

Wednesday, September 10, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Fraserview Village Hall,
22610 116 Avenue
Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 9V1

A G E N D A

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world - Nelson Mandela

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

ITEM 1

1. Call to Order
2. Correspondence
 - Frank Lento, Chair, School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
 - Pattie Adam, Chair, School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes)
 - Alan Chell, Chair, School District No. 19 (Revelstoke)
 - Darren Ganzert, Chair/Lorraine Manning, Vice Chair, School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia)
 - Moyra Baxter, Chair, School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)
 - Tanya Guenther, Chair, School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)
 - Tony Goulet, Chair/Denise Bardua, President CUPE, School District No. 28 (Quesnel)
 - Walt Krahn, Chair/Silvia Dyck, Vice Chair, School District No. 33 (Chilliwack)
 - Donna Sargent, Chair, Trustees, School District No. 38 (Richmond)
 - Patti Bacchus, Chair, School District No. 39 (Vancouver)
 - Jonina Campbell, Chair, School District No. 40 (New Westminster)
 - Melissa Hyndes, Chair, School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)
 - Franci Stratton, Chair, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)
 - Betty Baxter, Chair, School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
 - Dr. Jeanette Scott, Chair, School District No. 47 (Powell River)
 - Rick Price, Chair, School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky)
 - Tina Last, Chair, School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert)
 - Sharel Warrington, Chair, School District No. 57 (Prince George)
 - Peg Orcherton, Chair, School District No. 61 (Victoria)
 - Wayne Hunter, Chair, School District No. 63 (Saanich)
 - May McKenzie, Chair, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
 - Bruce Johnson, Chair, School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
 - Dot Neary, Chair, School District No. 68 (Nanaimo)
 - Lynette Kershaw, Chair, School District No. 69 (Qualicum)
 - Larry Ransom, Chair, School District No. 70 (Alberni)
 - Janice Caton, Chair, School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)
 - Denise Harper, Chair, School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)
 - Linda McMullan, Chair, School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade)
 - Art Erasmus, Chair, School District No. 82 (Coast Mountains)
 - Leighton Wishart, Chair, School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North)
 - Steven Dillen, Parent, School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)
 - Teresa Rezansoff, BC School Trustees Association

3. Approval of Agenda
4. Invitation for Public Input to matters on the Agenda - *Members of the public can provide input on items on the Agenda. Speaker's time is limited to 2 minutes per person. This agenda item has a time limit of 10 minutes.*

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. June 25, 2014 ITEM 2

C. PRESENTATIONS - *Individuals and groups invited by the Board to make presentations. Time limits for individual presentations will be established to allow all speakers to present within the time limit for this item. This agenda item has a time limit of 20 minutes including questions; extension is at the discretion of the Board.*

D. DELEGATIONS - *Registered delegations can make presentations to the Board. Time limits for individual delegations will be established to allow all registered delegations to present within the time limit for this item. This agenda item has a time limit of 20 minutes including questions; extension is at the discretion of the Board.*

E. DEFERRED ITEMS

F. DECISION ITEMS

1. Chairperson
2. Superintendent of Schools
3. Secretary Treasurer
4. Board Committees
 - a) Finance
 - i. Audited Financial Statements ITEM 3
 - b) Budget
 - c) Board Policy Development

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Chairperson
 - a) Board Letters ITEM 4
2. Superintendent of Schools
3. Secretary Treasurer
4. Board Committees & Advisory Committee Reports
 - a) Finance
 - b) Budget
 - c) Board Policy Development
 - d) Education
 - e) Aboriginal Education
 - f) Inclusive Education
 - g) French Immersion Advisory
 - h) District Student Advisory
 - i) Round Table with Partners

H. TRUSTEE MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

I. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. BC School Trustees Association Provincial Council
 - a) Motions to Provincial Council ITEM 5
2. District Parent Advisory Council

3. Joint Parks and Leisure Services
4. Municipal Advisory & Accessibility
5. Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Arts Council
6. Ridge Meadows Education Foundation
7. Social Planning Advisory:
http://www.mapleridge.ca/EN/main/municipal/728/9982/spac_agenda_minutes.html
8. Tzu Chi Foundation
9. Youth Centre Society
10. Other Board Liaison Representative Reports

a) Good News Items

J. QUESTION PERIOD - *Questions, with the exception of Trustee questions, will be limited to one question per person with one follow-up clarification question, if necessary. Question period will be restricted to questions only – statements and debate will not be permitted. This agenda item has a time limit of 10 minutes; extension is at the discretion of the Board.*

K. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Public Disclosure of Closed Meeting Business ITEM 6

L. ADJOURNMENT

To: **Board of Education**

From: Chairperson
Mike Murray

Re: **OPENING PROCEDURES**

Date: September 10, 2014
(Public Board Meeting)

Information/Decision

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. CORRESPONDENCE (Information Item)

- Frank Lento, Chair, School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
- Pattie Adam, Chair, School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes)
- Alan Chell, Chair, School District No. 19 (Revelstoke)
- Darren Ganzert, Chair/Lorraine Manning, Vice Chair, School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia)
- Moyra Baxter, Chair, School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)
- Tanya Guenther, Chair, School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)
- Tony Goulet, Chair/Denise Bardua, President CUPE, School District No. 28 (Quesnel)
- Walt Krahn, Chair/Silvia Dyck, Vice Chair, School District No. 33 (Chilliwack)
- Donna Sargent, Chair, Trustees, School District No. 38 (Richmond)
- Patti Bacchus, Chair, School District No. 39 (Vancouver)
- Jonina Campbell, Chair, School District No. 40 (New Westminster)
- Melissa Hyndes, Chair, School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)
- Franci Stratton, Chair, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)
- Betty Baxter, Chair, School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
- Dr. Jeanette Scott, Chair, School District No. 47 (Powell River)
- Rick Price, Chair, School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky)
- Tina Last, Chair, School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert)
- Sharel Warrington, Chair, School District No. 57 (Prince George)
- Peg Orcherton, Chair, School District No. 61 (Victoria)
- Wayne Hunter, Chair, School District No. 63 (Saanich)
- May McKenzie, Chair, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
- Bruce Johnson, Chair, School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
- Dot Neary, Chair, School District No. 68 (Nanaimo)
- Lynette Kershaw, Chair, School District No. 69 (Qualicum)
- Larry Ransom, Chair, School District No. 70 (Alberni)
- Janice Caton, Chair, School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)
- Denise Harper, Chair, School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)
- Linda McMullan, Chair, School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade)
- Art Erasmus, Chair, School District No. 82 (Coast Mountains)
- Leightan Wishart, Chair, School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North)
- Steven Dillen, Parent, School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)
- Teresa Rezansoff, BC School Trustees Association

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive all correspondence for information.

Attachments

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Decision Item)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Agenda be approved as circulated.

4. INVITATION FOR PUBLIC INPUT TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA - *Members of the public can provide input on items on the Agenda. Speaker's time is limited to 2 minutes per person. The agenda item has a time limit of 10 minutes.*



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

August 5th, 2014

Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

RE: Current Labour Dispute

As you will recall, it was at the will of government that, last June, the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) Board of Directors –comprised of nine elected Trustees—was fired and Government appointed a public administrator to assume the responsibilities of BCPSEA and its Board.

Trustee representation is now reduced to two members, in an advisory capacity only. Representation by Boards of Education in the bargaining process has been rendered marginal and minimal.

It is with this added frustration therefore that our Board is writing to express its concern and dismay over the ongoing labour dispute and apparent stalemate at the bargaining table.

We wish to add our voice to the growing number of Boards across the province that are urging government to reach a fair, negotiated settlement prior to school start-up in September. We wish to reiterate the damage this situation has –and continues—to cost students, families, staff, communities and the integrity of public education itself.

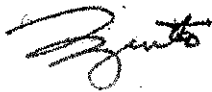
Our Board urges government to bargain now and to bargain fairly; to go to the table with the true intent of making a deal, including the negotiation of class size and composition, as that right was awarded to the BCTF in the 2014 Judge Griffin ruling. Court decisions and Appeals only cost taxpayers money and injure relationships.

If agreement cannot be reached, we urge government to immediately seek mediation or if necessary, binding arbitration. Our Board doesn't see any long term benefit to a legislated resolution and anticipates considerable damage if agreement is not reached prior to school start-up in September.

We also urge government to fully fund any and all costs associated with bargaining and contract settlement.

Once again we remind government that education is not a cost to be managed but an investment to be made –in our children, our economy and our future.

