250) 953-4985

Location:  
5th Floor  
620 Superior St  
Victoria BC

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## DISPOSAL OF LAND OR IMPROVEMENTS

The Board of Education of School District No. 60 (Peace River North) is seeking to dispose of land or improvements in accordance with Section 96 (3) of the *School Act* and Section 5 of the Disposal of Land or Improvements Order (M193/08), as follows:

☒ Sale of Land or/  
Improvements      ☐ Conveyance      ☐ Dedication  
☐ Exchange      ☐ Lease      ☐ Other

### Description:

The Board of Education of School District No. 60 (Peace River North) requests that ministerial approval be granted to dispose of the property commonly known as 8712 – 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue, City of Fort St. John, and more particularly described as:

### Legal Description:

PID: 028-336-704

LOT 107 SECTION 6 TOWNSHIP 84 RANGE 18 WEST OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MERIDIAN  
PEACE RIVER DISTRICT PLAN EPP7754

with boundaries approximately as shown in the attached plot plan.

The request and supporting documentation have been reviewed and the granting of ministerial approval for the disposition of the property is recommended.

  
Resource Management Division

26 - Apr - 13  
Date

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Ministry of  
Education

Resource Management  
Division

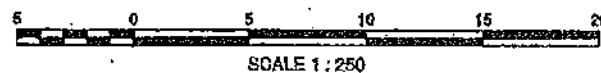
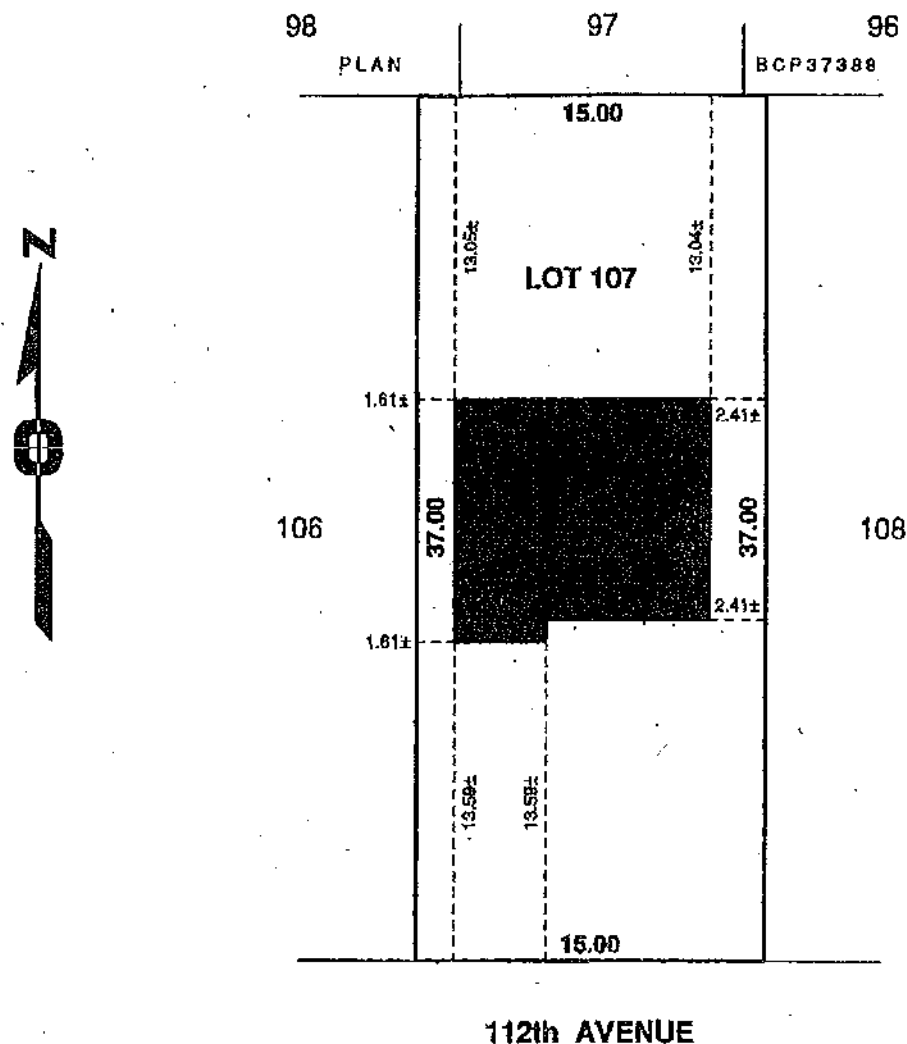
Mailing Address:  
PO BOX 9151 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9H1  
Telephone: (250) 356-2588  
Facsimile: (250) 953-4985

Location:  
5th Floor  
620 Superior St  
Victoria BC

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**B.C. LAND SURVEYOR'S LOCATION CERTIFICATE OF FORMS ON  
LOT 107 SECTION 6 TOWNSHIP 84 RANGE 18 WEST OF THE 6TH MERIDIAN  
PEACE RIVER DISTRICT PLAN EPP7754**



Parcel Identification No: 028-336-704  
 Civic Address: 8712 - 112th Avenue, Fort St. John, B.C.  
 Client: School District No. 60 Peace River North  
 Focus file number: 111122CL01R0  
 Elevations: Top of curb = 100.00 (assumed); Top of forms = 101.68

**NOTES:**

- Dimensions are shown in metres and decimals thereof.
- Property line dimensions are derived from plan EPP7754.
- Clearances shown are measured to the exterior of the styrofoam form walls.
- For statutory right of way, see BA460352, and BA460353.
- For statutory building scheme, see CA1831676.

This plan is not suitable for mortgage purposes. It was prepared for municipal purposes and is for the exclusive use of our client.

This document shows the relative location of the surveyed structures and features with respect to the boundaries of the parcel described above. This document shall not be used to define property lines or property corners.

All rights reserved. No person may copy, reproduce, transmit or alter this document in whole or in part without the consent of the signatory.

The signatory accepts no responsibility or liability for any damages that may be suffered by a third party as a result of any decisions made, or actions taken based on this document.

Certified Correct on this 21st day of September, 2011, According to Land Title & Survey Authority Records and Field Surveys. Unregistered interests have not been included or considered.

David E. Gosling, BCLS

This document is not valid unless originally signed and sealed.  
 ©Focus 2011

**FOCUS** Fort St. John  
 10716-100th Ave.  
 B.C. V1J 1Z2  
 Ph. (250) 787-0300  
 Fax (250) 787-1811  
 www.focus.ca  
**Focus Surveys**  
 PCL Land Services United Partnership

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division, to accompany a Capital Project Agreement.

**SUBJECT:** Gibsons Elementary School Replacement Project  
Project No. 114755  
School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)

### BACKGROUND:

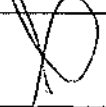
- The Capital Project Agreement for the replacement of Gibsons Elementary has been prepared for the signatures of the Minister and the Chair, Board of Trustees, School District No 46 (Sunshine Coast).
- The original Gibsons Elementary School, located in Gibsons, BC, was constructed in 1950. The school has a capacity for two full-day Kindergarten classes and 400 grade 1 to 7 students. The September 2011 enrolment was 40 Kindergarten and 241 grade 1-7 students.
- The project was supported in the 2005/06 capital plan as a renovation and seismic upgrade based on a poor facility audit score and a moderate-high seismic ranking.
- A feasibility study from October 2006 concluded that renovating the school was a more costly option than replacing it with a smaller, more energy-efficient facility.
- The Capital Project Agreement has been prepared for the Board to deliver the project at a cost of \$14,384,439 (Project No. 114755). This work is scheduled to be undertaken from the summer of 2012 to the fall of 2014 with demolition of the old building to be complete by the end of 2014. A contingency reserve of up to \$1,949,953 will be provided to deal with identified risks.
- Treasury Board has delegated approval authority for this project to the Minister.
- Board representatives will attend the Minister's office on April 24, 2012 to sign the Capital Project Agreement.

### DISCUSSION:

- The District will engage the services of a Project Manager to oversee the completion of this project; construction will be procured through a design-build contract using the recently constructed Westview Elementary School in Powell River, as an indicative design model.
- The new elementary school, to be built to LEED® Gold standard, will include two full day kindergarten classes, a nominal capacity of 300 elementary students in grades 1 to 7, as well as a Strong Start Centre and a Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC).
- The NLC will incorporate an early childhood development centre, health and wellness screening office, community kitchen and an intergenerational multipurpose room.
- By replacing the school adjacent to the existing building, temporary accommodation costs will be avoided. After completion of the new school, the existing school will be demolished and playfields will be developed on the footprint of the old building.
- The Board will provide regular progress reports to the Ministry that will include the achievement of specific project milestones and quarterly cash flow forecasts.

- The Board will inform the Minister about the award of the construction contract and will consult with the Ministry with respect to any planned public events.
- The letter of approval and two copies of the Capital Project Agreement accompany this Information Note.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:** n/a

<u>Contact Information</u>		Approved by:
Resource Management Division Phone: 356-7814		James Gorman Deputy Minister
	ADM Initial	Date signed: April 23/12

## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information** at the request of Assistant Deputy Minister, Open Government Services Division.

**SUBJECT:** Impact on public libraries of cancellation of Industry Canada funding for Community Access Program sites.

### **KEY POINTS:**

- 1) Since 1994, Industry Canada's Community Access Program (CAP) has helped pay for public internet terminals in libraries, community centres, and other public locations across Canada. The program has been very beneficial in supporting public library electronic service development, training, e-government access and community partnerships in British Columbia.
- 2) On April 5, 2012, Industry Canada announced that CAP site funding will not be renewed for FY2012/13.
- 3) Demand for free public internet, assistance and training is higher than ever; the cancellation of the CAP program places additional financial pressures on BC's public libraries.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Since 1994, the federal government's CAP, has provided residents of rural, remote and urban communities across Canada with affordable access to the Internet and the opportunities to develop the skills to use it effectively. These sites are known as CAP sites. Nearly 30 percent of CAP sites in BC are located in public libraries.

A partnership between the Province and Industry Canada resulted in the creation of CAP sites in approximately 150 public library locations in BC. Funding through the CAP program has varied from year to year, averaging approximately \$600K for public libraries in BC annually.

CAP funding has traditionally provided for computer hardware and software, connectivity, and training. This program has been instrumental in the development and maintenance of public library electronic service development in BC. Citizens in many communities across the Province rely on the equipment and services.

### **DISCUSSION:**

On April 5, 2012, Industry Canada began sending out notices to groups that administer the Community Access Program. The letter announced that CAP site funding will not be renewed for FY2012/13.

Many citizens without Internet access at home rely on internet access in public libraries.

According to a 2010 Statistics Canada Internet use survey, 21 percent of Canadian households do not have an internet connection. And while 97 percent of households in the top income quartile have internet access at home, only 54 percent of households with incomes of \$30,000 or less have home access. Cost of service and/or equipment is the primary barrier cited for having no internet access at home.

In light of the Statistics Canada findings and in response to ever-increasing information, tools and resources online and increased financial pressures on families, it is perhaps not surprising that use of public internet stations in libraries is higher than ever. In addition to providing access to the internet, public libraries provide training and assistance in learning to use technology and accessing online information.

Public internet workstations in BC's libraries were used more than 4.2 million times in 2010. This figure includes approximately 2.52 million uses in the CAP-supported libraries. This usage represents an increase of 31 percent since 2005.

70 percent of CAP sites in BC are located in schools and community centres. Decrease or elimination of service in these other CAP locations will place higher demands on public libraries for the provision of internet access and assistance.

Public libraries operate on a fiscal year that aligns with the calendar year and budgets for 2011 have already been approved. The Industry Canada notification letters came without advance warning to current CAP sites, thus creating an added pressure to their current budgets.

The CAP program benefited libraries and citizens by supporting digital literacy, open information, and access to online government services. Internet in public libraries supports student learning and provides a technological framework for Education Plan initiatives, such as the virtual learning commons.

Elimination of CAP site funding for computer hardware, software, connectivity, and training will mean that public library CAP sites will be required to absorb the full cost of electronic service provision from other parts of their budgets, likely resulting in reduced services and programming.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES: None**

**ATTACHMENT:** Industry Canada CAP Site Notification Letter

<u>Contact Information</u>  Libraries and Literacy Branch 250.356.1791 Department File		<b>Approved by:</b>
	<b>ADM initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: Apr. 16, 2012</b>



APR 05 2012

Dear

I am writing regarding the Community Access Program (CAP) and its Youth Initiative (CAP YI) in order to inform you about their status.

As you know, CAP was officially launched in 1995 to provide Canadians with access to the Internet and its economic benefits. In 1997, CAP YI, with funding through the Youth Employment Strategy (YES), was added to provide young Canadians, aged 15 to 30, with information and communications technology related work experience that facilitates their transition to the labour market.

CAP has contributed to bringing computer and Internet technologies to Canadians across the country, and has successfully achieved its objectives. In these challenging fiscal times, the Government remains committed to prioritizing expenditures and returning to budget balance. CAP was scheduled to end March 31, 2012, and will not be renewed.

