

June 14, 2022

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside

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

Dear Minister Whiteside,

At the May 30, 2022 public Board meeting the Vancouver Board of Education passed the following motion:

That the Vancouver Board of Education requests that the Ministry of Education and Child Care fully fund the following amounts:

- a) \$1,371,213 to replace prep done by Teacher Librarians with Prep done by other teachers*
- b) \$1,688,625 to replace non-enrolling teachers on first day of absence*
- c) \$636,900 to add 5 secondary teacher counsellors*
- d) \$636,900 to add 5 elementary area counsellors.*

And that the advocacy committee be asked to develop a robust advocacy campaign to achieve the goal of adequate funding for public education.

While we understand the Ministry of Education and Child Care does not typically fund specific items, this motion is indicative of the ongoing underfunding problem within our District. In 2019, our District expressed similar pressures in a [letter to Minister Rob Fleming](#) about the need for adequate and stable funding through an increase in the per pupil amount.

In the [Improving Equity and Accountability – Report of the Funding Model Review Panel \(2018\)](#), Recommendations 17 and 18 outline the funding pressures associated with inflation and other rising cost pressures, while school boards face uncertainty from the lack of funding predictability. School boards are managing structural deficits with insufficient funding from the Ministry of Education and Child Care to cover all costs. For the last four years, the Vancouver School Board has had to use surplus from previous years to balance our annual budget. This practice is unsustainable. Adequate funding from the government is imperative to provide the necessary support for our students.

Board of Education Trustees:

Janet Fraser – Board Chair,
Estrellita Gonzalez – Vice-Chair,
Fraser Ballantyne, Lois Chan-Pedley,
Carmen Cho, Oliver Hanson, Barb Parrott,
Jennifer Reddy, Allan Wong

We respectfully ask that the Minister of Education and Child Care work to improve this challenging funding situation faced by school boards across the province. Our students deserve better.

With regards,



Janet Fraser
Board Chair

cc: VBE Trustees
Helen McGregor, Superintendent
J. David Green, Secretary Treasurer