Sincerely,



Frank Lento,
Chair, School District 5

Cc: BC Public School Employers' Association
BC Teachers' Federation
BCSTA, for distribution to all Boards of Education
Shelley Balfour & Christina Smith, CFTA Co-presidents
Christy Clark, Premier
Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Olivia Besanger • Gail Brown •
Shaun Damstrom • Chris Johns • Curtis Helgesen • Patricia Whalen



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

August 5, 2014

British Columbia Public School
Employers Association
400 – 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

British Columbia
Teachers Federation
550 W 6th Ave #100
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Negotiators:

P lease

E gotistical

U ndertake

D ecorum

B argaining

U ndermines

L ogic

C hildren

I n

A ttendance

C hildren's Interests

I o

I rrecoverable

O pportunities

N ow

This issue is not about taking sides it's about being onside for Public Education in our province. If you truly want to find a way to resolve this matter you will, if you don't you'll continue to find excuses.

Sincerely,

Frank Lento,

Chair, School District 5 Board of Education
Southeast Kootenay

Cc: Minister of Education
BCSTA
CFTA

Frank Lento (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Olivia Besanger • Gail Brown •
Shaun Damstrom • Chris Johns • Curtis Helgesen • Patricia Whalen



August 27th, 2014

Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Jim Iker
President, BC Teachers' Federation
100-550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Dear Minister Fassbender and Mr. Iker:

It is with grave concern that we write of the impact on our school district and community with the current impasse in the labour dispute between the BCTF and the government. A negotiated settlement must be found immediately to ensure that our children's education begins on September 2nd as planned.

Whether the students are Kindergarten children entering school for the first time, or elementary and secondary students with critical goals ahead of them, they are being kept in a stressful state of insecurity and uncertainty. Our parents and children, teachers and support staff, trustees and administration, as well as our entire community, are profoundly affected by not knowing when or if the situation will be resolved.

We write to you therefore, urging you to please resume productive bargaining for the sake of our children's future. Our voices echo the concerns expressed by so many Boards of Education across the province, the BC School Trustees Association and the many anxious parents and caregivers waiting for a settlement to this dispute. We raise our voice to urge you to not impede the vision that BC's public education system can indeed be located in "the best place on earth". We implore you to act before more students leave



the public system for independent schools free of labour disruption.

We appreciate the efforts being made by all parties in this situation. For the sake of all people in BC, we trust that a fair settlement will be negotiated post haste and restore confidence in our leaders.

Thank you for your efforts thus far. Please do more.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pattie Adam', is positioned below the text 'Most sincerely,'.

Ms. Pattie Adam

*cc: Board of Education
Terry Taylor, Superintendent of Schools
Ric Bardati, President, ALTA
BCSTA – for distribution
BCPSEA, M. Marchbank, Public Administrator
Local media*

July 10th, 2014



School District 19
(Revelstoke)

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9405, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Email: Minister.Educ@gov.bc.ca

Mr. Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
100, 550 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2
Email: presidentsoffice@bctf.ca

Mr. Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator
BC Public School Employers' Association
400, 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

Dear Minister Fassbender, Mr. Iker and Mr. Marchbank:

The Revelstoke Board of Education is seriously concerned about the state of bargaining and the impact the strike/lock-out has already had on our students, our staff and our community.

The Revelstoke Board of Education supports the BC School Trustees' Association's letter of June 23rd, 2014, which called for the parties to re-convene ongoing bargaining, mutually agree not to bargain through the media, and resolve the dispute prior to commencement of the 2014/15 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A Chell'.

Alan Chell, Chairperson
Revelstoke Board of Education

cc: Board Correspondence File
All School Boards (via BCSTA)
Jennifer Wolney, RTA President
Clara Maltby, CUPE President
Revelstoke Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association
DPAC
Local Media



School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia)

2001 Third Avenue, Trail, BC V1R 1R6
Tel: (250) 368-6434 Fax: (250) 364-2470

July 4, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
#100 – 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Mike Roberts, Interim CEO
BC Public School Employers' Association
#400 – 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

Dear Sirs:

The Board of Education of School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia) is seriously concerned about the state of bargaining between the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the BC Public Schools Employers' Association (BCPSEA). After 18 months of bargaining we remain without a negotiated settlement and in the middle of a full scale withdrawal of services by teachers. We believe that the reputation and effectiveness of British Columbia's public education is being weakened through this protracted labour dispute. A negotiated collective agreement is critical if our public education system is to be able to move forward.

We support the BC School Trustees Association's letter of June 23, 2014 and call for the parties to act quickly to:

1. immediately re-convene ongoing face-to-face bargaining;
2. agree to the appointment of a mediator as soon as possible; and
3. mutually agree not to bargain through the media.

