

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.

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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: **Playground Grants**

On behalf of Vancouver public schools and parents, the Vancouver Board of Education wishes to thank the Province for the playground grants announced in December, 2011. Thirteen Vancouver schools received a total of \$381,500 to be reimbursed to their Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) for their contributions to playgrounds that were built in 2011.

As you know, although playgrounds are important in terms of play and exercise for our young children, they have not been included as part of any regular provincial funding program. Although the funding announced in December, 2011 appears again to be part of a one-time commitment, the additional funds are appreciated.

The Board of Trustees however would like to mention to you their concern about retroactive criteria being applied and the inequitable impact of decisions dictated by rules set after the fact by the provincial government. A case in point in this regard occurred at one of our schools (Thunderbird Elementary). A teacher undertook significant fundraising to assist in the cost of a new playground. As it was not raised through the PAC, the eligibility for reimbursement under the grant program is in question. If the rules of the program would have been known and communicated up-front, the teacher could have organized her fundraising effort through the PAC.

In the future, the Board would request that playground funding allocations be determined at the local level to ensure equity and transparency.

Thank you again for the funding to support our school playgrounds.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P Bacchus'.

Patti Bacchus
Chairperson of the Board

cc Trustees

Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer

Board of School Trustees:

Patti Bacchus - Chairperson
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