



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

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February 17, 2015

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

The Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9417 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Dear Minister Fassbender and Minister de Jong:

The Vancouver Board of Education is currently facing a projected funding shortfall of \$15 - \$18 million for 2015/2016. Our initial estimated funding shortfall for 2015/2016 was \$27.6 million. However, owing to our on-going efforts and decisions to realize budget savings, the projected funding shortfall for next year has been reduced.

The remaining \$15 - \$18 million projected funding shortfall, however, is still significant and represents over 3% of our \$500 million annual operating budget. The funding shortfall for 2015 / 2016 comes on top of the \$63 million in budget cuts that have been made in Vancouver over the past decade (see Attachment A). As a result, submitting a balanced budget for 2015 – 2016 will result in significant cuts to a system which has already seen substantial reductions to programs, services and staff over the last number of years.

Similar to other school districts, over 90% of our funding comes from the Province. Accordingly, the level of provincial funding has a significant impact on the educational programs and services that can be provided.

As noted in our submission to the Province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services in September, 2014, British Columbia falls considerably below the national average in spending per student. In fact, British Columbia ranks second last compared to other provinces and territories (see Attachment B). If the Province matched the \$12,557 per student national average expenditure, it would translate to \$398 million more in funding for the Province's 550,000 students.

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Board of School Trustees:

Christopher Richardson – Chairperson

Janet Fraser – Vice-Chairperson

Joy Alexander Patti Bacchus Fraser Ballantyne

Mike Lombardi Penny Noble

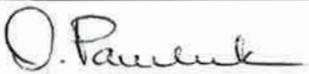
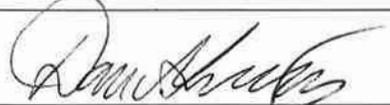
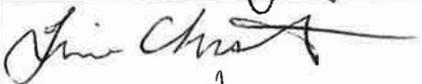
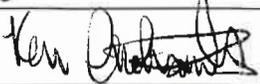
Stacy Robertson Allan Wong

The Board of Trustees would like an opportunity to meet with both of you so that we can more fully explain our financial situation and the need for additional funding to support K – 12 public education in British Columbia. The Board of Trustees will also be reaching out to Vancouver MLAs to ensure that they are fully informed of our financial situation and the likely outcome if no additional provincial funding is forthcoming.

We look forward to meeting with you shortly.