Federal funding will continue for CAP YI to support youth internships at community Internet sites. This will provide young Canadians with vital skills and work experience needed to make a successful transition to the workplace. Former CAP-supported sites will continue to be eligible for this funding. More information

...2

Canada

regarding CAP YI will become available on Industry Canada's website in the coming weeks.

Program staff will communicate with the persons responsible for the program in your organization in order to discuss the implementation of this decision.

I would like to thank you for your contribution towards the success of the Community Access Program.

Sincerely,



Lisa Setlakwe  
Director General  
Regional Operations Sector  
Industry Canada

## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division

**SUBJECT:** Updated unit rates for public school construction projects

### **BACKGROUND:**

- New space project budgets are calculated using standard unit cost rates (i.e., cost per square meter), which are developed and updated for the Ministry by contracted professional cost consultants based on a prototypical school design and outline specifications.
- Location-specific cost factors (Location Factor) are also provided by the cost consultants quarterly; these are applied to the unit rate to recognize a range of increased construction costs for regions outside of Surrey/Langley/Abbotsford (the base location).
- Unit rate and prototypical school specifications were last set in 2001, with subsequent updates to the location factors made on a quarterly basis until 2008.
- In the following period of rapid cost inflation, the Ministry provided for continued escalating costs through the upward adjustment of the location factor for individual projects based on cost consultant recommendations at the time of tender award for each project.
- In 2009, the Ministry undertook a comprehensive review of recently constructed public schools to evaluate design specifications and features, and to confirm as-constructed final project costs. This review involved representatives from the Ministry and selected school districts, as well as individual cost consultants and design professionals.
- Cost consultants have recently provided the Ministry with revised unit rates for elementary, middle and secondary schools based on newly updated prototypical school models.
- These updates will ensure the development of appropriate space project budgets, which account for current design and construction practices that embrace enhanced construction quality, increased use of sustainable materials, reduced energy consumption, and improved life cycle cost efficiency.

### **DISCUSSION:**

- Based on the review of new schools and advice provided by the cost consultants, the Ministry is recommending the following updates:

#### **Unit Rates and Location Factors**

- Increase the base unit rates for new elementary, middle and secondary schools, and reset location factors for school districts using Surrey/Langley/Abbotsford as the base location with a location factor of 1.000, as shown in the following table.

	Current Unit Rates			Updated Unit Rates		
	Base Unit Rate	Base Location Factor (Surrey)	Adjusted Unit Rate	Base Unit Rate	Base Location Factor (Surrey)	Adjusted Unit Rate
Elementary	\$1,035/m <sup>2</sup>	1.698	\$1,757/m <sup>2</sup>	\$1,765/m <sup>2</sup>	1.000	\$1,765/m <sup>2</sup>
Middle	\$1,050/m <sup>2</sup>	1.698	\$1,783/m <sup>2</sup>	\$1,785/m <sup>2</sup>	1.000	\$1,785/m <sup>2</sup>
Secondary	\$1,065/m <sup>2</sup>	1.698	\$1,808/m <sup>2</sup>	\$1,810/m <sup>2</sup>	1.000	\$1,810/m <sup>2</sup>

- The net effect of resetting the location factors will result in a minimal increase in unit rates.
- A more detailed comparison of current and proposed unit rates and school site development allowances using Surrey is provided in Attachment 1.
- A listing of revised location factors for major communities across the province is provided in Attachment 2.

### **School Design Specifications**

- Update specifications to ensure compliance with recent BC Building Code amendments and WorkSafe BC requirements.
- Change the prototypical elementary school from basic non-combustible construction to wood frame construction, in compliance with the objectives of government's Wood First Initiative.
- Enhance building envelope design to increase building longevity. (e.g. overhangs added to flat roofs for weather projection of exterior walls.)
- Modify HVAC and electrical system specifications to address increased energy efficiency requirements.
- Increase day lighting in middle schools to improve learning environment.
- Include vandal-proof shutters on ground floor windows.

### **Building Allowance**

- Adjust project size costing factor to recognize more reasonable expectations for economies of scale in the construction of large secondary schools (i.e., greater than 1,700 student capacity); moving the factor from 0.93 to 0.98 provides a more realistic funding level for this type of school project.
- Eliminate existing air conditioning adjustments of – (\$80/m<sup>2</sup> for elementary schools and \$100/m<sup>2</sup> for middle and secondary schools), as present HVAC technology and updated outline specifications typically permit mechanical cooling without additional cost.
- Eliminate existing 3.0 percent allowance premium for two-storey elementary schools, as cost savings incurred with the reduced footprint (i.e., smaller roofs and foundations) offset typical additional access costs (i.e., elevators and stairs).

### **Site Allowance**

- Increase site development allowance to address new BC Building Code and local government site requirements for storm water retention and servicing, with an expectation for an overall reduction in the number and cost of specific supplementary site costs typically claimed by school districts.

- Include the additional cost of adventure-style playground equipment and all-weather playfields (i.e., irrigated and drained natural turf) in the site development allowance for new elementary schools.
- The cost of parking stalls has been increased to address the current cost of providing municipally required stalls to current building code.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:** n/a

Attachments (2)

<u>Contact Information</u>  Resource Management Division Phone: 356-7814	<b>OSB KM</b>	<b>Approved by:</b>
	<b>ADM Initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: May 17, 2012</b>

### Existing 2001 Unit Rates Compared to Proposed 2012 Unit Rates (Surrey)

Base Rate	July 2009 (Note 1)	Proposed 2010	% Change	January 2012 (Note 2)	Proposed 2012	% Change
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#### Base Unit Rate for Buildings

Elementary	<b>1,035</b>	2,067	2,075	0.4%	1,757	<b>1,765</b>	0.4%
Middle	<b>1,050</b>	2,097	2,032	-3.1%	1,783	<b>1,785</b>	0.1%
Secondary	<b>1,065</b>	2,127	2,095	-1.5%	1,808	<b>1,810</b>	0.1%

#### Table 7(a) Elementary Site Development

New Building - new Site	<b>363,000</b>	724,911	1,242,000	71.3%	616,374	<b>950,000</b>	54.1%
New Building - existing Site	<b>259,000</b>	517,223	864,000	67.0%	439,782	<b>700,000</b>	59.2%
500 m2 addition	<b>16,000</b>	31,952	45,000	40.8%	27,168	<b>45,000</b>	65.6%
1000 m2 addition	<b>57,000</b>	113,829	135,000	18.6%	96,786	<b>130,000</b>	34.3%

#### Table 7(b) Middle & Secondary School Site Development

New Building - new Site under 1,500 cap	<b>699,000</b>	1,395,903	2,178,000	56.0%	1,186,902	<b>1,600,000</b>	34.8%
New Building - new Site over 1,500 cap	<b>932,000</b>	1,861,204	3,105,000	66.8%	1,582,536	<b>2,300,000</b>	45.3%
New Building - existing Site	<b>466,000</b>	930,602	1,305,000	40.2%	791,268	<b>950,000</b>	20.1%
500 m2 addition	<b>16,000</b>	31,952	36,000	12.7%	27,168	<b>45,000</b>	65.6%
1000 m2 addition	<b>57,000</b>	113,829	130,500	14.6%	96,786	<b>130,000</b>	34.3%
2000 m2 addition	<b>181,000</b>	361,457	405,000	12.0%	307,338	<b>350,000</b>	13.9%

<b>Parking Stalls</b>	<b>1,800</b>	3,595	4,600	28.0%	3,056	<b>4,500</b>	47.2%
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**Note 1:** Calculated with the period's location factor of 1.997

**Note 2:** Calculated with the period's location factor of 1.698

K-12 NON COMBUSTIBLE LOCATION FACTORS

SD	Community	LOCATION FACTOR
5	Cranbrook	1.150
5	Fernie	1.160
6	Golden	1.150
6	Invermere	1.150
6	Kimberley	1.150
8	Creston	1.150
8	Kaslo	1.175
8	Nelson	1.150
10	Nakusp	1.175
19	Revelstoke	1.150
20	Castlegar	1.125
20	Trail	1.125
22	Vernon	1.065
23	Kelowna	1.065
27	Williams Lake	1.225
28	Quesnel	1.225
33	Chilliwack	1.025
34	Abbotsford	1.000
35	Langley	1.000
36	Surrey	1.000
37	Delta	1.005
39	Vancouver	1.040
38	Richmond	1.015
40	New Westminster	1.025
41	Burnaby	1.035
42	Maple Ridge	1.025
43	Coquitlam	1.025
44	North Vancouver	1.060
45	West Vancouver	1.060
46	Sechelt	1.200
47	Powell River	1.250
28	Squamish	1.125
48	Whistler	1.225
49	Bella Coola	1.600
50	Haida Gwaii	1.650
51	Grand Forks	1.125
51	Midway	1.125
52	Prince Rupert	1.300
53	Keremeos	1.075
53	Oliver	1.100
54	Houston	1.300
57	Prince George	1.175
58	Merritt	1.075
58	Princeton	1.125
59	Dawson Creek	1.350
60	Fort St. John	1.375
61 - 63	Greater Victoria	1.050
64	Ganges	1.150
67	Penticton	1.060
67	Summerland	1.060
68	Nanaimo	1.060
69	Parksville	1.075
70	Port Alberni	1.135
71	Courtenay	1.125
72	Campbell River	1.125
73	Kamloops	1.040
73	Clearwater	1.125
74	Cache Creek	1.100
74	Lillooet	1.150
75	Mission	1.050
78	Agassiz	1.060
78	Hope	1.075
79	Duncan	-----
79	Lake Cowichan	1.125
81	Fort Nelson	1.400
82	Kitimat	1.450
82	Terrace	1.375
83	Armstrong	1.075
83	Salmon Arm	1.075
84	Gold River	1.300
85	Port Hardy	1.300
87	Stikine	1.950
91	Burns Lake	1.350
91	Vanderhoof	1.300
92	New Aiyansh	1.700



APR 16 2012

Our Ref: 157027

James Janzen, Chair  
Board of Education  
School District No. 40 (New Westminster)  
1001 Columbia St  
New Westminster BC V3M 1C4

Dear *James* Mr. Janzen:

I am pleased to advise the New Westminster Board of Education that the replacement of John Robson Elementary School, Project No. 114514, and a new west side middle school, Project No. 108928, have been approved.

It was a pleasure to meet with you and the Board and to jointly sign the Capital Project Agreements for each of these very important school projects. These agreements and accompanying documentation will lay out the obligations of the Board to deliver these capital projects within the approved scope and budget. In addition, Ministry of Education staff will be in contact with your office regarding the announcement of these projects.

The Ministry looks forward to working with your Board towards the completion of these important projects.

Yours truly,

George Abbott  
Minister

pc: John Woudzia, Superintendent of Schools  
Brian Sommerfeldt, Secretary-Treasurer

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Decision**, at the request of the Resource Management Division

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Capital Projects in SD 40 (New Westminster) for:

- Replacement of John Robson Elementary at the former St. Mary's Hospital site, and
- A new middle school at the John Robson Elementary site.

**BACKGROUND:**

These two projects have been supported by government along with the replacement of the New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS). Ministry supported the new West Side Middle School in its 2003/04 Capital Plan. The school is to be constructed on the site of John Robson Elementary School, and will enable the district to ease enrolment pressure at NWSS by accommodating Grade 8 students. In 2005/06 the Ministry supported a new elementary school to replace John Robson Elementary and funding of \$8.5 million was subsequently provided for the district to acquire the former St. Mary's Hospital site for the new school. Replacement of NWSS is expected to proceed as the middle school construction nears completion and will be submitted for approval in the future as project details are finalized.

Treasury Board recently delegated approval authority for the elementary and middle school projects to the Minister. Capital funding for both projects is included within the Ministry's capital allocated by government.

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Ministry staff have worked closely with school district officials to confirm the scope and budget for both projects. The new elementary school has a project construction budget of \$13.54 million and will accommodate 100 FDK/550 grade 1-5 students. The budget includes risk reserves of \$2.31 million for escalation, LEED Gold, unforeseen site issues and potential value-added tax impacts. The Board will contribute \$.395m from its Restricted Capital account towards the cost of the project.

The West Side Middle School has a project budget of \$20.71 million, and will accommodate 500 students in grades 6-8. The budget includes risk reserves of \$3.13 million for escalation, LEED Gold, unforeseen site issues and potential value-added tax impacts. The Board will contribute \$.485m from its Restricted Capital account towards the cost of the project. A budget for each project is attached.

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Construction of the elementary school is expected to begin in the fall of 2012 and complete in the fall/winter of 2013/14; the middle school will proceed as the elementary is completed and is expected to complete in fall 2015.

**DISCUSSION:**

The School District is in support of Design Build procurements for these projects and is ready to proceed quickly with a Request for Qualifications for the elementary school, followed by a Request for Proposals in late spring. Land exchange agreements between the Board of Education and the City of New Westminster have been approved for both sites.

