



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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2009 September 24

Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt.
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister MacDiarmid,

RE: Reinstatement of Annual Facilities Grant Funding

The Vancouver Board of Education (VSB) expressed its disappointment and concern regarding the cancellation of the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) Funding in a letter addressed to you on September 4, 2009. As a result of our letter, we did receive your approval to utilize our Restricted Capital Reserve (RCR) and unallocated Combined Seismic Mitigation Program funds to enable the District to manage some of its most emergent facilities issues in lieu of the AFG funding.

The RCR funding used in substitution for the AFG funding had been targeted for use on other capital projects related to our curriculum and functional needs within the District. Instead these very important projects will be placed on indefinite hold pending other opportunities of funding. The consequence is that the delivery of education to those affected classrooms will not be as well accommodated as it could have been.

We wrote to you on July 1, 2009 to express our concerns that if the AFG funding was cancelled that our ability to meet future contractual and maintenance planning obligations would be jeopardized. We find ourselves in that position today. No future direction exists regarding the funds and therefore an ability to feasibly do any long range planning as required within the Ministry's newly initiated Capital Asset Management System (CAMS). In fact, there is an obvious irony that such a program be required when there is in fact no funding available to manage it nor to implement any of its findings.

We therefore strongly urge the Minister to reinstate the Annual Facilities Grant funding for this fiscal year and provide clear commitment to its future such that Districts are able to appropriately plan and manage the infrastructure upgrades and replacements that are requested of us.

Yours truly,

Patti Bacchus
Trustee Chairperson

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