



# Vancouver School Board

School District No. 39

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November 23, 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: VSB representation on City of Vancouver Advisory Committees

Dear Mayor Robertson and Council,

I am deeply disappointed that Vancouver City Council chose to approve a motion on November 16 to eliminate representation from the Vancouver Board of Education on City advisory committees in favour of having former trustees who were fired sit as 'special representatives.'

The Vancouver School Board had been working to ensure the continued presence of representation provided by the school district, through the Official Trustee or designated staff within their area of expertise, in advancing the important work that we have been doing in collaboration for the benefit of our community.

I would like to seek clarification on the anticipated membership of each of these advisory committees, and want to emphasize that no VSB employees will attend meetings where a 'special representative' has been chosen to replace a VSB representative, as indicated in my letter of November 14, 2016.

The 'special representatives' chosen by Council will not be regarded as a representative of the Vancouver School Board, will not be speaking on behalf of the VSB, nor will they have any official or unofficial capacity or authority with the VSB. The presence of a 'special representative' on these committees would effectively exclude the voice of the Vancouver School Board from these advisory committees.

The advocacy position taken by Vancouver Council has limited the ability for these City advisory committees, and ultimately the City's governance, to have current information about how their work would impact Vancouver schools and students. I am highly concerned that this action will hinder and potentially delay some of the critical work now in process. It appears that politics are being placed before the needs of children in Vancouver.

I respectfully request that Mayor and Council consider the implications of this action and that the motion be reconsidered.

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