Originally these two projects were to be brought forward for approval with the New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) replacement project. As these projects are ready to proceed now, and both must be constructed prior to starting the NWSS project, it is recommended the NWSS project be brought forward for approval in the future.

**OPTIONS:**


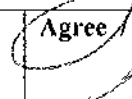
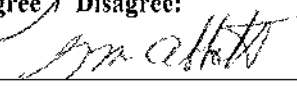
- Option 1: Approve the projects.  
Option 2: Do not approve the projects.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Option 1- a letter to the Board approving the projects is attached for the Minister's signature.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:** n/a

Attachment: Letter approving both projects

Contact Information		Agree / Disagree:	Agree  Disagree: 
Resource Management Division 356-7814	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
		Date signed:	Date signed:

## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister for **Information** in preparation for a meeting with MLA Dawn Black on March 29, 2012

**SUBJECT:** John Robson Elementary and West Side Middle School projects in School District No. 40 (New Westminster)

**ISSUE:**

MLA Dawn Black has requested a meeting to discuss the status of capital projects for John Robson Elementary and West Side Middle School in New Westminster.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Ministry supported the new West Side Middle School in its 2003/04 Capital Plan. The school is to be constructed on the site of John Robson Elementary School, and will enable the district to ease enrolment pressure on New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) by accommodating Grade 8 students. In 2005/06 the Ministry supported a new elementary school to replace John Robson Elementary; subsequently, funding of \$8.5 million was provided for the district to acquire the former St. Mary's Hospital site for the new school. Replacement of NWSS is also supported by government, and is expected to proceed as the middle school construction nears completion.

The West Side Middle School has a project budget of \$17.6 million, and will accommodate 500 students in grades 6-8. The new elementary school has a project construction budget of \$13.5 million and will accommodate 100 FDK/550 grade 1-5 students. Construction of the middle school will proceed as the elementary is completed in the Fall/Winter of 2013 and will be able to accommodate the elementary enrolment; grade 8 students will remain in NWSS until the middle school is completed in Fall/Winter 2015.

A procurement analysis has been carried out for both projects by Partnerships BC and a final report is anticipated by the end of March. It is expected that the analysis will recommend Design-Build as the preferred option. This is consistent with the district's preference for procurement.

Final scope and budget information is being compiled in preparation for submission of both projects for approval. Treasury Board recently delegated approval authority for these projects to the Minister, and it is expected that they will come forward in early April.

**DISCUSSION:**

Ministry staff are working with Partnerships BC and School District officials to finalize project documentation for submission to the Minister for approval. Final submissions are expected to be completed in early April.

Upon approval, the Board of Education will be directed to sign a Capital Project Agreement for each of the two schools and return these for approval in order that the projects may proceed.

Planning for the replacement of NWSS is underway, and it is expected that project approval will be sought at a future time, in order to allow the project to proceed as the middle school construction completes.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:** n/a

<u>Contact Information</u>  Resource Management Div. 356-7814	<i><b>OSB DS for KM</b></i>	<b>Approved by:</b>
	<b>ADM Initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: March 28, 2012</b>

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION INFORMATION NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the Request of the Achievement Division

**SUBJECT:** British Columbia School Superintendents Association (BCSSA):  
November 2012 Educational Leadership Conference

### BACKGROUND:

A primary focus of the BC School Superintendents Association is to enable their members to act as visionary leaders of public education by supporting professional development.

To support them in fulfilling their roles as organisational leaders, professional development opportunities are designed to address emerging issues, the changing needs of school district administrators, and the development and effective use of advanced educational and administrative approaches and technologies. For example, *Pathways to Personalization: Shifting Practice and Transitions* was the focus of the BCSSA's recent conference in February 2012 – a conference that was originally planned for November 2011 but was postponed due to job action.

In February 2012, the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) provided BCSSA with a \$25,000 contribution agreement to support the *Pathways to Personalization: Shifting Practice and Transitions* conference.

### DISCUSSION:

With the launch of BC's Education Plan, opportunities for the Ministry to work in partnership with BCSSA are critical. As John Abbott has argued on a number of occasions, including in his presentation at BCSSA's recent conference, one of the most significant leadership roles for enabling and enhancing personalized learning in British Columbia, is that of the superintendents.

By the end of March 2012, the Ministry will provide BCSSA with a \$50,000 contribution agreement for the 2012 Educational Leadership Conference scheduled to take place on November 15 and 16, 2012, at the Vancouver Conference Centre. The conference will again focus on personalized learning but will move the conversation forward by specifically addressing topics and issues relating to *Partnerships for Personalization: Leading and Transforming Together*.

The November BCSSA conference will extend its focus on the BC Education Plan and offer leadership support for the enhancement of personalized learning opportunities throughout the province. Education partners from across BC and the Pacific Northwest will come together and share innovative practices and deepen the dialogue on these important directions for personalized learning in British Columbia. The conference will be planned in consultation with members of the Ministry Executive. Its alignment with Ministry and government strategic directions will be further deliberated in the coming months.

**Theme** – 2012 Educational Leadership – *Partnerships for Personalization: Leading and Transforming Together*

**Keynote Speakers:**

- *Ben Levin*
- *Daniel Wilson*
- *David Hargreaves*
- *Andreas Schleicher – To be confirmed*

**Dates** – November 15 and 16, 2012

**Cost** – The Ministry will provide a \$50,000 contribution agreement to BCSSA

**Venue and Participants** – The conference will be held at the Vancouver Conference Centre. Participants will include Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and other district leaders from across BC. In addition, twelve (12) complimentary registration packages will be available for Ministry staff.

**Promotion/Legacy** – Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube will likely be used for pre-, during-, and post-conference promotion and information sharing. Post-event, all material will be available through virtual archives and continue to grow through post-session blogs and connections to the social media tools.

**Conference Planning** – Selected members of the Ministry Executive will support conference planning. All guest speakers for the conference will be selected in consultation with Ministry Executive.

<u>Contact Information</u>  <b>Maria Perri</b> <b>(250) 514 8310</b>		<b>Approved by:</b> <b>Paige MacFarlane</b> – on behalf of/
	<b>ADM initial</b>	<b>James Gorman</b> <b>Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed:</b>  March 20, 2012

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division, to accompany a capital project approval letter.

**SUBJECT:** Site acquisition for the new Southeast Yorkson Elementary (Project No. 110964) in School District No. 35 (Langley).


**BACKGROUND:**

- Funding of \$22.5 million for site acquisition and construction of the Southeast Yorkson Elementary was included in the Ministry's 2011/12 Capital Plan.
- In October 2011, the Premier announced government's support this new elementary school in the rapidly growing Willoughby Slope area of the Township of Langley.
- Treasury Board recently delegated approval authority for this project to the Minister.
- A procurement analysis is being carried out by Partnerships BC to confirm that the district will re-use the plan for Lynn Fripps Elementary School, currently under construction.
- Final scope and budget information to support the construction approval request is expected to be received by April 30, 2012.
- The school district has advised that acquisition of the site is required as soon as possible to enable clearing and site preparation and enable construction of the school to proceed to meet the preferred opening date of September 2013.
- The Board has requested early approval of funds to acquire the site in advance of the construction approval by the Minister.

**DISCUSSION:**

- The Langley Board of Education has entered into a purchase agreement for \$6,660,720, to acquire the site; an additional \$48,000 is required to cover appraisal and transfer fees.
- The Board is contributing \$1,677,180 in land capital reserve funds, generated through its collection of School Site Acquisition Charges, towards site costs.
- The Township of Langley owns an adjacent 2.023 hectare (4.999 acre) property that will be used to provide playfields for the elementary school and local community.
- The site requires clearing and preparation to accommodate the school.
- The Board wishes to complete the new school for opening in September 2013.
- A Minister's letter accompanies this note, authorizing the Board to proceed with the site acquisition.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES: n/a**

Contact Information  Capital Management Branch Resource Management Div. 356-7814	OSB KM	Approved by: 
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: April 13, 2012

## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, for **Information**, in preparation for a meeting with Marc Dalton, MLA (Maple Ridge-Mission), and representatives from the District of Maple Ridge, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Board of Education, and School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows), at the request of the Resource Management Division.

**SUBJECT:** Future school site acquisitions by School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) in the District of Maple Ridge.

### **BACKGROUND:**

- On November 10, 2011, the Board sent a letter to the Minister requesting approval to use current and future School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC) funds to purchase school sites on a site-by-site submission basis using a negotiated purchase agreement with the District of Maple Ridge.
- The Board further proposed to develop a land purchase agreement for use in negotiating with the land owners of specific sites deemed necessary for acquisition as future school sites.
- The Minister responded by referring to the authority of boards of education under the *School Act* to acquire land to meet eligible school site requirements identified for the purposes of collecting SSACs from residential developers.
- Since 1996, the Board has acquired four sites for new schools; to date, but only two sites have been fully built out:
  - Edith McDermott Elementary site in Pitt Meadows - acquired in 1996 with new school opened in 1998.
  - Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary site in Albion area of Maple Ridge – acquired in 2000 with new school opened in 2005.
  - Pitt Meadows Middle School in Pitt Meadows – acquired in 2001 for \$1.9 million, but currently surplus due to declining enrolment.
  - Albion South Elementary in Albion area of Maple Ridge – acquired in 2006 for \$3.8 million (including \$1.6 million in SSAC funds) with new school projects awaiting Ministry capital plan funding approval.
- The Board has also previously acquired two new school sites for replacement schools:
  - Whonnock Elementary in Maple Ridge re-located on a new site in 1995.
  - Alexander Robinson Elementary in Maple Ridge re-located on a new site in 1995.
- In the past 20 years, the majority of new space required in the School District was created by addition projects at existing schools.
- Since 2001, the Board has closed four schools across the School District due to declining enrolment.

## DISCUSSION:

- The participants are likely to refer to an innovative approach to future site acquisitions in Maple Ridge that uses the Board's land capital reserve as a 'revolving' account, rather than strictly as a source of contributory capital funding for approved school site acquisitions.
- The proposed approach is strongly advocated by Mike Murray, recently s.22 General Manager of Community Development, Parks and Recreation for the District of Maple Ridge and now Board Chair.
- The main features of the proposed approach include:
  - School sites will initially be purchased by leveraging available SSAC funds and borrowing through the District of Maple Ridge.
  - When a new school project is approved in a future Ministry capital plan, the final project budget would include the complete site acquisition cost, in addition to school design and construction costs.
  - The site acquisition funds made available by the Province would then replenish the Board's land capital account, and be used to retire any outstanding municipal loans, to purchase another future school site, or to facilitate further borrowing through the District of Maple Ridge.
- The School District is currently experiencing some population growth in the Albion area of the District of Maple Ridge.
- Completion funding for the new Albion South Elementary (80 Kindergarten/450 Elementary) was the Board's first priority request in its 2010/11 Capital Plan submission.
- The project was ranked by the Ministry as a high priority, but was not included in the Ministry's capital plan announcement on October 31, 2011.
- There are nine elementary schools currently serving the Albion area with current enrolments exceeding capacity by only 18 students.
- Projected student enrolments (Albion area only) indicate the need of approximately 450 additional spaces by 2015/16.

## LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES: n/a

<u>Contact Information</u>  Capital Management Branch Resource Management Div. 356-7814	<i>DS on behalf of KM</i>	Approved by:
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: March 5, 2012

Pages 40 through 41 redacted for the following reasons:

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## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**,  
at the request of the Resource Management Division

**SUBJECT:** Ministerial signing of Disposal of Land or Improvements approval  
forms to allow exchange of minor property portions between  
School District No. 70 (Alberni) and the City of Port Alberni.

### **BACKGROUND:**

- The Disposal of Land and Improvements Order was amended in September 2008 to support government's commitment to deliver Neighbourhood Learning Centres and early learning initiatives in schools throughout British Columbia.
- The Order requires that the Minister of Education approve the disposal of any board-owned property either through sale, exchange, or lease of greater than 10 years.
- An approval form signed by the Minister of Education, or designate, must be provided to the board of education to meet documentation and registration requirements of Land Title Office in allowing transfer of title to be completed.

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### **DISCUSSION:**


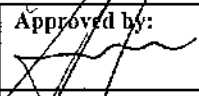
- In a letter dated August 8, 2011, the Alberni School District requested ministerial approval for a minor land exchange with the City of Port Alberni.
- This land exchange will adjust the property line between the replacement Alberni District Secondary School site and the adjacent civic facilities site to allow accommodation of a full sized sports field on the school site.
- The District previously acquired the replacement school site through a major land exchange with the City, following a comprehensive community consultation at that time.
- Shared Services BC staff supporting the project management team have been advised of the exceptional nature of this minor land exchange involving no generation of sales proceeds and that the Alberni School District will be provided with the necessary ministerial approval under the Order to complete this land transaction.
- Attached for ministerial signature is a Disposal of Land or Improvements form that will permit Land Title Office to register the small portion (231 m<sup>2</sup> or 2,490 ft<sup>2</sup>) of the school site back in the name of the City of Port Alberni.
- As this disposition does not involve the generation of sales proceeds, the signed disposal form will be forwarded immediately to the Alberni School District to allow the necessary completion of the land exchange.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:**

Ministry of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government

BC Land Title and Survey Authority

Attachment

<u>Contact Information</u>		Approved by:
Resource Management Division		
356-7814	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: March 7/12



## DISPOSAL OF LAND OR IMPROVEMENTS

The Board of Education of School District No. 70 (Alberni) is seeking to dispose of land or improvements in accordance with Section 96(3) of the *School Act* and Section 5 of the Disposal of Land or Improvements Order (M193/08), as follows:

<input type="checkbox"/> Sale of Land or/ Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/> Conveyance	<input type="checkbox"/> Dedication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Lease	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

### Description:

The Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Alberni) requests that ministerial approval be granted to dispose of a portion of the property commonly known as the Roger Street site, located in the City of Port Alberni, and more particularly described as:

### Legal Description:

PID: 028-110-366

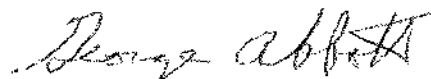
LOT 2 DISTRICT LOTS 1 AND 92 ALBERNI DISTRICT PLAN VIP87123

The request and supporting documentation have been reviewed and the granting of ministerial approval for the disposition of the property is recommended.

  
Resource Management Division

5 - March - 2012  
Date

Approved

  
Minister of Education

12 / Mar / 2012  
Date

Ministry of  
Education

Resource Management  
Division

Mailing Address:  
PO BOX 9151 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9H1  
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620 Superior St  
Victoria BC

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EDU-2012-00059

## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information** at the request of Achievement Division regarding BC Rural Education Partners' Council

**SUBJECT:** BC Rural Education Strategy: Creation of BC Rural Education Partners' Council (REPC)

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Ministry is focused on the creation of partnerships designed to support achievement in rural and remote school communities. Various complicating factors face rural and remote schools including enrolment decline, aboriginal student achievement, and economic vulnerability. As a result, the Ministry must allocate its 'rural-focused' resources in strategic ways so that sustainable partnerships, networks, and support systems are leveraged for long-term benefits.

### **PURPOSE:**

As part of an overarching provincial rural strategy, the Ministry is establishing a BC Rural Education Partners' Council (REPC) to enhance dialogue with partners around policies and strategies that impact and strengthen rural student achievement.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The BC Rural Education Partners' Council (the Council) will be hosted by the British Columbia School Trustees Association and funded through a one-time grant of \$25,000.00 from the Ministry of Education. The Council will be chaired in partnership with the BCSTA and membership will be comprised of representatives from the following education partners groups:

- British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA)
- British Columbia Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association (BCPVPA)
- British Columbia School Superintendents' Association (BCSSA)
- First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)
- The BC Rural & Small Schools Teachers' Association (Rural PSA)
- British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)
- British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF)
- Association of the British Columbia Deans of Education (ABCDE)
- British Columbia Association of School Business Officials (BCASBO)
- Chamber of Commerce.

If invited, potential members of the Council have indicated that they strongly value an opportunity to dialogue about issues related specifically to rural and remote school districts and communities (the BCTF has not yet been approached). It is anticipated that the BC Rural Education Partners' Council will meet three times a year, beginning in the spring of 2012. The inaugural meeting will be hosted in partnership with the BCSTA for the purpose of establishing the terms of reference in accordance with the established purpose. Full implementation will occur during the 2012-2013 school year. In order to signify the importance of the BC Rural Education Partners' Council and the anticipated collaboration among its members, Minister Abbott may wish to attend the inaugural meeting in the spring of 2012.

### Opportunities:

Government is committed to supporting the unique needs of rural communities and the Rural Education Partners' Council is an expression of the Ministry's commitment to open dialogue around issues related to rural student achievement and rural district operations. February 5-6, when MLAs are touring the province, the establishment of the REPC may provide an ideal opportunity for an announcement.

### Risk:

It should be noted that UBC has established a *Rural Advisory Committee* comprised of several superintendents of rural and remote school districts. The focus of this committee is to support the implementation of educational programs and to establish research through the Eleanor Rix Rural Professorship. The Ministry of Education has financially supported the work of the Rural Professorship through a \$375,000 research grant over the last 2 years to support innovation in rural schools through the *Growing Innovations* program.

The BC Rural Education Partners' Council is not intended to replace the work of this committee as its focus is on provincial policy. It is anticipated that both groups will inform and support each other.

### Attachment(s)

<u>Contact Information</u>		Approved by:
Department Name: Drafted by Kristin Mimick Department Phone : 250 886-5315 Department File	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: Jan 31/12.

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Director of the Capital Management Branch.

**SUBJECT:** School Bus Procurement

### BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the Minister approved the bulk procurement of school buses through a Request for Standing Offer (RFSO) issued to all manufacturers by a consortium of school districts. The Ministry engaged the Association of School Transportation Services of BC (ASTSBC) to assist with the management of this province-wide procurement process.

### DISCUSSION:

On December 15, 2011, four school bus vendors submitted standing offers for (a) base pricing for each of the bus sizes and (b) pricing for each of their available options. The Ministry is now prepared to announce the results of the RFSO and to inform school districts of their approved bus replacements for this year. The Ministry will fund school districts at a rate equal to the average of the standing offer prices for each bus size, plus an allocation for options (see attached). The RFSO is saving about 10% -15% from standard pricing. GCPE will manage a local media release process for the bus acquisitions in each school district.

After the approvals are announced, school districts will enter into contracts to purchase their approved school buses directly with the vendors. Independent schools, band-operated First Nations schools, and private contractors operating school district bus fleets are all able to purchase buses from vendors at the RFSO prices, however, only public boards of education receive ministry funding for school buses.

### LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:

*None*

Attachments:

*School Bus Approvals and Funding, January 2012*

<u>Contact Information</u>  Resource Management Div. 356-7814	<b>DS for KM</b>	<b>Approved by:</b>
	<b>ADM Initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: Jan. 23, 2012</b>

Date Drafted: January 18, 2012  
Revision No.: 1

## School Bus Approvals and Funding, January 2012

*(by School District)*

SD	PROJECT	Buses	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL FUNDING
5	115525	3	REPLACE BUS #S 0052-54 (3-84 PASS)	\$ 378,328.53
6	115555	2	REPLACE BUS #S 3181 AND 9061 (1-76, 1-70 PASS)	\$ 199,841.86
8	116001	4	REPLACE BUS #S 7087-89, 9080 (4-72 PASS)	\$ 399,568.23
20	116023	4	REPLACE BUS #S 3200, 9200, 0200-0201 (2-84 & 2-72 PASS)	\$ 452,003.13
22	116078	7	REPLACE BUS #S 2862, 7222-27 (7-72 PASS & W/C FOR 7226)	\$ 707,009.39
23	115433	2	REPLACE BUS # 3240 & (1-84 PASS) (1 fire damaged 70-PASS)	\$ 226,001.57
27	114472	2	REPLACE BUS #S 9277 & 0270 (1-54 & 1-72 PASS)	\$ 193,739.35
28	115977	2	REPLACE BUS # 9280, & 2280 (1-84, 1-70 PASS )	\$ 226,001.57
34	115741	4	REPLACE BUS #S 8340-41, 9341-42 (3-72 PASS & 1-36 W/C)	\$ 398,595.09
35	114478	1	REPLACE BUS # 8350 (1-36 PASS W/C)	\$ 98,918.91
38	116009	4	REPLACE BUS #S 7380-81, 8380, 3131 (3-72, 1-84 PASS)	\$ 425,785.68
47	115245	2	REPLACE BUS #S 3128 & 3130 (2-84 PASS)	\$ 252,219.02
48	116226	4	REPLACE BUS #7483, 0480, 2480, 3483 (1-72, 3-84 PASS) (3 fire damaged 84-PASS)	\$ 478,220.58
49	116056	2	REPLACE BUS #S 2490 & 3490 (2-72 PASS)	\$ 199,784.12
51	114805	1	REPLACE BUS #3085 (1-84 PASS)	\$ 126,109.51
53	116235	2	REPLACE BUS #S 7530-31 (2-76 PASS)	\$ 199,899.60
54	115526	2	REPLACE BUS #S 8541-42 (2-71 PASS)	\$ 199,784.12
58	114741	1	REPLACE BUS #S 0580 (1-72 PASS)	\$ 99,892.06
59	116252	4	REPLACE BUS #S 1590-93 (4-64 PASS)	\$ 395,788.03
60	116263	6	REPLACE BUS #S 8606, 9005, 0600-01, 0603 (3-54, 1-60, 1-70 PASS) (1 Accident Replacement 70- PASS)	\$ 579,888.63
62	115782	4	REPLACE BUS #S 2553-54, 2882-83 (4-84 PASS)	\$ 504,438.03
63	116287	1	REPLACE BUS #8630 (1-42 PASS W/C)	\$ 100,888.62
64	116288	2	REPLACE BUS #S 3072 & 3190 (2-84 PASS)	\$ 252,219.02
68	116317	2	REPLACE BUS #S 3211-12 (2-84 PASS)	\$ 252,219.02
69	116327	1	BUS - ADD 1-24 PASS W/C	\$ 67,865.34
70	116037	1	REPLACE BUS # 3228 (1-84 PASS)	\$ 126,109.51
73	115533	5	REPLACE BUS #S 3200-01, 8733-34, AND 9732 (5-76 PASS)	\$ 499,749.00
74	116348	1	REPLACE BUS #8742 (1-72 PASS.)	\$ 99,892.06
78	115980	1	REPLACE BUS #4784 (1-84 PASS)	\$ 126,109.51
79	116363	4	REPLACE BUS #S 3233-34, 7791-92 (4-84 PASS)	\$ 504,438.03
83	115557	5	REPLACE BUS #S 00830-32, 04834, 05830 (5-76 PASS & 1 W/C)	\$ 507,513.98
91	115540	12	REPLACE 7551-2, 7561, 8913-4, 9911, 0912-14, 1911, 1915, 4910 (3-84, 9-76 PASS)	\$ 1,277,876.73
			<b>Funding allocation per bus (incl base price, options, and net HST)</b>	
98			<b>Total Aggregate Funding per Bus Size</b>	<b>\$ 10,556,697.82</b>

**School Bus Approvals and Funding, January 2012**  
(by Bus Size )

Bus Size	Base Allowance	Options Allowance	Net HST	Total Allowance
<b>84 Passenger</b>	\$115,033.67	\$8,000.00	\$3,075.84	\$126,109.51
<b>76 Passenger</b>	\$89,512.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,437.80	\$99,949.80
<b>70 Passenger</b>	\$89,455.67	\$8,000.00	\$2,436.39	\$99,892.06
<b>64 Passenger</b>	\$88,533.67	\$8,000.00	\$2,413.34	\$98,947.01
<b>58 Passenger</b>	\$88,158.67	\$8,000.00	\$2,403.97	\$98,562.63
<b>52 Passenger</b>	\$86,558.33	\$5,000.00	\$2,288.96	\$93,847.29
<b>46 Passenger</b>	\$85,852.33	\$5,000.00	\$2,271.31	\$93,123.64
<b>34 Passenger</b>	\$83,930.67	\$5,000.00	\$2,223.27	\$91,153.93
<b>29 or 30 Passenger</b>	\$56,832.00	\$5,000.00	\$1,545.80	\$63,377.80
<b>28 Passenger</b>	\$55,472.50	\$5,000.00	\$1,511.81	\$61,984.31
<b>22 Passenger</b>	\$53,634.50	\$5,000.00	\$1,465.86	\$60,100.36
<b>Wheel Chair Option</b>	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$187.50	\$7,687.50
* Delivery will be Free on Board (FOB) each Purchaser's receiving location and will include delivery, packaging, crating and unloading				
* Additional funds will be added to each SD's COA to cover the 1% admin fee payable to ASTSBC				

Pages 50 through 60 redacted for the following reasons:

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**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Decision**, at the request of Superintendent of Achievement, Achievement Division for funding request.

**SUBJECT:** The New Teachers Mentoring Network

**BACKGROUND:**

The New Teacher Mentoring Project is a joint proposal of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF), and the University of British Columbia (UBC) in consultation with the BC Mentoring Network (BCMn), which seeks to provide a coherent, research based, comprehensive system of support for teachers in their early years in selected rural, urban and suburban schools throughout the province.

