

Marlene Phillips

From: Marlene Phillips
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 1:02 PM
To: Group Trustees
Cc: Group District Management; Maria Chona T. Caparas; Kurt Heinrich
Subject: Board correspondence being sent today
Attachments: 12_04Apr18_L_toBorsato_fromBacchus_Cardwell_Congratulations_UBC Alumni Teacher Award.pdf; 12_04Apr18_L_toAbbott_MOE_reLearningImprovementFund.pdf; 12_04Apr18_L_toAbbott_MOE_rePlaygroundGrants.pdf

For your information, the attached letters are being sent in the mail today.

Marlene Phillips
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Secretary Treasurer's Office
Vancouver School Board
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Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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April 18, 2012

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

George
Dear Minister Abbott:

Re: **Learning Improvement Fund**

On behalf of the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE), I would like to thank the province for providing the funding for school boards through the Learning Improvement Fund. As the VBE has faced an operating budget funding shortfall for 9 of the last 10 fiscal years, this funding provides a welcomed start towards returning some of the public education funding that has been lost over the last decade.

The Learning Improvement Fund (LIF) Regulation under Bill 22 (The Education Improvement Act) outlines the process for developing an expenditure plan for these funds. The process includes consultation with school administrators, school staff, the Superintendent and the president of the local teachers' union. These expenditure plans however are not contemplated to be completed until early in the new school year.

We are currently in the process of developing our 2012/2013 operating budget for the VBE. This is a highly consultative process providing opportunity for the Board to receive input from all stakeholders regarding budget proposals and priorities. A preliminary operating budget will be approved on April 30, 2012 in order to provide adequate time to allocate staff and resources in advance of the start-up of the 2012/2013 school year.

Unfortunately, the timing of the expenditure plan process outlined in the Learning Improvement Fund Regulation is too late to be reflected in our operating budget plans for 2012/2013. Accordingly, on April 16, 2012, the VBE passed a motion requesting that I write to you and request that the Bill 22 Regulation regarding LIF be revised to enable Boards to incorporate LIF funding into the development of their 2012/2013 operating budgets. This would ensure the rights of parents of students with special needs be respected by ensuring that consultations regarding placement, education plans, and support are meaningful and include support that will be funded by the LIF.

Board of School Trustees:

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Patti Bacchus - Chairperson

Mike Lombardi - Vice-Chairperson

Fraser Ballantyne Ken Clement Ken Denike

Cherie Payne Allan Wong Sophia Woo

Rob Wynen

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
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Also, the LIF Regulation requires a consultation process for the development of an expenditure plan which limits the involvement by the Board. At the April 16, 2012 meeting, the VBE also passed a motion that the LIF Regulation undermines the authority of local elected boards to allocate resources in their districts in consultation with the public and stakeholders and precludes thoughtful planning in school organization and support for vulnerable students.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and comments.

Yours truly,



Patti Bacchus
Chairperson of the Board

cc Trustees

Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer