



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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September 25, 2009

Mayor and Council
Vancouver City Hall
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y1V4

RE: Request to Support A Motion from the Saanich Municipality at the UBCM AGM

Dear Mayor Gregor Robertson and City Council:

The Vancouver Board of Education (VBE), via the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Board Chair listserve, received a request in 2009 July from the Saanich School Board for VBE to submit a request to Vancouver City Council to support their motion at the Union of BC Municipalities AGM regarding education funding. The proposed Saanich School Board motion states:

"B58 FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS public education is vital to the future of British Columbia and must be supported, especially during difficult economic times to ensure a strong economy in the future;

AND WHEREAS many school boards of education are at risk of not meeting public expectations for public education due to falling enrolment combined with the significant reduction in programs and services needed to balance their operating budgets:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to increase funding levels for primary and secondary education in the province."

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

On 2009 September 21, the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) Trustees passed the following motion:

WHEREAS School districts have faced cumulative years of underfunding from the provincial government;

AND WHEREAS the Vancouver school district has an accumulated \$40 million annual operating shortfall due to unfunded cost increases since 2001;

AND WHEREAS the Vancouver school district not only provides education to students, it employs thousands of Vancouver residents and purchases significant amounts of goods and services in our city;

AND WHEREAS reductions to staffing and services to students creates hardships for families and greater long-term costs to communities;

AND WHEREAS the social and economic health of cities is directly affected by the ability of its public schools to meet the needs of all learners.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Education request that Vancouver City Councilors speak to and support a motion from the Saanich Municipality at the 2009 September meeting of the Union of BC Municipalities in Vancouver advising the provincial government that public education underfunding affects the social and economic health of the community.

The VBE cordially requests Vancouver City Council support. We look forward to your response to this request.

Sincerely,



Patti Bacchus
Chairperson

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