



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

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Friday, November 13, 2009

Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education and Minister Responsible
for Early Learning and Literacy
PO Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister MacDiarmid:

We have come together as representatives of the Vancouver school district's key stakeholder groups to jointly convey our deep concerns about recent funding changes that are making it increasingly difficult for our schools to meet the learning needs of all students. Through this letter, parents, employee groups and trustees ask you to reverse these damaging cuts and restore funding to public schools.

We are very proud of our world-class public education that is the envy of much of the world. We recognize that there is no better investment in our province's future social and economic health than providing our children with rich learning opportunities and support.

Our public education system is a proven success yet we believe it is at risk of deterioration due to the chronic and increasing financial pressure from provincial underfunding. We can not continue to cut corners and make do with less without affecting our ability to provide optimal learning conditions for students.

The current government was elected on a promise to protect public education, but since last spring you have made a series of choices that have directly contradicted that promise.

These choices include:

- Elimination of the \$10.6 million Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) – Further deferral of maintenance work will lead to increased building failures, causing safety concerns and exponential repair costs for taxpayers.
- A clawback of the \$400,000 enrolment holdback funds that were granted to our district last June, a portion of which we had already allocated to provide full-day K to some of our inner-city schools.
- Increases to MSP premiums, which will cost our district approximately \$100,000 during the current budget year, and double that next year.
- A 50 per cent cut to our Parent Advisory Council Gaming grants, which means \$500,000 in lost funding to Vancouver schools.

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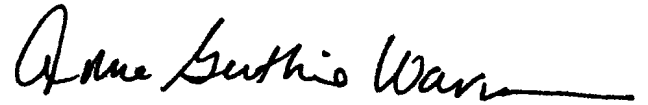
Carol Gibson Sharon Gregson Mike Lombardi

Allan Wong

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Chris Harris,
President, Vancouver Elementary
Teachers Association (VESTA)



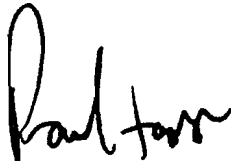
Anne Guthrie-Warman
President, Vancouver Secondary
Teachers Association (VSTA)



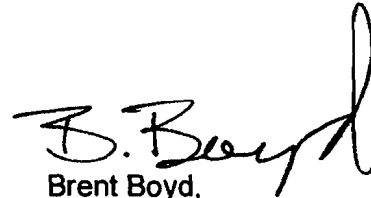
Rosemary Love,
President, Vancouver Elementary
Principals' and Vice Principals
Association (VEPVPA)




Iona Whishaw,
President, Vancouver Association
of Secondary School
Administrators (VASSA)



Paul Faoro,
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Tim Chester,
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Trade Union Representative
Building trades

cc. All Vancouver Board of Education Trustees
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