



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

Fax: 604-713-5049

2009 August 05

Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy
P O Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister MacDiarmid:

On behalf of the Vancouver Board of School Trustees, I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with me and my colleagues on July 29 to talk about the Vancouver School District's challenges and opportunities.

Our large, complex and highly diverse district provides educational services to a wide range of children, youth and adults and we believe there is no better investment in the future health and prosperity of our province than by meeting the educational needs of all learners.

As I outlined during our meeting, the increased costs of delivering our services — salaries, benefits, incremental increases, inflation on goods and services and the impact of the per-student funding model in a time of declining enrolment — exceed the amount of our provincial funding increases by an accumulated total of approximately \$40 million in annual operating funds since 2001.

These funding shortfalls have resulted in difficult decisions by boards and we are concerned that without a restoration in funding, we may fail to fully meet the needs of all students, resulting in unrealized potential and greater long-term social and economic costs.

In these economically challenging times, we urge you and your government to make education a priority, instead of seeing education as a percentage of the provincial funding slip from 20 per cent in 2001 down to just over 13 per cent.

We look forward to working with you and your ministry to find ways in which we can support learning and the best outcomes for our students.

Board of School Trustees:

Patti Bacchus - Chairperson

Jane Bouey - Vice-Chairperson

Allan Blakey Ken Clement Ken Denike

Carol Gibson Sharon Gregson Mike Lombardi

Allan Wong

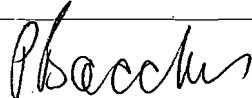
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We also invite you to visit our schools and see first hand the outstanding and innovative work being done in our wide range of programs.

Thank you again for meeting with us.

Best wishes,



Patti Bacchus
Chairperson

cc: Trustees
Laurie Anderson, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Brenda Ng, Secretary-Treasurer