**DISCUSSION:**

S. 12, S. 17

Page 62 redacted for the following reason:

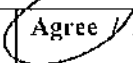
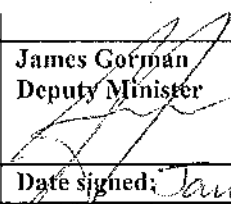
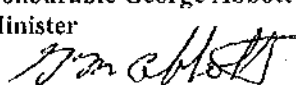
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S. 12, s. 17

**\*Note:** Any grant of this nature requires the approval of Treasury Board under current operating procedures.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

S. 12, S. 17

<u>Contact Information</u>  Achievement Division Drafted by Maria Perri for Rick Davis 250 514 8310	<i>JA</i> Agree / Disagree:		 Agree / Disagree:
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister 	Honourable George Abbott Minister 
		Date signed: Jan 11/12	Date signed:

## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information** at the request of the Minister's office in preparation for a meeting with CUPE provincial representatives.

**SUBJECT:** Recent settlement of CUPE framework agreement and implications for the future.

**KEY POINTS:**

- 1) The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) represents the majority of support staff workers (custodians, maintenance and grounds workers, bus drivers, clerical staff and teacher assistants) in school districts.
- 2) Unlike teachers who are represented by a single bargaining agent the BCTF, support staff works are represented by 69 local unions each holding its own bargaining certificate. While most are CUPE locals there are a handful of local unions affiliated with others such as Teamsters, Carpenters and Joiners and IUOE. These other affiliates have followed with the CUPE lead and agreements.
- 3) While support staff workers bargain locally, CUPE provincial has worked to coordinate bargaining and develop provincial agenda and priorities through a Presidents' Council. Local negotiations occur within the objectives of a provincial framework agreement between CUPE provincial and BCPSEA.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Three members of CUPE provincial will attend the meeting with the Minister. Barry O'Neill is president of CUPE provincial; Terry Allen is the Chair of the president's council comprised of CUPE locals with advisory representation from unaffiliated local unions and Bill Pegler, a CUPE staff person and lead negotiator of the provincial framework agreement. Terry Allen is also a trustee on the Board of Education of School District 36 (Surrey).

Terms of the recent framework agreement include:

- Agreement to settle within the 0, 0 mandate subject to a wage re-opener if the mandate changes, parties may enter into renegotiations on total compensation (BCTF negotiations break it).
- \$550K policy monies allocated to the Support Staff Education and Adjustment Committee (SSEAC) by government to consider broad policy matters including shared services and the work of Teacher Assistants (referred to as Special Education Assistants) and their skill enhancement among other matters.

- Agreement to work toward increasing weekly hours of work of teacher assistants and provide advice to the ministry with respect to this matter.
- Continuation and enhancement of the Public Education Benefits Trust, a jointly administered long term disability program for support staff employees.
- \$200K allocated to the presidents council by the provincial government to facilitate the develop of a provincial framework for support staff bargaining in advance of the next round of collective bargaining.
- Agreement by government to guarantee that \$7.5M annually of Class Organization Fund (COF) proposed to the BCTF as settlement of the Bill 28 dispute is expended to enhance Teacher Assistant staffing levels in support of students with special needs. The \$7.5M is funding separate from collective bargaining and does not violate the net-zero mandate.

The framework agreement was supported by members of the Presidents' Council by an overwhelming majority. Local unions have until February 29, 2012 to submit agreements within the terms of the framework agreement to the board of BCPSEA for approval and ratification. Successful ratification will result in 69 more agreements under the mandate affecting approximately 25000 employees

## **DISCUSSION:**

CUPE has expressed the view that it is a "second cousin" in policy matters in the public school system. It does not believe it has been accorded the same level of respect and influence as the BCTF. CUPE interests include:

- Establishing a provincial presence where it has a seat at important policy tables (CUPE was not included in the Learning Roundtable for example).
- Traditional labour interests in the welfare of its members in terms of wages, benefits and working conditions.
- A role in the transformation of the education system that is seen as inevitable particularly insofar as the way in which shared services and new efficiencies will impact on its membership.
- Addressing the needs of the largest and growing component of its membership, teacher assistants.
  - Hours of work and duration of work year
  - Roles – expanded responsibilities
  - Working conditions
  - Reporting relationships.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES: (If applicable)**

PSEC has been informed of this meeting with CUPE.

<u>Contact Information</u>  Department Name Department Phone # Department File		<b>Approved by:</b>
	<b>ADM initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: Jan. 9, 2012</b>

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of James Gorman, **Deputy Minister**.

**SUBJECT:** Anti-bullying and Threat Assessment – Prevention and Intervention Strategy

**BACKGROUND:**

There are still high rates of bullying and serious risks and threats in schools around the world. In BC, there have been a number of serious incidents that involve school aged children where in some incidents warning signs were not recognized, missing an opportunity to provide possible intervention and supports to students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

In BC there are inconsistent policies and practices to deal with incidents of bullying and threat making behaviour.

**DISCUSSION:**

There is nothing more important than keeping our kids safe. In order to reduce the number of bullying incidents there needs to be a culture shift in our province. The best place to start to model positive behaviours and culture is within our schools. Students must feel safe in order to learn. We must have mechanisms for students who do not feel safe to feel confident in reporting. We need to better support our staff that support kids every day in their classes. We need to ensure staff is trained, understand positive school cultures, and to respond to incidents as they arise.

There is no “one size fits all” model but what is proposed is taken from best practices based on research, evaluation, and lessons learned mainly from Finland, Quebec, and Ontario. The goal is to foster good relationships, recognize behaviours, intervene, and support where necessary.

As identified in BC’s 2011 Speech from the Throne, this initiative will begin to change school cultures and expand existing anti-Bullying policies in schools to include a comprehensive training regime, on-line reporting tools and advanced Threat Assessment tools and protocols.

**PROPOSED STRATEGY:**

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S. 13, S. 17

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division, to accompany a Capital Project Funding Agreement.

**SUBJECT:** Sunnyside Elementary Replacement (Project No. 113221)  
School District No. 36 (Surrey)

### BACKGROUND:


- The current Sunnyside Elementary School opened in 1949 and has a nominal capacity of 20 Full Day Kindergarten (FDK)/250 Elementary students.
- In the 2004/05 Capital Plan, the Minister of Education supported renovation of the existing Sunnyside Elementary, subject to the completion of Phase One and Two feasibility studies.
- The Phase One feasibility study, completed in 2007, recommended a new 40 FDK/350 Elementary school to be located at Site 202 (a vacant school site owned by the Surrey Board of Education), rather than the renovation of the existing school.
- Following the completion of the Phase Two feasibility study in February 2009, it was determined that the replacement Sunnyside Elementary School will have a nominal capacity of 100 FDK/350 Elementary students. The study clearly identified that relocation of the existing school would improve access issues and also better meet enrolment demands in South Surrey.
- Enrolment projections confirmed the need for this school in the Grandview Heights area. The construction of this school will also allow the School District to adjust school catchments in the area to better balance enrolment demands.
- As a part of this project, the School District will construct a 495 m<sup>2</sup> Neighbourhood Learning Centre

S. 12

## DISCUSSION:

- The Surrey Board of Education has signed a Capital Project Funding Agreement to deliver the replacement project (Project No. 113221) with capital funding of \$12,754,962.
- The project will be secured through a stipulated sum contract.
- The replacement building will be constructed to a LEED® Gold standard.
- The project schedule sets the start of construction at March 2012 and the occupancy date at March 2013.
- The District will provide regular progress updates to the Ministry, including the achievement of specific project milestones and quarterly cash flow forecasts.
- In accordance with the terms of the Capital Project Funding Agreement, the District will inform the Ministry of Education regarding the award of the construction contract and attainment of substantial completion, and will consult with the Ministry with respect to planned public events.

**LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:** n/a

<u>Contact Information</u>		Approved by:
Resource Management Div. 356-7814		
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: Jan 11/12

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information** at the request of Assistant Deputy Minister, Governance and Independent Schools Division, for a meeting at Simon Fraser University on March 1, 2012.

**SUBJECT:** Faculty of Education Teacher Education Program, Simon Fraser University

**KEY POINTS:** The officials from Simon Fraser University (SFU) may be interested in discussing

- 1) how the approval processes and standards for teacher education have changed as a result of the *Teachers Act*;
- 2) requirements for course work in special needs and First Nations/Aboriginal education; and
- 3) independence and academic freedom of university faculties and the perceived intrusion of the regulatory power of the Teachers' Council

**BACKGROUND:**

The *Teachers Act* has given the Teachers' Council the authority to

- set the standards for program approval and for the certification of teachers
- work with teacher education programs in the design and evaluation of their programs, and
- approve teacher education programs.

The teacher education program at SFU, called the Professional Development Program, began operation in the mid-1960s and is the second largest program in the province with 626, 570 and 496 graduates applying for certification to the former BC College of Teachers (the College) in the last three years. The program has not changed substantially since it was introduced nearly fifty years ago. The College first approved the program in 1993 after a pilot designed to develop more formal processes the College would use to approve programs. It has not been reviewed since.

The teacher education program at SFU is distinct in BC, as it is

- seminar-based rather than course-based
- offered largely by seconded classroom teachers
- without a core curriculum or syllabi related to the program of study in the first two semesters of the program<sup>1</sup>.

The SFU program requires students to earn 45<sup>2</sup> credits. The provincial standard set by the former College of Teachers Council and continued by the *Teachers Act* is that all teacher education

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<sup>1</sup> In the third semester, which is typically composed of four courses, student teachers choose their courses, which may or may not align with teaching competencies. For example, student teachers have chosen courses in teaching the elderly when they are applying for a certificate to teach elementary school.

programs must have a minimum of 48 credits, so SFU applicants must make up the extra three credits by taking education course work outside of the program. The next lowest credit requirement for other teacher education programs in BC is 55 credits, and most programs require 60 or 70 credits, with the highest credit value being 75.

SFU's program consists of three semesters:

- the first semester consists of six weeks of seminars on campus and six weeks of in-school practicum experience.
- The second semester is primarily in-school practicum experience. For these two semesters, SFU hires teachers or administrators from the public school system to work with groups of student teachers, generally two seconded teachers with 32 students. The seconded teachers plan and lead the seminars and supervise the school placements. Faculty members assist in the design of the seminars and deliver some of the content.
- The third semester consists of courses offered by a separate part of the Faculty of Education, called Undergraduate Programs. These courses are taught by faculty members or sessional instructors.


The SFU program consists of "modules" made up of either 16 or 32 students, many of which are theme based. The website lists current module themes:

- Creative, Collaborative Communities (K-12)
- Diversity in the Urban Classroom (K-12)
- Fine and Performing Arts (K-12)
- International Teacher Education (K-12)
- Pathways
- Playworks.

SFU has been approved to offer initial practica in international settings and has a number of students who complete most of their first semester in sites in Mexico, India and China. The final practicum, based on Council standards, must be completed in BC.

## **DISCUSSION:**

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<u>Contact Information</u>  Governance and Independent Schools Department Phone 356-6760 Department File		Approved by:  
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: Feb. 29, 2012

<sup>4</sup> There is no requirement for elementary student teachers to take a course in teaching reading and writing or mathematics.



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for Information

**SUBJECT:** Meeting with MLA John Rustad and Ray LeMoigne, President School District 91 Business Company regarding Nechako Lakes China Initiatives.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Mr. LeMoigne, former school district (SD) 91 superintendent, is now employed by SD 91's business company to lead the district's international initiatives.
- SD 91's international initiatives include:
  - establishing a school district business company (SDBC) for the purpose of engaging in international education related activities.
  - establishing twinning agreements with two Chinese education bureaus - one in Xianghe County (of central Hebei Province) and the other in Chaoyang District (of Beijing China) to strengthen relationships and establish greater education cooperation.
- SD 91 wants to establish two BC offshore programs at schools in Xianghe and Beijing, China.
- Although SD 91 communications with the Ministry indicate the district would like to open these programs by September 2012, to date the district has not submitted application to establish any BC Offshore School programs.

**DISCUSSION:**

The BC offshore school certification process involves two stages:

- Offshore school authority submits an application to the Ministry of Education.
- Ministry reviews the application and schools deemed likely to succeed (based on the applicant's implementation plan, local government approval (initiated or completed), proof of contracted services of a BC Agent or a formalized business relationship with a school district business company) are selected to work towards stage one - candidate status (pre-certification) which in most cases leads to stage two - certification status.
- The primary purpose of the two-stage approach to certification is to avoid doing one "all-or-nothing" inspection with the potential for negative political response when the school doesn't meet certification standards.
- Approval of candidate status allows the Ministry to provide advice and support around the implementation of the BC curriculum and allows the offshore authority time to address identified issues and finalize meeting the requirements of the offshore agreement. Candidate status also enables the BC offshore program the ability to start marketing itself as it approaches the second stage of certification.
- In most situations, the certification process is complete within 6 months.

The BC Offshore School Program operates on a cost recovery basis.

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS COMPANIES:**

The *School Act* provides the authority for boards of education to incorporate business companies for the purpose of engaging in entrepreneurial activities.

The ability for boards to engage in entrepreneurial activity via SDBC's was created by Bill 34, The School Amendment Act (2002), at the request of boards.

SDBC legislation was amended in 2007 to strengthen SDBC governance and improve accountability by requiring that:

- a majority of company directors be at arm's length from the board of education;
- annual general meetings be open to the public; and,
- annual reports be public and include audited financial statements and a schedule of transactions between the board of education and the business company.