Further to our three previous letters this school-year alone, our Board continues to advocate for increased, stable funding for the public education system. We urge the Minister of Education to fulfill the commitment that any settlement be fully funded by the government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'D. Ganzert'.

Darrel Ganzert
Chairperson, Board of Education

cc: Trustees
All BC Boards of Education (via BCSTA)



August 22, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of the Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Premier Clark and Minister Fassbender:

The Board of Education of School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia) joins with other Boards from across our province calling for a negotiated labour settlement to be achieved prior to September 2, 2014 so that classes can begin as scheduled. Our communities are anxious heading into the end of the summer not knowing if our students will have teachers in front of them for the first day of school. The lack of face-to-face bargaining over the first 6 weeks of the summer break was disheartening. We were excited to hear about the engagement of Mr. Ready to mediate but were dismayed to hear that the parties have not resumed bargaining even after his engagement.

The ongoing labour strife is damaging the public education system of British Columbia. As a Board we have advocated consistently to build and maintain the high quality public education system that our youth deserve. We have written the Minister numerous times sharing our concerns about the chronic underfunding of public education, the need for government to fully fund labour settlements and sharing our support for the BC School Trustees' Association's advocacy efforts. We support the BCSTA's recent *Back to School Action Plan*. The goal and objectives of the action plan are fully endorsed by our Board. Most importantly, we want our schools to be open on September 2nd with our full staff compliment having reached a fair and funded settlement.

Lastly, the recent announcement of using strike savings to pay parents of students under 13 years of age \$40 per day should the strike continue into September was shocking. Boards were not consulted about this plan which further undermines the co-governance model. We believe that these funds should remain in the public education system and be used to maintain and enhance service rather than short term financial relief for families. We appreciate that families are feeling the impact of the strike and lockout but the money should be used to meet the needs of vulnerable learners. As per the BCTSA *Back to School Action Plan*, those funds should be held for enhancing the Learning Improvement Fund.

We urge you to get personally involved in helping achieve a settlement in the ongoing labour dispute so that schools can open on September 2, 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'L Manning'.

Lorraine Manning
Vice-Chair, Board of Education

cc: Trustees
All BC Boards of Education (via BCSTA)



"Together We Learn"

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23

(CENTRAL OKANAGAN)

1940 Underhill Street, Kelowna, B.C. V1X 5X7

Tel. (250) 860-8888 Fax (250) 860-9799

Website: www.sd23.bc.ca

August 7, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn. Prov. Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Mr. Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
100 – 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6H 4P2

Mr. Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator
BC Public School Employers' Association
400 – 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Dear Sirs:

Re: The Current Labour Dispute

The Central Okanagan Board of Education held a Special Public Board Meeting on August 6, 2014 to discuss the BCSTA's *Back to School Action Plan* and the meeting planned for August 8, 2014 between BCTF and BCPSEA.

The Board has endorsed the BCSTA's *Back to School Action Plan*, and in particular wishes to emphasize that any monies saved during the strike/lockout should remain within the public education system and not be used for any other purpose.

The Board is pleased that the August 8th meeting is occurring, and is hopeful that a resolution to the current impasse can be found so that schools will reopen, as scheduled, on September 2, 2014.

The Minister has said that the government is prepared to bring some additional concepts to the table, and the BCTF has indicated they will bring some new ideas forward. These statements leave us feeling more optimistic that a settlement will be reached. We urge the parties to reopen negotiations, bargain in good faith behind closed doors, and come to an agreement.

It is unthinkable that the strike/lockout situation will continue into September. Our students need to be back in school where they belong. We believe their parents value the education system and want their children in school to learn and grow, not just to be "baby-sat". On the other hand, parents do not need to be struggling to find child-care spaces in safe, licensed facilities. We know that these child-care places are almost impossible to find at the best of times, so the pressures that will be placed on families should the dispute continue past the end of August are unacceptable and we believe unnecessary.

Board of Education - Trustees

Moyra Baxter
Julia Fraser

Joyce Brinkerhoff
Christopher L. Gorman

Deb Butler
Murli Pendharkar

Rolli Cacchioni

Public Agenda Page 11



"Together We Learn"

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23

(CENTRAL OKANAGAN)

1940 Underhill Street, Kelowna, B.C. V1X 5X7

Tel. (250) 860-8888 Fax (250) 860-9799

Website: www.sd23.bc.ca

Our public education system is seen as one of the best in the world, but the continuing labour strife is causing a loss of confidence in our public schools. Everyone involved in our schools, including administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and students, has suffered during this dispute. We want to get back to working together to provide the best possible education for all the students we serve.

