



# Vancouver School Board

School District No. 39

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November 14, 2016

**Via email and hardcopy by mail.**

Mayor and Council  
City of Vancouver  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

RE: Motion on Notice: Support for a Democratically Elected Board of Education

Dear Mayor Robertson and Council,

As the Official Trustee of the Vancouver Board of Education I am writing to express concern regarding the Motion on Notice scheduled for the Council Meeting of November 15 and to suggest an alternative approach for your consideration to maintain representation of the Vancouver Board of Education on City Advisory Committees.

The Vancouver School Board wishes to ensure the continued presence of representation provided by the School District, through the Official Trustee, or designated staff, in advancing the important work that we in collaboration for the benefit of our community.

In anticipation of the need to revise membership on advisory committees, I have been working with VSB staff to determine continued representation from the Board of Education. In consultation with the City, we suggest that representation may best be provided through a senior staff member, within their area of expertise, or provided through the Official Trustee.

The 'special representative' contemplated within the Motion of Notice will not be regarded as a representative of the Vancouver School Board, speaking on behalf of the VSB, or having any official, or unofficial capacity or authority with the VSB. The presence of a 'special representative' in the suggested direction would effectively exclude the voice of the Vancouver School Board from the important work that is done in collaboration between the City and the School District.

I am most concerned that this potential action may hinder and potentially delay some of the critical work now in process. I believe it is important to ensure that the perspective of the Vancouver School Board is maintained on these important committees and believe that we can work together to achieve a reasonable solution to ensure this happens for our community.

I look forward to working with you to achieve a mutually satisfactory arrangement for the continued presence of a representative of the Vancouver School Board on the City Advisory Committees. I trust that the excellent working relationship existing between our staffs will continue in a positive, collaborative manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dianne Turner".

Dianne Turner  
Official Trustee

cc: John Lewis, Acting Superintendent of Schools  
Guy Bonnefoy, Interim Secretary Treasurer