

From: [Ally Giesbrecht](#)
To: [budget 2023-2024](#)
Subject: Opposition to school board program cuts and school closures
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 12:12:49 PM

Hi,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the cuts and closures being proposed by VSB senior management. It makes no sense that children and families, particularly low-income ones most dependent on programs, to bear the burden of budget cuts. Please prioritize children and families foremost in how you make these decisions. It is a critical component of social determinants of health to intervene as early and as often as possible in human life with early childhood programs and funding to improve the trajectory of health for the rest of a person's life.

Please consider cutting funding to the police officers being in schools which has been repeatedly found to be harmful and unsafe for marginalized children, particularly children of colour. Furthermore, salaries of VSB managers and funding to the VPD instead can be reduced to help the city break even.

Thank you,

Ally

From: [Caitlin Cooper](#)
To: [budget 2023-2024](#)
Subject: Budget Survey
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 11:42:43 AM

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the VSB budget. I filled out a survey, but was disappointed by both the way questions were asked, and for not having a specific area to provide further comment on why I answered questions in the way I did.

I found the paragraph descriptions of the question topics to be very vague and used a lot of loaded terms that could mean drastic changes, such as staffing cuts or facility closures, yet the questions were asked in a way that masked any specific actions that could be considered. I am supportive of being efficient, but not at the expense of having sufficient good quality staff that should be paid well, adequate programs for students who want to take them, and well-maintained facilities. Current funding for schools in Vancouver is inadequate- all students should have access to dedicated physical education AND music education teachers. All students should have adequately maintained facilities. All students should have a neighbourhood school.

More funding should be provided to VSB through higher tax rates of city residents, particularly high-wealth households.

Thank you,

Caitlin Cooper

From: [Kate Boutilier](#)
To: [budget 2023-2024](#)
Subject: VSB Cuts and closures
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 9:17:24 PM

Hi there,

This is my first time contacting the Vancouver School Board in any capacity, but when I heard that there were further cuts to programming and closures of schools in the works, I simply couldn't stand by.

While I didn't grow up in Vancouver, I have been lucky enough to call it my home for the last 9 years. One of my favourite things about the city is how diverse it is, and how welcoming it is of diversity. In my neighbourhood alone I see people of all different income brackets, ethnicities, ages, gender identities, skills, and talents hanging out and living their lives. And in my mind, a school should be a place to embrace and celebrate these differences - giving students the opportunity to excel no matter their learning style or interest. Limiting their access to a nuanced education with a wide variety of subjects and programs offered is setting them up to feel unsupported and disengaged, which is the opposite of how young people should feel growing up in this uncertain time.

I hope to have kids of my own in the next few years, and I would love to look forward to researching options for schools. But unfortunately, it's sounding more and more like we'll be stuck sending them to whatever is closest, and that it won't make much difference anyway as all schools will be struggling to provide meaningful and personalized education.

With my partner on the path to becoming a teacher, I know he's excited to pass on his passion and knowledge to the next generation. I only hope that by the time he's in the field, he will be able to share what he loves with his students to his fullest potential. We have some amazing educators working in the school system, but they just can't do their jobs properly if they are not supported by the board.

I urge you to reconsider the cuts and closures planned for this city. We need our young people, and we need them to feel prioritized.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Kate Boutilier

she/her

From: [Maura D.](#)
To: [budget 2023-2024](#)
Subject: Re: 23-24 Budget survey
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 12:34:51 PM

Hello there, I saw your survey online and tried to complete it but the questions were so vague that I saw no way to answer it in a way that conveys my actual priorities as a taxpayer and former student in BC. Of course we all want our education system to be more efficient, equitable, and high-quality - no one in their right mind would disagree with that. How we might best achieve that is the real question.

