



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

January 23, 2020

Honourable Rob Fleming
Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Rob

Dear Minister ~~Fleming~~,

The Vancouver Board of Education is very concerned about the safety of students as they arrive at and leave from their schools.

At the November 25, 2019 Vancouver School Board meeting, the Board passed the following motions regarding improving transportation safety.

That the Board directs the Chair to write a letter to the Provincial Ministers of Education and Transportation, the Federal Minister of Transportation and Vancouver Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) informing them of our goal of improving transportation safety around schools, and invite their participation and support.

FURTHER THAT the letter includes the Board's support of the new provincial Active Transportation Strategy highlighting the need for the Strategy to address Safe Routes to Schools.

The Board also directed VSB staff to prepare a report for the January 2020 Board meeting which identifies all of the work being done in the district regarding transportation safety and promoting walking or rolling to schools, including elementary, secondary, adult education and alternative schools.

The Vancouver School Board passed these motions in order to work with the City of Vancouver, which approved the following motions at the Standing Committee of City Finance and Services meeting on October 2, 2019:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council direct staff to collaborate with the Vancouver School Board and report back on recommendations for improving transportation safety in Vancouver's school zones, while actively promoting walking or rolling to schools. This report should include:

- a) A review, in concert with reports on the Greenways and Slower, Safer Streets programs, of current infrastructure and City policies pertaining to pedestrian and cyclist safety around Vancouver's schools, any necessary infrastructure or policy changes to ensure increased safety of children, staff and families, and proposed budgets and timelines;*

Board of Education Trustees:

Janet Fraser – Board Chair

Carmen Cho – Vice-Chair

Fraser Ballantyne Lois Chan-Pedley

Estrellita Gonzalez Oliver Hanson

Barb Parrott Jennifer Reddy Allan Wong

- b) *Engagement and consultation with the public, schools and Parent Advisory Councils (PACs), the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), local and Provincial Public Health authorities, and the City's Transportation Advisory Committee, as integrated with and complementary to the city-wide planning process;*
- c) *Specific standards that can be applied to all schools including for speed zone reductions, traffic calming, pedestrian crossings, and cycling infrastructure;*
- d) *Where recommendations for future work (particularly speed zones) could require support from Legal staff or from the Vancouver Police Department, that should be outlined in the report;*
- e) *A review of the cycling education programs in city schools, in consultation with HUB;*
- f) *This report back happen within the 2019/2020 school year;*

FURTHER THAT Council direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Provincial Ministers of Education, Health, and Transportation informing them of Council's goal of improving transportation safety around schools, and request their support and participation;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to review and reconsider its policy of not installing 30km/hr school zones and signage on arterials.

With regards to the Board's support on a strategy to address Safe Routes to School, at its March 4, 2019 meeting, the Board passed the following motion in support of the All on Board campaign:

That the Vancouver Board of Education endorses, with a letter to TransLink's Mayor Council, All On Board's request for free transit access for children under 18 years of age and supports the proposal of reduced price transit, based on a sliding scale using the Market Basket Measure, for all low income people.

In addition, the Board has submitted a motion to the BC School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting in April 2020 asking the BCSTA to work with the provincial government on opportunities to include and improve Safe Routes to School recommendations as part of the new provincial Active Transportation Strategy.

As our Board moves forward in these initiatives to improve student safety with regards to transportation around VSB schools, and in all schools across the province, we invite your support in this important work.

With regards,



Janet Fraser
Board Chair

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