

February 8, 2021

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside

Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
E: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Whiteside,

At the January 25, 2021 Board meeting, the Vancouver Board of Education passed the following motion:

That the Vancouver Board of Education write to the Minister of Education requesting the cancellation of the Foundation Skills Assessment for the 2020-2021 school year.

Given the challenging year with COVID, there has been a lot of angst and uncertainty in our schools. Teachers have focused their efforts to maintain health and safety in their classrooms, while making connections with students and ensuring learning for students continues.

The amount of time required to complete the FSA is significant particularly during COVID. There are students absent in classrooms, some in the Option 4 Learn from Home option and others who will be anxious about writing the FSA. Completing the FSAs will require additional health and safety protocols and considerations by teachers. Administrators may also need to support the completion of the FSA whilst continuing to manage and lead their schools in the pandemic.

I would like to reiterate the Board's motion: *(to request) the cancellation of the Foundation Skills Assessment for the 2020-2021 school year.* This motion was unanimously supported by the Vancouver Board of Education.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your reply.

With regards,



Carmen Cho
Board Chair

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

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