For myself, I have no problem with the school board running deficits if it means that students, school staff, and communities in general are supported and well-resourced. Public education is not a for-profit corporation; it has no real independent revenue of its own; it's a public good whose positive impact is immeasurable, and if VSB doesn't have enough funding to adequately serve the public given all of the financial pressures of recent years, then the province needs to fill the gap. I'm happy to pay a bit more in tax if it means students of all ages and abilities have access to education in all its forms - including arts, culture, languages, sports, trades, special programs, hiring programs, night school, libraries, clubs, guidance/career counselling, etc. Every student deserves to have a school close by, with class sizes small enough that their teachers can properly support them, and options available to address whatever challenges they may run into.

Running deficits (and even borrowing money) shows the province that VSB needs more funding; if you simply cut services, staff, or facilities instead, then students will suffer, and the province will have an argument to keep underfunding since "the budget is balanced". Don't play into their hands - if VSB values its own mission, then it shouldn't compromise on that mission just to avoid accusations of "fiscal irresponsibility" from people who don't understand how government funding or our education system works. If VSB is transparent and vocal about its need for increased funding from the province/taxpayers, then no one can fault it for running deficits while it's waiting and pushing for real action from other levels of government.

Sincerely,
Maura

From: [Rudi Leibik](#)
To: [budget 2023-2024](#)
Subject: Please do not close schools or cut school budgets
Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023 11:44:11 PM

Hello -

I am concerned to read that closure of public schools, and further cuts to basic amounts allocated to run public schools in Vancouver, are being considered. Please keep our schools open, and look elsewhere to find places to cut the VSB budget. There are VSB administrative positions that would be far less detrimental to cut than to continue to erode our vital, front line public education system. As a parent, and a former teacher, I know well how important public schools are to the health of our communities. Schools are essential building blocks for an informed, connected, involved citizenry. Keep open, and adequately fund, our public schools - every dollar invested now makes a difference, and helps to create a positive future for all of us.

thank you,

Rudi Leibik



budget 2023-2024

From: Wingfield Rehmus
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 12:21 PM
To: budget 2023-2024
Subject: Survey

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your work on designing the budget for the VSB for 2023-2024. I have had the fortune of having 3 children complete their primary and secondary school education through the VSB, with my youngest child graduating this spring.

I have just completed the survey regarding the budget process for next year. I have to admit, that I did not find the survey to be particularly helpful or to be a useful way to share thoughts about programming and priorities. The summative sentences to which we were to reply were very broad and aspirational, and have very little to do with the actual budgetary decisions that will be made in each category. It reminds me a bit of the surveys that we completed during the pandemic which asked if our students were having trouble keeping up with the work, but provided no opportunity to say whether our students were learning, growing or thriving.

I applaud you for taking the time and effort to survey parents and engage stakeholder groups on such important topics. For the effort that is being expended to collect this information, more could be learned if questions were designed to provide more than cursory agreement with general concepts being discussed.

Thank you again for your efforts on behalf of all children in the VSB.

All the best,
Wingfield

From: [Sarah MacKinnon](#)
To: [budget 2022-2023](#)
Cc: [Jennifer Reddy](#); [Victoria Jung](#); [Preeti Faridkot](#); [Lois Chan-Pedley](#); [Alfred Chien](#); [Suzie Mah](#); [Janet Fraser](#); [Christopher Richardson](#); [Joshua Zhang](#); [Mia Liu](#)
Subject: Budget survey
Date: Monday, February 27, 2023 6:01:33 PM

Hi there,

I am very interested in answering the survey regarding the budget, but the questions were unclear and it was hard to tell if the question meant the survey-taker was agreeing to the information in the paragraph above the question or not. They seemed unrelated to each other for the first question.

As there was no way to skip ahead to the next question without answering do not support, support, or highly support, I chose support but I would like to retract that answer. I have no idea if it was recorded if I did not complete the rest of the survey.

Since the second paragraph and question were equally unclear I just left the survey page at that point. This survey needs to be redesigned with very clear language.

In the meantime, what I do support is that students receive everything they need to learn and grow and thrive in our schools. This requires funding the entire system more adequately. Many, many children are falling through the cracks in Vancouver School District schools. Schools need to be safe— physically, mentally, and emotionally—for all students and their families.

Thank you,
Sarah