



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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May 21, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC
V8W 9E1

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Premier Clark and Minister Fassbender:

Last night the Vancouver Board of Education approved a motion "calling on the BC Government to bargain in good faith, including bringing adequate resources to the table; and to step back from recent pressure tactics such as threatened wage rollbacks and teacher lockouts".

Our public education system needs labour force stability in order that we can remain focused on our teaching and learning goals. Long-term stability is best achieved by reaching a freely negotiated collective agreement. Unfortunately, in spite of months of bargaining, we are now facing a series of rotating strikes starting May 26th.

Our Board urges the Province to reach an agreement with teachers as soon as possible in order to avoid any further escalation of job action. In our view, it does not appear that the parties are that far apart that an agreement cannot be achieved. However, pressure tactics such as threatening to charge the union up to \$10 million per month for employee benefits or reduce teachers' salaries by 5%, push the parties further apart.

Please provide a mandate to the provincial negotiator that would resolve this dispute without any further disruption to our public school system.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patti Bacchus'.

Patti Bacchus,
Board Chair

c: VBE Trustees
All BC School Boards, c/o BCSTA
Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer

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