



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 18, 2013

By email and original letter by mail

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

Dear Minister Fassbender:

Congratulations on your appointment as BC's Education Minister. These are exciting times for our world-class public education system and the Vancouver School Board looks forward to working with you to support, strengthen and improve our schools and the opportunities they provide for BC's children and youth.

We also share many challenges and we believe that by working together in a constructive and collaborative co-governance relationship we can find and implement the best solutions to our challenges and ensure all students are able to succeed in school.

In Vancouver we are fortunate to be able to provide a wide range of learning options in our 109 schools, alternative programs and adult education centres.

We continue to focus on completing all of our outstanding seismic upgrade projects, prioritizing schools that have been assessed as "H1" or "H2" (high risk of significant structural damage in an earthquake). We are pleased to have made significant progress on this issue, working in partnership with the provincial government, but we still have many schools to complete by the province's goal of having all schools completed by 2020. We believe that by working together we can accelerate the pace of school upgrades or replacements to ensure all students are in safe buildings by 2020.

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Board of School Trustees:

Patti Bacchus - Chairperson

Mike Lombardi - Vice-Chairperson

Fraser Ballantyne Ken Clement Ken Denike

Cherie Payne Allan Wong Sophia Woo

Rob Wynen

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
June 18, 2013
Page 2

We also continue to struggle financially as in every year but one in the last dozen, provincial funding grants have not kept pace with the combined costs of salary, benefit and pension contribution increases, inflation and numerous additional costs to school boards (carbon offsets, insurance premiums, MSP increases etc). Our finance department calculates that after adjusting for enrolment declines and inflation, it would take almost \$50 million a year in increased operating funds to support equivalent staffing, service and resource levels for students as we did 12 years ago.

We know many of our families continue to struggle with poverty and access to quality affordable childcare, placing additional pressure on schools and affecting students' ability to learn. We also face challenging class composition issues as the percentage of students assessed with special learning needs continues to increase in relation to overall enrolment.

We are pleased to report some progress on improved outcomes for Aboriginal students, but we have much work to do to ensure improved outcomes and opportunities for all students.

Our Board would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you to tell you more about the Vancouver school district so we can share both our successes and our challenges. We also invite you to tour schools and programs where we can show you what 21st Century Learning looks like, Vancouver style.

I know this is a busy time as you step into this new and exciting role. Please advise Chona Caparas by telephone at 604-713-5080 or by email at mcaparas@vsb.bc.ca when it would be convenient for you to visit Vancouver and meet with members of our Board.

In closing, I would like to wish you all the best in your new role and I look forward to meeting you and working together for BC's students.

Sincerely,



Patti Bacchus
Board Chair

c: VBE Trustees
Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer



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June 18, 2013

By email and original letter by mail

Honourable Suzanne Anton
MLA, Vancouver-Fraserview
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
suzanne.anton.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Anton:

Congratulations on your recent election as a Vancouver MLA.

These are exciting times for our world-class public education system and the Vancouver School Board looks forward to working with you to support, strengthen and improve our schools and the opportunities they provide for BC's children and youth.

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Honourable Suzanne Anton, MLA
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June 18, 2013

By email and original letter by mail

Mr. Spencer Chandra Herbert
MLA, Vancouver-West End
Room 201 - Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
s.chandraherbert.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Herbert:

Congratulations on your recent re-election as a Vancouver MLA.

These are exciting times for our world-class public education system and the Vancouver School Board looks forward to working with you to support, strengthen and improve our schools and the opportunities they provide for BC's children and youth.

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By email and original letter by mail

Mr. Adrian Dix, MLA-Vancouver-Kingsway
Room 201 - Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Adrian.Dix.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Dix:

Congratulations on your recent re-election as a Vancouver MLA.

These are exciting times for our world-class public education system and the Vancouver School Board looks forward to working with you to support, strengthen and improve our schools and the opportunities they provide for BC's children and youth.

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June 18, 2013

By email and original letter by mail

Mr. David Eby, MLA – Vancouver-Point Grey
Room 201 - Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
david.eby.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Eby:

Congratulations on your recent election as a Vancouver MLA.

These are exciting times for our world-class public education system and the Vancouver School Board looks forward to working with you to support, strengthen and improve our schools and the opportunities they provide for BC's children and youth.

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June 18, 2013

By email and original letter by mail

Mr. George Heyman
MLA, Vancouver-Fairview
Room 201 - Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
george.heyman.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Heyman:

Congratulations on your recent election as a Vancouver MLA.

These are exciting times for our world-class public education system and the Vancouver School Board looks forward to working with you to support, strengthen and improve our schools and the opportunities they provide for BC's children and youth.

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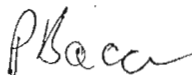
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June 18, 2013

By email and original letter by mail

Ms. Jenny Wai Ching Kwan
MLA, Vancouver-Mount Pleasant
Room 201 - Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
jenny.kwan.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Kwan:

Congratulations on your recent re-election as a Vancouver MLA.

These are exciting times for our world-class public education system and the Vancouver School Board looks forward to working with you to support, strengthen and improve our schools and the opportunities they provide for BC's children and youth.

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June 18, 2013

By email and original letter by mail

Mr. Shane Simpson
MLA, Vancouver-Hastings
Room 201 - Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
shane.simpson.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Simpson:

Congratulations on your recent re-election as a Vancouver MLA.

These are exciting times for our world-class public education system and the Vancouver School Board looks forward to working with you to support, strengthen and improve our schools and the opportunities they provide for BC's children and youth.

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Mr. Shane Simpson, MLA
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June 18, 2013

By email and original letter by mail

Mr. Sam Sullivan
MLA, Vancouver-False Creek
East Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
sam.sullivan.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Congratulations on your recent election as a Vancouver MLA.

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Honourable Andrew Wilkinson
MLA, Vancouver-Quilchena
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
andrew.wilkinson.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

Congratulations on your recent election as a Vancouver MLA.

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