



# Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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May 6, 2015

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

Dear Minister Fassbender,

The Vancouver Board of Education is fully engaged in partnerships with municipal government, health providers and community organizations around supporting early learning programs and services for families and children in the pre-Kindergarten years.

As part of the district's Early Learning programs, the district operates 19 StrongStart Centres across the city. In keeping with the Ministry guidelines the StrongStart program offers early learning activities and experiences, and connects families with other services, such as those offered by health and the public library. As well the program provides children with access to quality educational learning resources, art activities, and a daily snack.

Since the inception of the StrongStart program in 2007/2008, the district has received funding from the Ministry of Education on a per site basis; originally in the amount of \$30,000 annually, with an increase to \$32,000 in 2011/2012. The funding allocation has not increased since 2011/2012, despite increases in costs of materials, food, and staff salaries and benefits. For 2015/2016 the operational costs of the program at 19 sites will exceed the targeted funding allocation by a minimum of \$38,000. StrongStart Centres need to be funded in a model that sustains the program, without drawing upon K-12 operating funds.

At a public board meeting on Monday, April 20, 2015, the Vancouver Board of Education passed the following motion:

That a letter be sent, on behalf of the Vancouver Board of Education, to the Ministry of Education requesting an increase in funding for StrongStart programs to meet ongoing costs.

We request the Ministry of Education consult directly with school districts in order to determine the level of increased funding required for StrongStart programs for 2015/2016 and create a plan for addressing funding requirements in subsequent years.

Yours truly,

Christopher JK Richardson, CPA, FCA  
Chairperson

c: VBE Trustees

Scott Robinson, Superintendent of Schools

Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer

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