

I would like to begin by urging parents to write to their MLA's and demand an increase to the per student grants to prevent further cuts to staffing, programs and learning resources. As the board has said many times the government is not listening, and DPAC feels a powerful and hopefully impactful response would be from the parent population.

This trend of declining enrollment and funding reductions, no matter how you attempt to reduce a district budget, results in erosion of programs to our children's success in their learning journeys. As parents we are alarmed to see Reading racers slashed from the budget. The accessibility to reading racers allows children to experience success early on and strengthens literacy skills, critical to foundational learning. I implore the board to reconsider this proposed cut. Early intervention is vital.

If tightening of our belts means a shared cost savings I think it prudent to explore the use of public transit for students. I know many students ride to school via Translink and I am sure that increased ridership would be welcomed and flexibility for students in secondary schools with flexible schedules. Handi Dart and the use of EA's to transport students may be a cost savings and should be explored.

It is troublesome that a majority of budget cuts are aimed at Clerical staff, it can be said the a school secretary is the heart of a school, caring for students and watching the building for safety concerns, rather than looking at disbanding a director position and dispersing that role amongst the remainder of the Senior team. One director is equal to almost three secretaries.

DPAC acknowledges that any budgetary cuts are difficult and will ripple down to our children. We hope that all cuts are done in a thoughtful manner and continue with public input.