Based on annual reports supplied by boards for 2009-10, the eight districts with registered SDBC's during that period had combined gross revenue of \$2.07 million and combined net loss of \$190,126.

As of January 2012, six SDBC's exist including:

- Abbotsford School District No. 34
- Delta School District No. 37
- New Westminster School District No. 40
- Maple Ridge School District No. 42
- Kamloops Thompson School District No. 73
- Nechako Lakes School District No. 91

Offshore schools have entered into contracts with SDBC's to provide services that would enable the offshore school to meet the Ministry's certification requirements. SDBC services include:

- administrative consultation/guidance;
- policy development;
- curriculum resources and development;
- recommendations and/or purchases of educational resources;
- recruitment of British Columbia-certified principal and teachers;
- completion of all Ministry of Education documents; and,
- professional development.

SDBC's currently acting as service providers for BC Offshore Schools include:

- SD 40 Abbotsford SD Business Company – BIS Canada; Korea, Quangzhou Huamei International School, Guangzhou, Guangdong, PRC.
- SD 34 New Westminster SD Business Company – Canada Secondary Wenzhou No. 22, Wenzhou, Zhejiang, PRC.

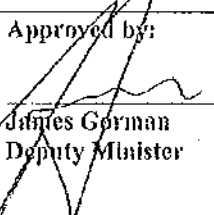
### **DISTRIBUTED LEARNING FOR OFFSHORE SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

In June 2010, the Ministry signed an agreement authorizing SD 73 (Kamloops/Thompson) Business Company to offer ministry courses via distributed learning to offshore students.

Initial distributed learning course offerings have been arranged through the BC offshore school program to ensure student authentication and quality controls. The first BC Offshore school to participate in the SD 73 DL program was Sino-Canada High School, Wujiang City, Jiangsu Province, China. Based on this pilot project, the Ministry is currently developing policy for offering DL courses to offshore students. Other districts and independent schools have expressed interest in offering similar programs. However, while independent school authorities could directly engage in this type of business, public school boards must conduct work through their business companies and consequently there could be an increase in the number of SDBC's in the coming years. Given that possibility, it is important that BC's DL programs are provided in a manner that maintains BC's reputation for providing a high quality education abroad. Any type of educational offshore offering comes with the same risk of damaging the BC education brand.

## CONCLUSION

The Ministry of Education is actively engaged in supporting government's International Education Strategy to increase recruitment of international students. There are a multiplicity of policy considerations that need to be taken into account as the Ministry determines how it can most effectively support the implementation of the international education strategy. Discussions with school districts actively involved in this work and the Minister's trip to China in March will inform how provincial interests can best support school districts' work in this area.

<u>Contact Information</u> Governance & Independent Schools Division Phone No.6-1404 Department File 280-20	ADM Initial	Approved by:  James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: Jan 16/12

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information** at the request of Governance and Independent Schools Division for a meeting with MLA John Les and MLA Marc Dalton, March 28, 2012.

**SUBJECT:** Homeschooling

### BACKGROUND:

Homeschooling is an alternative method of teaching where the parent delivers an educational program to children at home. Section 12 of the *School Act* provides parents with the statutory right to educate their children at home.

Homeschooling is the full responsibility of the parent, who must supervise and deliver their child's educational program. Homeschoolers are not required to meet provincial standards, are not inspected by the Ministry of Education and do not graduate with a Dogwood diploma.

Parents must register their homeschooled children at either a public or independent school. Public schools must register a homeschooler free of charge, but independent schools can choose whether or not to register a homeschooler and may charge fees for registration.

Public schools receive \$250 per registered homeschooler and independent schools receive \$175. These funds cover administrative costs associated with registering a homeschooled child and are also used by the school to provide educational resources and assessment tools if requested by the parent/guardian. This funding is not intended to be a stipend for parents; this grant is provided to the school, not directly to the parents of a homeschooler.

Parents are not required to meet provincial education standards, but must provide their children with an educational program. If it is suspected that a child is not being provided with an educational program, a complaint must be filed with the superintendent of the school district where the child is resident. After receiving a complaint, the superintendent must investigate and determine whether or not the child is being provided with an education. This provision applies whether a homeschooler is registered at a public or independent school.

In the 2011/12 school year, there are 2098 homeschooled children in BC. 206 homeschoolers are registered with public schools and 1892 homeschoolers are registered with independent schools.

### DISCUSSION:

Homeschooling should not be confused with a distributed learning (DL) program. DL programs and homeschooling are two distinct forms of education, but many parents use the term homeschooling to refer to their child's participation in a DL program because the student is studying at home. The terms are sometimes used interchangeably, but the two programs are very different.

While a DL student may be studying at home, they are enrolled in an educational program delivered by a public or independent school. A DL program is funded by the province and must meet provincial standards. Parents may provide support, but a DL program is directed and supervised by a BC-certified teacher. DL programs follow the BC curriculum, students take part in regular assessments and students are issued report cards.

While parents have the right to educate their children at home, the Ministry of Education does not encourage parents to homeschool their children. Homeschooling parents are typically very committed to providing their children with an education, but the ability of parents to deliver a quality educational program varies considerably. Most children will benefit from learning the BC curriculum from certified teachers, particularly as children grow older and their expected level of knowledge and skills grows increasingly complex.

Research on the long-term outcomes for homeschoolers is mixed. Some studies have indicated that homeschooled children do as well as their non-homeschooled peers in post-secondary studies, but few high-quality studies have examined long-term outcomes for homeschoolers who do not go on to attend a post-secondary institution. Most of the published, peer-reviewed research on homeschooling is from the United States, little research has been done to examine the outcomes for homeschooled children in British Columbia.

In other jurisdictions, homeschooling is often driven by a perceived lack of alternatives to the public education system. Many parents have religious or philosophical differences with their local public schools and choose to homeschool their children in accordance with their beliefs. Unlike some other jurisdictions, British Columbia has the advantage of a diverse group of independent schools. BC's independent schools offer parents the ability to choose a school (either bricks and mortar or DL) that aligns with their beliefs and which employs certified teachers to deliver the BC curriculum.

On February 14, 2012, Bill 2 was introduced into the Alberta Legislature. This bill, if passed, would result in a new *Education Act* for Alberta, replacing the 1988 *School Act*. This bill has been controversial with homeschooling parents in Alberta because Section 16 of the proposed *Act* reads: "All courses or programs of study offered and instructional materials used in a school must reflect the diverse nature and heritage of society in Alberta, promote understanding and respect for others and honour and respect the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the *Alberta Human Rights Act*." Under Alberta's proposed *Act*, the definition of a school includes children being homeschooled by a parent.

Homeschooling parents have claimed that the requirement to respect the *Alberta Human Rights Act* would undermine parental control over education, particularly with respect to teaching certain religious views about homosexuality. Alberta's Minister of Education has stated that this section does not mean that a human rights complaint can be filed with respect to what a parent is teaching, as federal or provincial human rights legislation do not apply to educational programming.

In British Columbia, homeschooling parents are only required to deliver an educational program that "is designed to enable learners to become literate, to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society and a prosperous and sustainable economy." British Columbia does not impose specific curriculum requirements on homeschoolers.

Attachment(s)

Comparisons Between Distributed Learning and Homeschooling  
Alberta Home-school Protests Rise

<u>Contact Information</u>		Approved by:
Department Name		Paige MacFarlane o/b/o
Department Phone #	ADM	James Gorman
Department File	initial	Deputy Minister
		Date signed: March 23, 2012

## Comparisons Between Distributed Learning and Homeschooling

Distributed Learning Students:	Homeschooled Children:
<p>Students are enrolled in a public or independent school distributed learning program where the majority of the learning takes place at a distance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DL program is the responsibility of the public or independent school</li> <li>• DL program is directed and supervised by a British Columbia-certified teacher (parents may assist in facilitating the learning process, but are not the teachers)</li> <li>• DL program must meet provincial standards as outlined in the <i>School Act</i> or <i>Independent School Act</i></li> <li>• Students must receive on-going regular assessments, report cards, provincial letter grades and a permanent student record, as would students in a neighbourhood school</li> </ul>	<p>Homeschooled children are registered at a school (public, francophone or independent school) in the province by September 30<sup>th</sup> each year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeschooled children's educational program is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to provide and supervise the educational program.</li> <li>• Homeschooling program does not have to meet provincial standards</li> <li>• Homeschooling is not inspected by the Ministry of Education</li> <li>• Homeschoolers in Grades 10 to 12 have the option to write provincial exams</li> <li>• Students do not receive a British Columbia Dogwood graduation certificate</li> </ul>
Distributed Learning Schools:	Homeschooling:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School districts receive the same annual per-pupil funding for students enrolled in a distributed learning program as they do for students enrolled in a school;</li> <li>• Independent schools receive either 50% (Group 1) or 35% (Group 2) of the per pupil public school distributed learning rate.</li> <li>• Public schools must offer a strictly secular program as per the <i>School Act</i>.</li> <li>• Independent school distributed learning may incorporate faith-based curriculum as provided for in the <i>Independent School Act</i>.</li> <li>• All public distributed learning programs in British Columbia must be able to demonstrate compliance with the <u>Public School Distance Education Policy</u>.</li> <li>• All independent school distributed learning programs must meet the <u>Independent School Distributed Learning Standards</u>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A registering school district receives \$250 per child and an independent school receives \$175.</li> <li>• These funds are provided for administering the registration process and offering educational resources and assessment instruments to parents.</li> <li>• Homeschooled children may write Grade 12 provincial examinations at their registering school and receive a Ministry examination (not course) mark.</li> </ul>

Comparisons at a glance	Traditional Homeschooling	Public School DL	Independent School DL
Must meet the Learning Outcomes of the B.C. curriculum	No	Yes	Yes
Learning must be supervised by a B.C. teacher	No	Yes	Yes
Students must use District or school approved resources	No	Yes	Yes
Student's progress must be evaluated by teacher; report cards are to be prepared by teacher 3 times a year	No	Yes	Yes
Must participate in Provincial testing. (Graduation Exams and Foundation Skills Assessment, grades 4 & 7)	No	Yes	Yes
Religious texts/resources may be used	Yes	No	Yes
Status of student with school	Registered	Enrolled	Enrolled

# Home-school protest rises in Alberta over updated Education Act

*National Post – March 22, 2012*

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**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Governance and Independent Schools Division for a meeting with the Executive Director of FISA on March 1, 2012.

**SUBJECT:** Independent School Funding

**BACKGROUND:**

There are 350 independent schools in British Columbia, including 18 distributed learning schools, with enrolment of approximately 11 per cent of the total provincial K-12 enrolment (70,628 of 620,479 FTE students).

There are four groups of independent schools. Only Group 1 and 2 schools, which must employ British Columbia-certified teachers and follow the British Columbia curriculum, are funded. The method for calculating independent school funding is detailed in the Independent School regulation and is based on the average student funding of their local public school district.

- Group 1 schools, including 14 distributed learning (DL) schools, receive 50% of the public school per student grant calculated for independent schools per FTE student. There are 253 Group 1 schools enrolling an estimated 57,221 FTE students (2011/12).
- Group 2 schools, including 4 DL schools, receive per-student grants at the 35% level because the school's per-student operating costs exceed the per FTE operating grant of the local public school district. There are 67 Group 2 schools enrolling an estimated 14,423 FTE students (2011/12).

In 2011/12, the Ministry of Education provided nearly \$293 million in overall funding for Group 1 and 2 (bricks and mortar and DL) independent schools, independent band schools and homeschoolers registered with independent schools. This funding represents a \$19 million increase from the 2010/11 funding amount.

Funding to Independent Schools is allocated to the following areas:


	10/11	11/12
Group 1	179,256,585	187,034,982
Group 2	28,391,695	29,452,605
DL & HS	23,305,876	29,090,588
HS (Brick & Mortar)	61,075	54,600
Reciprocal Funding	4,495,303	4,816,131
Special Ed 100%	38,440,900	42,219,750
Total:	273,951,434	292,668,657

S. 17

**DISCUSSION:**

S. 17

S. 13

<b>Contact Information</b> Department Name Independent Schools Department Phone # (250)356-2508 Department File 280-20		<b>Approved by:</b> 
	<b>ADM Initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: Feb. 29, 2012</b>

Date Drafted:  
Revision No.:

3

CLIFF No: 152604

Page 88 redacted for the following reason:

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## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** James Gorman, Deputy Minister, for Information at the request of the Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools.

**SUBJECT:** Reciprocal Funding for Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw School and Coast Tsimshian Academy.

### BACKGROUND:

While the Canadian Constitution gives the provinces jurisdiction over education, the Indian Act gives the federal government legislative authority in relation to "Indians and Lands Reserved for Indians." Responsibility for funding an aboriginal student therefore depends on where the student lives; on-reserve students are a federal responsibility and off-reserve students are a provincial responsibility.

When First Nations communities first began establishing their own on-reserve band schools, they received no tuition dollars for those students who live off-reserve but choose to attend their band schools. Those students could not be counted on the federal government's nominal roll, which determines how much funding First Nations schools receive each year from the federal government. The provincial government provided funding only for off-reserve students to attend a provincial public or independent school, but did not cover the cost of attending a band school.

As a result, bands had been covering the balance of the cost of students living off-reserve who choose to attend on-reserve schools regulated under the *Independent School Act*, and the full cost of those students who choose to attend band schools. However, those bands have been, and continue to be, responsible for the tuition of students living on reserve who choose to attend public schools.

To right this inequity, the Province agreed to provide full funding for students who choose to attend band schools. An amendment was made to the *Independent School Act* enabling 100 percent funding for provincial-responsibility students attending band schools certified under the *Act*. A Reciprocal Tuition Agreement was developed and agreed to by the Province and the First Nations Education Steering Committee, setting out conditions under which reciprocal tuition payments are made to band schools, other than independent band schools.


Prior to 2010-11 school year, students at Gwa'sala Nakwaxda'xw School lived on the Tsulquate reserve and were not eligible for provincial funding. In March 2011, the Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools (OIIS) was informed that 33 students had moved off-reserve because of housing issues on the reserve (i.e., black mould), thus becoming eligible for reciprocal tuition funding.

On January 30, 2012, the OIIS was again informed that these students are still living off reserve and eligible for reciprocal tuition funding. On February 1, 2012, the OIIS confirmed with the

principal that all these 33 students are still living off reserve. The principal does not see this changing in the foreseeable future; he indicated that some of the students are living in foster care (off-reserve) and that about 30 more community children are living off-reserve and enrolled at the public school in Port Hardy.

**DISCUSSION:**

S. 13

<u>Contact Information</u>  Department Name Department Phone # Department File		<b>Approved by:</b> 
	<b>ADM Initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
		<b>Date signed: March 6, 2012</b>

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** James Gorman, Deputy Minister, for Information at the request of Governance and Independent Schools Division.

**SUBJECT:** Changes in the Bountiful Community

**BACKGROUND:**

Bountiful Elementary Secondary School (BESS) is an independent school located near Creston, British Columbia, Group 1 (funded) certified for Grades 1-10 and Group 3 (non-funded) certified for Grades 11-12. Kindergarten students are homeschooled. Based on the September 30, 2011 estimate, Bountiful will enrol 249 FTE students and receive \$1,172,292 in provincial funding in the 2011/12 school year.

The school has received regular announced and unannounced inspections and visits (13 since 2001) to ensure continued compliance with the *Independent School Act*. No violations of the *Act* have been found on these visits. Bountiful students also typically perform at or above average on Grade 4 and 7 FSA exams.


The Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints (FLDS) religion dominates the Bountiful community. The FLDS religion is a radical offshoot of the Mormon religion which teaches several controversial doctrines. They are most well known for their practice of polygamy, or "plural marriage" where men are expected to have 3 or more wives. The FLDS is a highly patriarchal group and teaches that women are expected to be subordinate to men. The FLDS also routinely practices "placement marriage," where young women have their husband chosen for them by church leaders.

Warren Jeffs is the President of the FLDS. On August 9, 2011, Jeffs was convicted in Texas of two counts of sexual assault of a child and sentenced to life in prison. While Jeffs resigned his position as President of the Corporation of the FLDS, he apparently remains the spiritual leader of the FLDS.

**DISCUSSION:**

S. 13, 16

S. 13, S. 16

<u>Contact Information</u>		Approved by: 
Department Name Department Phone # Department File		James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: Feb. 17, 2012

Date Drafted:  
Revision No.:



Monday, January 16, 2012 2:56 PM EST

## Warren Jeffs: Polygamous Leader Manipulates Sect From Prison as FLDS Splinters

By Melanie Jones

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Page 082 to/à Page 083

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## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for Decision, at the request of the Inspector of Independent Schools, Governance and Independent Schools Division.

**SUBJECT:** Funding of Independent Distributed Learning Schools

### BACKGROUND:

Independent distributed learning (DL) schools are designated as a Group 1 or 2 school and are required to meet the same educational and operational requirements as a regular "bricks and mortar" Group 1 and 2 independent schools. Under section 8.1 of the *Independent School Act*, distributed learning may only be offered with the prior agreement of the Minister. In the 2011/12 school year, there were 15 Group 1 DL schools and 3 Group 2 DL schools. Total independent DL funding for the 2011/12 school year is \$29 million.

Independent DL schools are funded at the same rate as a Group 1 and 2 "bricks and mortar" school: 50 percent or 35 percent respectively of the local public school district per pupil amount. The per pupil amount varies for each district. Districts with greater per pupil amounts are those with the greater geographic, transportation and funding protection supplement funding – such as rural districts.

Unlike independent DL schools, public boards of education are allocated a flat rate of \$5,851 for each FTE student enrolled in a DL school, regardless of their district's per pupil funding.

### DISCUSSION:

The Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools (OIIS) has noted a trend for recent DL school applications to chose operational locations in school districts with higher per pupil funding rates. Additionally, the OIIS has received inquiries from existing independent DL schools considering relocating to another school district with a higher per pupil funding rate.

The desire of independent DL schools to locate or potentially relocate in school districts with a higher per pupil funding rate is an unintended consequence of assigning Group 1 or 2 classifications to independent DL schools. Current policies governing independent DL schools do not restrict the location of an independent DL school or its administrative office. The absence of any such policies means it is possible for existing independent DL schools to relocate their centre of operations to a school district with a per pupil funding rate that is higher than its original school district. Such changes in location do not reflect the operational realities or needs of DL schools, or the location of the DL schools' students.



Rural school districts are popular locations for independent DL schools. They have high per pupil funding rates that reflect the unique geographic factors and associated transportation costs, neither of which impacts the delivery of DL education. For example, using 2011/12 per pupil rates, a Group 1 independent school in School District No. 36 (Surrey) would receive \$3,628 per

FTE, whereas a similar school in School District No. 74 (Gold Trail) would receive \$7,285 per FTE.

In order to establish an independent DL school in a rural district, an authority must incorporate under the *Society Act* and have an office in the district. An independent DL school currently operating in an urban district could potentially rent an empty office in a rural district and incorporate in that district, thus significantly increasing the grant they receive from the Ministry. Since a DL program is delivered online, the staff can remain located in their original district and have no real physical presence in the district they are incorporated in.

S. 13, S. 14

S. 13

<u>Contact Information</u>  Governance & Independent Schools Phone # 356-8061 File # 280-20	CA	AGREE / Disagree: 	<u>Agree</u> / Disagree: 
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
		Date signed: Mar. 16, 2012	Date signed:

Date Drafted: March 9, 2012  
Revision No.: 3

3

CLIFF No: 149549

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information** at the request of the **Governance and Legislation Branch**.

**SUBJECT:** Minister's regulations under the *Education Improvement Act*.


**BACKGROUND:**

The *Education Improvement Act* was passed on March 15, 2012. Under the *Act* the minister has authority to make regulations respecting the Learning Improvement Fund and with respect to class size and compensation for teachers with class sizes larger than 30.

**DISCUSSION:**

S. 12, S. 14

S. 12, S. 14

<u>Contact Information</u>		Approved by:
Governance and Legislation Branch Mary Shaw (250) 217 - 8199 Department File	ADM Initial	 James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: Mar. 22/12

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S. 14

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
REGULATION OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

*School Act*

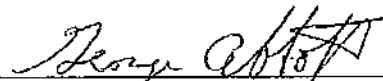
Ministerial Order No. M 078

I, George Abbott, Minister of Education, order that, effective July 1, 2012, the attached Class Size and Compensation Regulation is made.

Date

March 27/12

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. 168.01

Other:

March 22, 2012

R/177/2012/27

# CLASS SIZE AND COMPENSATION REGULATION

## Definitions

- 1 (1) In this regulation:
  - “Act” means the *School Act*;
  - “class” means a group of students scheduled to be together at least twice a week with a teacher for the purposes of engaging in an educational program;
  - “eligible teacher” means a teacher who, in a year in which additional compensation under section 4 may be provided, is not in a category of teachers prescribed under section 3.
- (2) For the purposes of section 76.1 (2) of the Act:
  - “grades 1 to 3” means a class containing students in those grades and includes a class containing students in those grades and in any other grade except kindergarten;
  - “kindergarten” means a class containing kindergarten students and includes a class containing kindergarten students and students in any other grade.

## Classes not subject to 30-student limit

- 2 The following categories of classes are prescribed for the purposes of section 76.1 (2.1) (b) of the Act:
  - (a) an adult or continuing education class;
  - (b) a class conducted by means of distributed learning;
  - (c) a class that is part of an alternate program;
  - (d) a class that meets for the purpose of a work study or work experience program;
  - (e) a class that is limited to students enrolled in a specialty academy, as defined in section 82.1 (1) of the Act;
  - (f) a music class, including band, choir, instrumental music and orchestra;
  - (g) a performing arts class, including drama and dance;
  - (h) a Planning 10 class;
  - (i) a board-authorized leadership course.

## Ineligible teachers

- 3 The following categories of teachers are prescribed for the purposes of section 76.1 (2.3) (b) of the Act:
  - (a) teachers on call;
  - (b) teachers on a term appointment of less than one calendar month;
  - (c) teachers who, in a school year, have not submitted a notice under section 4 (2).

#### Additional compensation

- 4 (1) For every month of the school year, except September, that an eligible teacher is a teacher referred to in section 76.1 (2.2) (b) of the Act, the board must provide to the eligible teacher additional compensation that has a dollar value determined as follows:

$$DV = [AV \div 9] \times P \times S$$

where:

DV = the dollar value of the additional compensation

AV = the average salary, for the previous school year, of a full-time teacher in the Province, divided by 30

P = the percentage of a full-time instructional month that the teacher teaches the class

S = the highest number of students enrolled in the class during the month for which the calculation is made, minus 30

- (2) An eligible teacher of a class referred to in section 76.1 (2.1) (a) of the Act, after consulting with the school's principal, may submit a notice to the board identifying the form of additional compensation the board is to provide to the eligible teacher.
- (3) In a notice under subsection (2), an eligible teacher may identify one or more of the following forms of additional compensation:
- (a) additional preparation time;
  - (b) an additional professional development allowance;
  - (c) an additional allowance for classroom supplies and equipment;
  - (d) additional pay.
- (4) Subject to subsection (6), after receiving a notice under subsection (2), a board must provide to the eligible teacher the additional compensation identified in the notice.
- (5) Nothing in subsection (4) requires a board to provide additional preparation time to an eligible teacher for a time period when, in the board's opinion, an appropriate teacher on call is not available to take the place of the eligible teacher.
- (6) If, at the end of a school year, an eligible teacher is still entitled to additional compensation for that school year, the board must provide it in the form of additional pay.
- (7) A board's obligation, in respect of a school year, to pay additional compensation to an eligible teacher must be met within one month after the end of the school year.

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S. 14

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
RÉGULATION OF THE MINISTER OF  
EDUCATION

*School Act*

Ministerial Order No. M 077

I, George Abbott, Minister of Education, order that, effective April 14, 2012, the attached Learning Improvement Fund Regulation is made.

March 27/12  
Date

George Abbott  
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, section 168.01

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

March 22, 2012

R/234/2012/27

# LEARNING IMPROVEMENT FUND REGULATION

## *Contents*

- 1 Definitions
- 2 Consultations and spending plan
- 3 Use of grant
- 4 Reduction prohibited

### **Definitions**

- 1 In this regulation:

“Act” means the *School Act*;

“estimated grant” means the amount of the grant

- (a) that the minister estimates will be provided to a board, and
- (b) that the board has been notified of, under section 115.2 (3) (b) of the Act, by the minister.

