

March 4, 2016

The Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier  
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

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

**Re: Request for Meeting – 2016/17 Budget**

Dear Premier Clark and Minister Bernier:

At the February 29, 2016 Regular Board Meeting, the Board passed the following resolution:

*THAT the Board request a meeting with the Premier and Education Minister to discuss the district's 2016/17 estimated \$24.38 million budget shortfall and its implications for Vancouver students.*

As you are aware, the Vancouver School Board has a significant budget shortfall for the 2016/17 budget. A summary of the factors contributing to this shortfall include a structural deficit within the operating budget from prior years as well as changes to our eligible funding. The following table provides information on our budget shortfall.

<b>2016/2017 Preliminary Operating Budget Projection</b>	
<b>(\$ millions)</b>	
<b>(as at March 8, 2016)</b>	
<b>Structural Deficit</b>	
Amounts carried forward from previous years	(12.63)
One-time cuts to be replaced	<u>(5.37)</u>
	<b>\$ (17.99)</b>
<b>Funding Impacts</b>	
Enrolment decline	(3.71)
MOE Administrative Cuts or One-time Grants to be replaced	<u>(2.68)</u>
	<b>\$ (6.39)</b>
<b>2016/2017 Projected Shortfall</b>	<b>\$ (24.38)</b>

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The school district is anticipating the Ministry of Education grant allocation in the middle of March. However, based on our review of the BC Budget tabled in February, there does not appear to be any financial relief provided to the K-12 public education system. As a result, we do not anticipate our overall budget position to change significantly.

The purpose of the meeting would be to provide information to your government about the financial difficulties the Vancouver School Board is facing and how the budget shortfall is likely to affect our students. Preliminary information provided to the Trustees indicates that significant reductions will be made that will reduce our ability to support our complex student population.

Yours truly,

Mike Lombardi  
Chairperson

Cc VBE Trustees  
S. Robinson, Superintendent  
R. Horswill, Secretary Treasurer