



ITEM 7A

To: **Board of Education**

From: Trustee  
Ken Clarkson

Re: **MOTIONS TO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**

Date: October 14, 2015  
(Public Board Meeting)

**Information**

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**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

The BC School Trustees Association Provincial Council is scheduled to take place on October 23 – 24, 2015 in Vancouver.

Motions that will be discussed at the meeting are attached for information.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Board receive the BC School Trustees Association Provincial Council Motions, for information.

Attachment



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

**PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING:** October 24, 2015

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Motions to Provincial Council

## **9.1 SAFE STOP PROGRAM – SCHOOL DISTRICT 60**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *SD60 (Peace River North)*

### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

that BCSTA urge the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to increase the penalty for failing to stop for a school bus to 6 demerit points and a \$368 fine.

### **RATIONALE:**

Safe Stop is a program that was introduced to School District 60 in April of 2015. Safe Stop's sole purpose is to remind the motoring public that driving through the flashing red lights of a school bus is both dangerous and illegal.

This motion is emergent because drivers in British Columbia do not take this matter seriously and it is just a matter of time before another child is injured or killed due to failure of a driver to stop for a school bus. Between April 15th and June 25th, 2015, the Transportation Department of School District No. 60 recorded every instance of motorists driving through the flashing red lights of the district's school buses and recorded more than one infraction per day during this time period. Currently, the penalty for failure of a driver to stop for a school bus is a \$167.00 fine and 3 demerit points. Increasing the fine to \$368.00 and 6 demerit points would reflect the severity of the infraction.

### **REFERENCES:**

- [August 2015 correspondence regarding Safe Stop](#)
- [Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Online – BC Driver Alert: When the School Bus Stops, You Stop](#)

**This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.**

## **9.2 REVERSING PUBLIC FUNDING OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *SD70 (Alberni)*

### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

That BCSTA arrange a meeting with the Minister of Education to strongly urge the provincial government to immediately discontinue the practice of utilizing public tax dollars to fund and subsidize private/independent schools.

### **RATIONALE:**

Public tax dollars should be used to fund public education and neighbourhood public schools.

As boards of education struggle to provide more services with less dollars, decisions on school closures or student programming are being made for financial reasons rather than for educational purposes or capacity issues.

This motion is emergent because by the time we get to AGM, it will be too late for BCSTA to influence the provincial government's budget development process. The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services is currently engaging in consultations with stakeholders regarding the 2016 provincial budget. The process of developing the provincial budget will be completed before BCSTA's 2016 AGM. If, in a perfect world, the government's policy on funding independent schools is reversed and the funds are returned to public education, it will be difficult to properly plan for the 2016-2017 school year as the board of education budget cycle will be close to completion by the time of BCSTA's 2016 AGM. Accordingly, delaying consideration of this motion until the 2016 AGM would negatively impact "boards' ability to influence ...a public education issue". We think it is also important to say that we are not against private or independent schools. We are saying that public tax dollars should not be providing any funding to private and independent schools.

**This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.**

**Relates to Policy Statement 8.1.1P Private Education.**



### **9.3 EMERGENT PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *SD63 (Saanich)*

#### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

That BCSTA urge the Ministry of Education to invest in the successful implementation of the new B.C. Ed. Plan by providing districts with additional funds earmarked for teacher and support staff professional development opportunities.

#### **RATIONALE:**

The Saanich Board of Education trustees believe this matter is emergent because of the timeline that the Ministry of Education has chosen to implement the new curriculum.

The Ministry of Education has put a lot of time and effort into ensuring that the new curriculum as represented in the B.C. Ed. plan reflects thorough professional partner input, consultation and best practice. In keeping with BCSTA policy 5.1.1P (Provincial Curriculum Development, Funding and Implementation), and as is true in effecting change in general, we believe that adequate opportunities for in-service and professional development for the staff in our schools is key in building understanding, capacity and skill. Boards in our province do not have the budget to provide sufficient funds necessary to support our staff in this endeavor.

Now that the implementation dates for the new B.C. Ed. Plan have been set, we think that the Ministry should demonstrate good faith and leadership by providing districts with additional funds for in-service and professional development to ensure smooth implementation.

**This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.**

**Relates to Policy Statement 5.1.1P Provincial Curriculum Development, Funding and Implementation.**

## **9.4 CHANGE IN THE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION FREEZE REQUIREMENTS**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *SD8 (Kootenay Lake)*

### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

that BCSTA: (a) ask member boards to provide BCSTA with written statements outlining how implementing the recent changes to the exempt staff compensation freeze will impact each board's financial situation and staff morale; and, (b) submit a collective statement to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance outlining the impact that implementing the recent changes to the exempt staff compensation freeze will have on boards' finances and staff morale.

### **RATIONALE:**

While we appreciate the opportunity to recognize our principals and vice-principals through increases in wages, we are concerned that the same opportunity is not provided with regard to other excluded staff. We are also concerned that funding appears not to be provided to fund the contemplated wage increases. The impact on districts, in the light of ever-increasing requirements for districts to fund provincial initiatives with existing resources, and the impact relative to building strong, cohesive teams, is significant.

The urgency of the motion resides in strengthening BCSTA's position with supporting information to further appeal to the Ministers of Finance and Education well before BCSTA's AGM in April 2016. Boards will shortly be in the position of approving increases for principals and vice-principals and other eligible employees. The change in executive compensation limitations does not contemplate additional funding from the Ministry, and districts will be in the position of adjusting preliminary budgets from now until the final submission of preliminary budgets in February. Furthermore, the potential for significant morale issues is magnified when one employee group receives increases and another equally deserving group does not.

### **REFERENCES:**

- [BC School Trustees Association 2016 Budget Consultation Submission to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services](#)
- [BCPSEA's Exempt Staff Issues, June 29, 2015](#)
- [BCPSEA's Exempt Staff Issues, July 17, 2015](#)

**This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.**

## 9.5 EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

**SUBMITTED BY:** *SD45 (West Vancouver)*

### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

that BCSTA request the Ministry of Finance and Public Sector Employers Council (PSEC) amend the current salary freeze on exempt staff compensation by allowing school districts to provide executive staff members with salary increases.

### **RATIONALE:**

While the interim relief announced by government regarding exempt staff compensation does offer some limited relief for management positions in school districts, it excludes key positions in the organization – in particular assistant superintendents and secretary treasurers. These individuals are key to ensuring we have a successful public education system in our province and they should not be left behind in compensation simply because they are not part of a union. Their contribution during two recent periods of job action were essential and their dedication and hard work must be recognized.

This motion is emergent because it deals with issues that have emerged over the summer since the last AGM and are time sensitive given the issues are currently under discussion.

**This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.**

### **REFERENCES**

- [BC School Trustees Association 2016 Budget Consultation Submission to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services](#)
- [BCPSEA's Exempt Staff Issues, June 29, 2015](#)
- [BCPSEA's Exempt Staff Issues, July 17, 2015](#)

## **9.6 PRINCIPAL AND VICE-PRINCIPAL COMPENSATION**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *SD 45 (West Vancouver)*

### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

that BCSTA request the Ministry of Finance and Public Sector Employers' Council (PSEC) amend the current salary freeze on exempt staff compensation and support the transitioning of school and district vice-principals and principals to the grids recommended in the BCSPEA Exempt Staff Compensation Working Group (ESCWG) report.

### **RATIONALE:**

While the interim relief announced by government pertaining to exempt staff compensation does offer some limited relief for management positions facing compression, it does not sufficiently address the larger and urgent issue of appropriate compensation for school and district administrators. While all unionized staff have seen modest salary increases through collective bargaining, management staff remain under a freeze. The interim relief is only available if compression can be demonstrated. The absence of any government funding increases also puts pressure on boards of education which may determine that they cannot afford to pay for an increase within existing district budgets. There is a significant possibility of many receiving little to no increases in their salaries. While we appreciate the financial limitations of government, it is critical that all of our exempt staff be recognized for their daily efforts in supporting and maintaining the public education system as well seeing us through two recent periods of difficult labour unrest. Their compensation should not be adversely affected simply because they are not part of a union.

This motion is emergent because it deals with issues that have emerged over the summer since the last AGM and are time sensitive given the issue is currently under discussion.

**This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.**

### **REFERENCES**

- [BC School Trustees Association 2016 Budget Consultation Submission to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services](#)
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