### **Consultations and spending plan**

- 2 (1) Before making a submission to the minister under subsection (6), a board must ensure that consultations are carried out as follows:

- (a) the principal or vice principal of each school in the district consults with at least one of

- (i) the school’s teaching staff,
- (ii) the staff committee, and
- (iii) the staff representative

to identify for the superintendent which classes, if any, in the following school year will require additional resources to address learning improvement issues, taking the following into account with respect to each class:

- (iv) the number of students assigned to the class and the learning needs of those students, including the resource requirements of students with diagnosed special needs;
- (v) the experience and capacity of the teacher of the class and the resources already available to support learning in that class;
- (b) the district superintendent, in consultation with the president of the local teachers’ union, formulates a tentative spending plan that is based on the consultations referred to in paragraph (a);
- (c) within a reasonable time after the first day of classes of the school year referred to in paragraph (a), the principal or vice principal of each school in the district
  - (i) consults with at least one of
    - (A) the school’s teaching staff,
    - (B) the staff committee, and

- (C) the staff representative
  - to review the tentative spending plan referred to in paragraph (b), and
  - (ii) advises the superintendent, based on the consultations referred to in subparagraph (i), of any changes to the priorities identified to the superintendent under paragraph (a);
  - (d) the superintendent makes reasonable efforts to reach an agreement with the president of the local teachers' union respecting the contents of a spending plan to be submitted to this minister under subsection (6).
- (2) After complying with subsection (1) (d), the superintendent must submit to the board a spending plan for submission to the minister under subsection (6).
- (3) For greater certainty, an obligation under subsection (1) to carry out a consultation is satisfied if the person on whom the obligation is imposed provides to the persons with whom he or she must consult a reasonable opportunity to engage in the consultation.
- (4) In addition to doing the things described in subsection (1) (a) and (c), the principal and vice principal may consult with the applicable parent advisory committee respecting the matters referred to in that subsection.
- (5) In addition to doing the things described in subsection (1) (b) and (d), the superintendent may consult with the applicable district parent advisory council respecting the matters referred to in that subsection.
- (6) A board requesting, in a fiscal year, a grant under section 115.2 of the Act must submit to the minister, by the time and in the manner specified by the minister, a spending plan that allocates the estimated grant with respect to one or more of the following:
  - (i) the provision of additional teaching staff and teacher assistants and other para professionals;
  - (ii) additional teaching time and services to students;
  - (iii) professional development training of teaching staff to address challenging learning conditions;
  - (iv) a reserve fund, not exceeding 30% of the estimated grant, that may be used for any of the purposes described in subparagraphs (i) to (iii), as the board considers appropriate.

#### **Use of grant**

- 3 A board that receives a grant under section 115.2 of the Act must use the grant in accordance with the spending plan submitted to the minister under section 2 (4).

#### **Reduction prohibited**

- 4 A board that receives a grant under section 115.2 of the Act must not reduce the expenditures it would have made to address learning improvement issues if the board did not receive the grant.



Pages 110 through 115 redacted for the following reasons:

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S. 12, s. 13

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for Information at the request of the Governance and Legislation Branch.

S. 12, S. 13

<u>Contact Information</u>		Approved by:
Mary Shaw Governance and Legislation (250) 217-8199	ADM initial CA	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: May 8/12

Pages 118 through 132 redacted for the following reasons:

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S. 12, s. 13

S. 12, s. 13

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for Information at the request of the Governance and Legislation Branch.

**SUBJECT:** Ministerial Order to amend the Learning Improvement Fund Regulation and the Class Size and Compensation Regulation.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Learning Improvement Fund and Class Size and Compensation Regulations were made under the authority of the *Education Improvement Act* (Bill 22). The Learning Improvement Fund Regulation came into force on April 14, 2012, while the Class Size and Compensation Regulation will come into force on July 1, 2012.

**DISCUSSION:**

S. 12, S. 13

S. 12, S. 13

<u>Contact Information</u>		Approved by:
Mary Shaw (250) 217-8199 Governance and Legislation Branch	ADM initial CA	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: May 15/12

Page 135 redacted for the following reason:

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S. 14

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
REGULATION OF THE MINISTER OF  
EDUCATION

*School Act*

Ministerial Order No.      M    120

I, George Abbott, Minister of Education, order that

- 1    *Effective July 1, 2012, the Class Size and Compensation Regulation, B.C. Reg. 52/2012, is amended*
  - (a) *in section 3 by striking out "section 76.1 (2.3) (b)" and substituting "section 76.1 (2.3)", and*
  - (b) *in section 4 (1) by striking out "section 76.1 (2.2) (b)" and substituting "section 76.1 (2.2)".*
  
- 2    *The Learning Improvement Fund Regulation, B.C. Reg. 53/2012, is amended*
  - (a) *in section 1 in paragraph (b) of the definition of "estimated grant" by striking out "section 115.2 (3) (b)" and substituting "section 115.2 (3)", and*
  - (b) *in section 3 by striking out "under section 2 (4)" and substituting "under section 2 (6) of this regulation".*

May 15 2012  
Date

George Abbott  
Minister of Education

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*(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. 168.01

Other:    M78/2012; M77/2012

April 30, 2012

Resub 1/R/344/2012/27

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
REGULATION OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

*School Act*

Ministerial Order No. M 078

I, George Abbott, Minister of Education, order that, effective July 1, 2012, the attached Class Size and Compensation Regulation is made.

DEPOSITED

March 28, 2012

B.C. REG. 52/2012

March 27/12  
Date

George Abbott  
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. 168.01

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

March 22, 2012

RJ177/2012/27

# CLASS SIZE AND COMPENSATION REGULATION

## Definitions

- 1 (1) In this regulation:
  - "Act" means the *School Act*;
  - "class" means a group of students scheduled to be together at least twice a week with a teacher for the purposes of engaging in an educational program;
  - "eligible teacher" means a teacher who, in a year in which additional compensation under section 4 may be provided, is not in a category of teachers prescribed under section 3.
- (2) For the purposes of section 76.1 (2) of the Act:
  - "grades 1 to 3" means a class containing students in those grades and includes a class containing students in those grades and in any other grade except kindergarten;
  - "kindergarten" means a class containing kindergarten students and includes a class containing kindergarten students and students in any other grade.

## Classes not subject to 30-student limit

- 2 The following categories of classes are prescribed for the purposes of section 76.1 (2.1) (b) of the Act:
  - (a) an adult or continuing education class;
  - (b) a class conducted by means of distributed learning;
  - (c) a class that is part of an alternate program;
  - (d) a class that meets for the purpose of a work study or work experience program;
  - (e) a class that is limited to students enrolled in a specialty academy, as defined in section 82.1 (1) of the Act;
  - (f) a music class, including band, choir, instrumental music and orchestra;
  - (g) a performing arts class, including drama and dance;
  - (h) a Planning 10 class;
  - (i) a board-authorized leadership course.

## Ineligible teachers

- 3 The following categories of teachers are prescribed for the purposes of section 76.1 (2.3) (b) of the Act:
  - (a) teachers on call;
  - (b) teachers on a term appointment of less than one calendar month;
  - (c) teachers who, in a school year, have not submitted a notice under section 4 (2).

#### Additional compensation

- 4 (1) For every month of the school year, except September, that an eligible teacher is a teacher referred to in section 76.1 (2.2) (b) of the Act, the board must provide to the eligible teacher additional compensation that has a dollar value determined as follows:

$$DV = [AV \div 9] \times P \times S$$

where:

DV = the dollar value of the additional compensation

AV = the average salary, for the previous school year, of a full-time teacher in the Province, divided by 30

P = the percentage of a full-time instructional month that the teacher teaches the class

S = the highest number of students enrolled in the class during the month for which the calculation is made, minus 30

- (2) An eligible teacher of a class referred to in section 76.1 (2.1) (a) of the Act, after consulting with the school's principal, may submit a notice to the board identifying the form of additional compensation the board is to provide to the eligible teacher.
- (3) In a notice under subsection (2), an eligible teacher may identify one or more of the following forms of additional compensation:
- (a) additional preparation time;
  - (b) an additional professional development allowance;
  - (c) an additional allowance for classroom supplies and equipment;
  - (d) additional pay.
- (4) Subject to subsection (6), after receiving a notice under subsection (2), a board must provide to the eligible teacher the additional compensation identified in the notice.
- (5) Nothing in subsection (4) requires a board to provide additional preparation time to an eligible teacher for a time period when, in the board's opinion, an appropriate teacher on call is not available to take the place of the eligible teacher.
- (6) If, at the end of a school year, an eligible teacher is still entitled to additional compensation for that school year, the board must provide it in the form of additional pay.
- (7) A board's obligation, in respect of a school year, to pay additional compensation to an eligible teacher must be met within one month after the end of the school year.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
REGULATION OF THE MINISTER OF  
EDUCATION

*School Act*

Ministerial Order No. M 077

I, George Abbott, Minister of Education, order that, effective April 14, 2012, the attached Learning Improvement Fund Regulation is made.

DEPOSITED

March 28, 2012

B.C. REG. 53/2012

March 27/12  
Date

George Abbott  
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, section 168.01

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

March 22, 2012

R/234/2012/27

# LEARNING IMPROVEMENT FUND REGULATION

## *Contents*

- 1 Definitions
- 2 Consultations and spending plan
- 3 Use of grant
- 4 Reduction prohibited

### **Definitions**

- 1 In this regulation:

“Act” means the *School Act*;

“estimated grant” means the amount of the grant

- (a) that the minister estimates will be provided to a board, and
- (b) that the board has been notified of, under section 115.2 (3) (b) of the Act, by the minister.

### **Consultations and spending plan**

- 2 (1) Before making a submission to the minister under subsection (6), a board must ensure that consultations are carried out as follows:

- (a) the principal or vice principal of each school in the district consults with at least one of

- (i) the school's teaching staff,
- (ii) the staff committee, and
- (iii) the staff representative

to identify for the superintendent which classes, if any, in the following school year will require additional resources to address learning improvement issues, taking the following into account with respect to each class:

- (iv) the number of students assigned to the class and the learning needs of those students, including the resource requirements of students with diagnosed special needs;
- (v) the experience and capacity of the teacher of the class and the resources already available to support learning in that class;
- (b) the district superintendent, in consultation with the president of the local teachers' union, formulates a tentative spending plan that is based on the consultations referred to in paragraph (a);
- (c) within a reasonable time after the first day of classes of the school year referred to in paragraph (a), the principal or vice principal of each school in the district
  - (i) consults with at least one of
    - (A) the school's teaching staff,
    - (B) the staff committee, and

- (C) the staff representative to review the tentative spending plan referred to in paragraph (b), and
  - (ii) advises the superintendent, based on the consultations referred to in subparagraph (i), of any changes to the priorities identified to the superintendent under paragraph (a);
  - (d) the superintendent makes reasonable efforts to reach an agreement with the president of the local teachers' union respecting the contents of a spending plan to be submitted to this minister under subsection (6).
- (2) After complying with subsection (1) (d), the superintendent must submit to the board a spending plan for submission to the minister under subsection (6).
- (3) For greater certainty, an obligation under subsection (1) to carry out a consultation is satisfied if the person on whom the obligation is imposed provides to the persons with whom he or she must consult a reasonable opportunity to engage in the consultation.
- (4) In addition to doing the things described in subsection (1) (a) and (c), the principal and vice principal may consult with the applicable parent advisory committee respecting the matters referred to in that subsection.
- (5) In addition to doing the things described in subsection (1) (b) and (d), the superintendent may consult with the applicable district parent advisory council respecting the matters referred to in that subsection.
- (6) A board requesting, in a fiscal year, a grant under section 115.2 of the Act must submit to the minister, by the time and in the manner specified by the minister, a spending plan that allocates the estimated grant with respect to one or more of the following:
  - (i) the provision of additional teaching staff and teacher assistants and other para professionals;
  - (ii) additional teaching time and services to students;
  - (iii) professional development training of teaching staff to address challenging learning conditions;
  - (iv) a reserve fund, not exceeding 30% of the estimated grant, that may be used for any of the purposes described in subparagraphs (i) to (iii), as the board considers appropriate.

#### **Use of grant**

- 3 A board that receives a grant under section 115.2 of the Act must use the grant in accordance with the spending plan submitted to the minister under section 2 (4).

#### **Reduction prohibited**

- 4 A board that receives a grant under section 115.2 of the Act must not reduce the expenditures it would have made to address learning improvement issues if the board did not receive the grant.



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister; for Decision, following  
Legislative Review Committee meeting of April 19, 2012.

S. 12

S. 12

Attachment(s): Draft legislation  
Draft memo to LRC chair

<u>Contact Information</u>		Agree / <del>Disagree:</del>	Agree / Disagree:
Mary Shaw 250-217-8199 Department File	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
		Date signed: April 23/12	Date signed:

S. 12

Attachment(s): Draft legislation  
Draft memo to LRC chair

<u>Contact Information</u>		Agree / <del>Disagree</del>	Agree / Disagree:
Mary Shaw 250-217-8199 Department File	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
		Date signed: April 23/12	Date signed:

Pages 147 through 156 redacted for the following reasons:

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S. 12

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Date: April 23, 2012

To: Blair Lekstrom, Chair, Legislative Review Committee

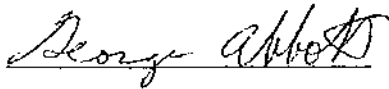
From: George Abbott, Minister of Education

Cc: James Gorman, Deputy Minister of Education  
Elizabeth MacMillan, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

S. 12, S. 13

S. 12, S. 13

I trust that the above is satisfactory and will proceed on that basis.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Abbott", written over a horizontal line.

George Abbott

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**


**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information** at the request of  
Governance and Legislation Branch

S. 12, S. 13

Pages 160 through 161 redacted for the following reasons:

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S. 12, s. 13

<u>Contact Information</u>  <b>Governance and Independent Schools Division</b>		<b>Approved by:</b>  
	<b>ADM initial</b>	<b>James Gorman Deputy Minister</b>
<b>Phone 6-1404</b>		<b>Date signed: Feb. 17, 2012</b>