



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

November 5, 2018

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

Dear Minister Fleming,

Re: Ministry Area Standards

At the October 10, 2018 Vancouver Board of Education meeting the Trustees passed a motion directing staff to:

"...prepare a letter to the Minister of Education outlining the educational impacts that current area standards for newly built schools could have on visual arts, music, shop class, curriculum implementation and social interaction (i.e. limited time and space for eating lunch) as well as the impact that current area standards have on the functioning of the school, because of the lack of storage for use by teachers, students and building engineers."

Vancouver Board of Education Trustees have been hearing concerns from parents and employee stakeholder representatives regarding limitations that Ministry Area Standards place upon the ability of the District to design and build new and replacement schools to meet the needs of today's learners. Ministry Area Standards generally result in newer and/or replacement facilities that are significantly smaller than older school buildings. These smaller school buildings do not provide optimal space for the delivery of educational programming. Specific areas of concern with the Ministry Area Standards being brought to the attention of the Vancouver Board of Education Trustees include:

- Lack of dedicated space for Visual and Performing Arts instruction.
- Lack of dedicated space for theatre space and auditorium space in secondary schools.
- Lack of dedicated space for before and after school childcare programming.
- Insufficient space for indoor play and for students to eat lunch.
- Insufficient gymnasium space within larger secondary schools.
- No allocation for covered outdoor play space.
- Insufficient storage allocation to support school programming.

Board of School Trustees:

Janet Fraser – Chairperson

Joy Alexander – Vice-Chairperson

Carrie Bercic Fraser Ballantyne Lisa Dominato

Estrellita Gonzalez Allan Wong Judy Zaichkowsky

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The current Ministry of Education Area Standards were last revised in 2004. The Vancouver Board of Education requests that the Ministry of Education undertake a review of Ministry Area Standards to ensure that we are investing in and building school facilities that support the revised curriculum and fully support and promote the development of educated citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Fraser".

Janet Fraser
Board Chair

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