



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

June 15, 2010

Hon. Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, MLA
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Dr. MacDiarmid:

Re: **Ministerial Directive Order**

Further to your letter of June 10, 2010, please be advised that last night the Vancouver Board of Education passed the following motion, consistent with your Ministerial Directive Order:

“That the Board of Education for School District #39:

- 1) Direct the District Management Team to develop a balanced budget that:
 - (a) takes full consideration of the recommendations directed to the Vancouver Board of Education set out in the Office of the Comptroller General’s June 2010 “Report on The Vancouver School Board (School District 39)”; and
 - (b) is drafted with the best interests of students, student achievement and parents as the paramount considerations; and
- 2) On or before June 18, 2010, submit the draft budget to the Minister for her review prior to that budget being voted on by the Vancouver Board of Education.”

In considering this motion, the Board identified a few areas in which we seek further clarification prior to submitting the draft 2010/2011 Preliminary Budget for your review on June 18, 2010.

Firstly, the Board received an update on the projected funding shortfall for 2010/2011 from VSB staff at our meeting last night. As a result of the estimated impact of a Distributed Learning Audit that is expected to be completed this week and other recent budget changes, the projected funding shortfall for 2010/2011 has increased slightly from \$16.32 million to \$17.23 million. The Board intends to submit a balanced budget for 2010/2011

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

based on the projected \$17.23 million funding shortfall. The Board would appreciate being advised if the Ministry believes that our balanced budget should be based on a different projected shortfall number.

Secondly, the Board would like to understand the definition of core versus non-core services referred to by the Special Advisor in her report. The Special Advisor recommended that the VSB "stop funding non-core services". It should be noted that our 2010/2011 Revised Budget Proposals include reductions to non-funded services such as junior kindergarten and transportation. In addition, full day kindergarten will be fully funded by the Province in September 2011. However, the Board would like to understand what other, if any, services that are currently being provided to Vancouver students are deemed to be non-core services.

Lastly, the Special Advisor identified that one of the ways the VSB could save costs would be to close or consolidate schools. The Board would like to know if you are expecting that our draft 2010/2011 budget, to be submitted for your review on June 18, 2010, should include the closure of schools effective September, 2010.

We would appreciate a quick response to the above questions in order to assist the Board in finalizing the draft 2010/2011 Preliminary Budget to be submitted to you this Friday.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P Bacchus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patti Bacchus
Chairperson

cc Trustees
Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
Brenda Ng, Secretary Treasurer