



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

Fax: 604-713-5049

May 25, 2018

Honorable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
Room 124 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Fleming:

Re: Amendment No. 1 Ministry Response to the Annual Five-Year Capital Plan
Submission for 2018/19, dated April 9, 2018

Thank you for meeting with myself and Superintendent Hoffman at your offices. I found the meeting was a positive exchange of perspectives, particularly around our discussion on the Coal Harbour Elementary School Project. I am writing today to follow up on that discussion in the context of the April 9, 2018 letter referred to above and the motion below that was passed by our Board on May 2, 2018:

Given ongoing public consultations regarding the BC Hydro sub-station proposal, the Board requests that the Board Chair and Superintendent follow-up with the Minister of Education in person and in writing to express concern and seek clarity with respect to the April 9, 2018 capital plan response letter. Specific concerns relate to the statement within the letter regarding Ministry capital funding not being available for a new school at Coal Harbour and the Ministry's expectation that a long-term lease will be signed.

The April 9, 2018 letter amended the original capital plan response letter dated March 26, 2018. The April 9 letter indicates support for the district to accelerate the development of a PDR for a new elementary school at Coal Harbour but also states, in the italicized section on page three, that "No provincial funding is allocated to this project." The letter also referred to the project funding being "derived from proceeds from an expected long-term lease at Lord Roberts Annex." As we know, that lease arrangement would result from a negotiated agreement with BC Hydro for locating a substation underground at the Annex.

Board of School Trustees:

Janet Fraser – Chairperson

Joy Alexander – Vice-Chairperson

Carrie Bercic Fraser Ballantyne Ken Clement

Lisa Dominato Estrellita Gonzalez

Allan Wong Judy Zaichkowsky

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The district is currently exploring this substation concept with BC Hydro and both parties are conducting their respective public consultations. At this time trustees have not made a decision regarding an agreement for a long-term lease. If an agreement can be attained, the District would commit, as is the practice with new projects and as explained in the Ministry's capital plan instructions, to contribute funding for our share of the new school site at Coal Harbour. The Board's motion was to express our concern and to seek clarity as to why the past practice of cost sharing new projects is not being followed.

I thank you for your consideration in this matter and your Ministry's commitment to working in partnership with the District in our shared goal of delivering on educational needs of the families of Vancouver.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Fraser".

Janet Fraser,
Board Chair

c: VBE Trustees
Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent
J. David Green, Secretary Treasurer