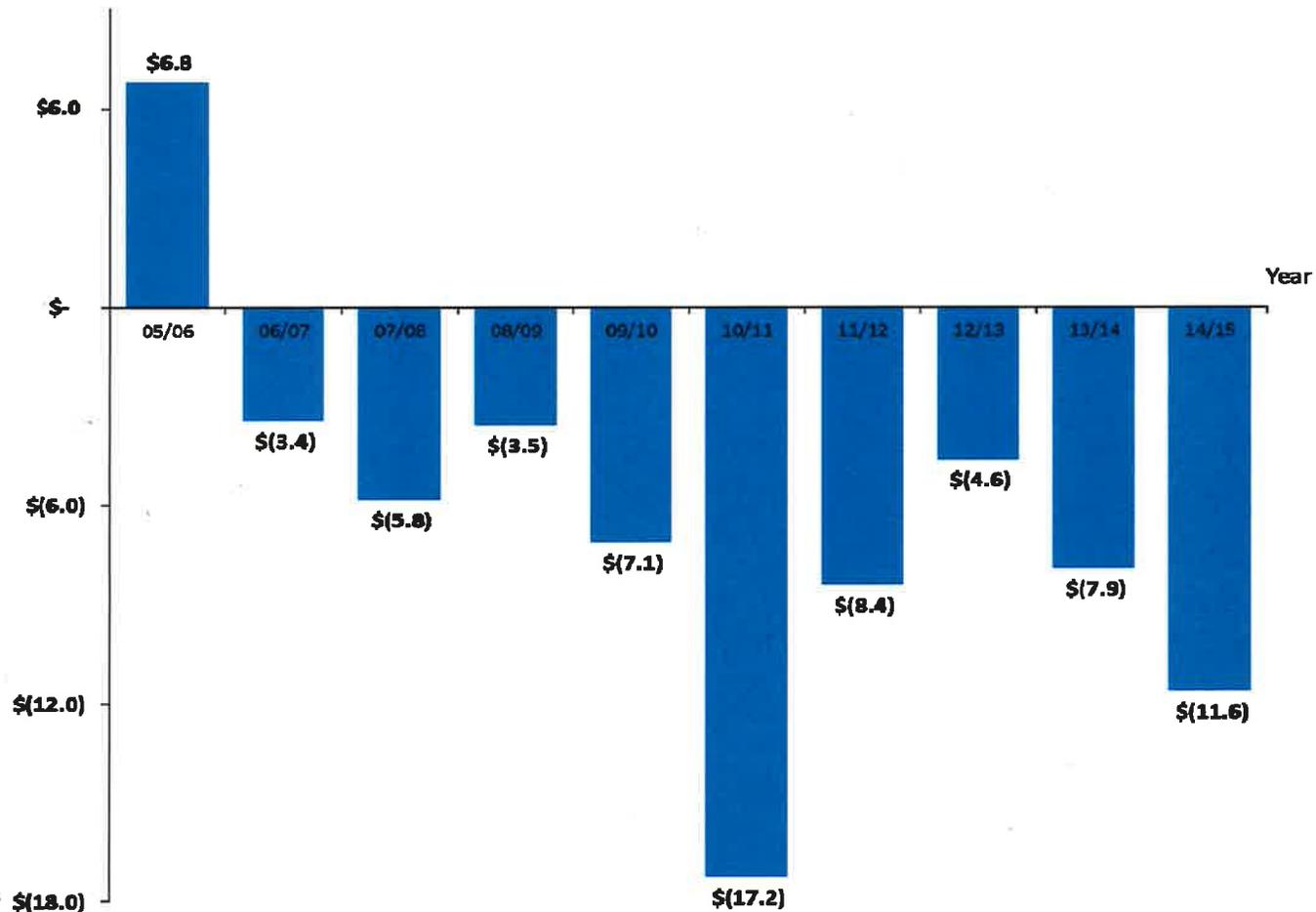
As indicated below, all our partner groups within our district also support the need for a stable predictable and appropriate level of funding for K – 12 public education within our province.

Sincerely,

| | |
|---|--|
| Christopher Richardson, Chairperson |  |
| Melanie Antweiler, Chairperson District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) |  |
| Nick Milum & Duva Karunakaran, Co-Presidents Vancouver District Student Council (VDSC) |  |
| Debbie Pawluk, President Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association (VSTA) |  |
| Dan Graves, President Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association (VESTA) |  |
| Marion Broadbent, President Vancouver Elementary Principals and Vice Principals Association (VEPVPA) |  |
| Ellen Roberts, President Vancouver Association of Secondary School Administrators (VASSA) |  |
| Jessica Land, President Professional and Administrative Staff Association (PASA) |  |
| Leanne Toderian, President CUPE Local 15 |  |
| Brent Boyd, President CUPE Local 407 |  |
| Tim Chester, President International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 963 |  |
| Ken Chohanik Trades Representative |  |

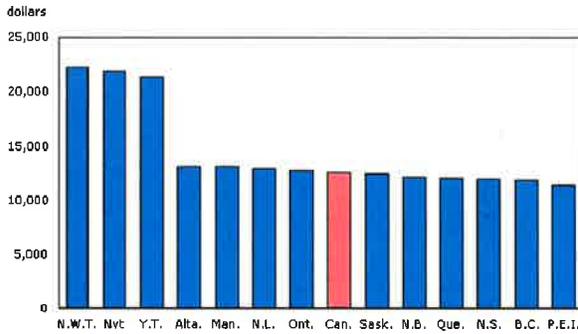
- cc: VBE Trustees
 All BC School boards
 All Vancouver MLAs
 All VBE Stakeholder Groups
 Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
 Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer

History of Operating Budget Projected Funding Surplus / (Shortfall)



ATTACHMENT B

Chart 19.1.1
Total expenditures per student in public elementary and secondary schools, 2010/2011 (in current dollars)



Source: Statistics Canada, Elementary-Secondary Education Survey.

In the four year period 2006/2007 to 2010/2011, expenditure per student in Canada increased 21.7% during that four year period.

BC lagged at 13.0%.

The average expenditure per student nationally for 2010/2011 (the most recent Statistics Canada figures) was \$12,557. BC remains at \$11,832.

If BC matched the \$12,557 average national expenditure, it would translate to **\$398 million** more in funding for the province's 550,000 students.