We ask that you consider the BCSTA's *Back to School Action Plan* as you enter new negotiations, and that you work together in a spirit of mutual respect to come to a timely agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Moyra Baxter, Chairperson
Board of Education

cc: Central Okanagan Board of Education Trustees
All BC Boards of Education c/o BCSTA
The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
The Honourable Norm Letnick, MLA
The Honourable Steve Thomson, MLA
Dan Ashton, MLA
Central Okanagan Teachers' Association
CUPE Local 3523
Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council

Board of Education - Trustees

Moyra Baxter
Julia Fraser

Joyce Brinkerhoff
Christopher L. Gorman

Deb Butler
Murli Pendharkar

Rolli Cacchioni



07 July 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of BC
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Premier Clark and Minister Fassbender:

The Board of Education of School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin), at its meeting on 24 June 2014 passed the following motion:

"THAT the Board of Education write a letter to the Premier of BC and Minister of Education requesting that an external, independent review be completed on impacts of class size and composition.

The Board of Education, itself, has called on independent consultants in the past to provide an independent review of programs and district operations, such as alternate education programs and administrative requirements. Reviews are very beneficial and provide an updated viewpoint and insights on very important topics.

With the appearance of a stalemate between the BCTF's and the Government's negotiations surrounding class size and composition, perhaps it is time an independent external review be conducted. If both the BCTF and Government were to commission it, the results then could not be viewed as biased.

As the labour dispute drags on, optimism is waning, and we look to your government to resolve the dispute as quickly as possible. The students, parents and employees have borne the pressure of this conflict for the last decade. That means a student entering grade 10 this year has been exposed to a war zone of teachers' and support staffs' constant battles with government. This can only result in a negatively affected educational experience.

.../02



As leaders in this province, the Board urges you and your government to give serious consideration to resolving class size and composition issues and recommends an independent, external review of the topic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly

FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tanya Guenther
Chair

:can

Cc: BC Boards of Education (via BCSTA distribution)
SD27 MLA's: Barnett, Tegart, and Oakes
M. Franklin, President CCPVPA
M. Helmer, President CCTA
A. Tresierra, President IUOE
SD27 DPAC Chair
SD27 PAC Presidents
M. Archie, FNEC Chair
SD27 Area, First Nation Chiefs

Quesnel School District

401 North Star Road,
Quesnel, BC
V2J 5K2

Tel. 250-992-8802
Fax 250-992-7652

Board of Education

July 10, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier
Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Mr. Mike Roberts, Interim CEO
BC Public School Employers' Association
#400 -1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Mr. Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
#100 – 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Re: Resolve the Labour Dispute in BC Schools

We are expressing our dismay and deep concern with the current state of the labour dispute in the BC public education system. Contract negotiations between the BC Teachers' Federation and the BC Public School Employers' Association are at a point where the well-being of students, staff and the education system itself are negatively affected. The school year has ended with the education labour dispute unresolved and an utter sense of disappointment in the contract negotiations system. This type of drawn out, unresolved dispute is a dis-service to public education staff, BC families, and especially the taxpayer.

For BCTF and BCPSEA to continue negotiations in the absence of a mediator does not seem effective or successful. **We strongly urge the BCTF and BCPSEA to begin open, unfettered mediation and get on with the task expected of them – achieving contract resolution as soon as possible.** Flexibility and full acknowledgement of the support needed in BC classrooms is expected of both negotiating parties.

Out of respect for the BC public education system, the BCTF and BCPSEA need to ensure the following actions are completed as soon as possible:

- Immediately return to effective negotiations with a mediator, and negotiate continuously until resolution is reached.
- Acknowledge a meaningful wage increase for teachers, fully funded by government.
- Create and negotiate a new compromise on class size and composition; one which is not bound by dated formulas, but rather a real commitment to classroom support.



.../2

We fully believe that the labour dispute urgently needs a mediated resolution, certainly well before the efforts of a new school year need to begin.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Goulet
Board of Education Chairperson



Denice Bardua
President – CUPE Local 4990

TG/tr

- c: Trustees, Board of Education of School District No. 28 (Quesnel)
The Honourable Michael De Jong, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Coralee Oakes, MLA for Cariboo North
Mr. Rob Fleming, MLA - NDP Education Critic
Ms. Sue-Ellen Miller, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Mr. Brian Cullinane, QPVPA Co-Chairperson
Ms. Suzanne Bolin, QPVPA Co-Chairperson
Ms. Lisa Kishkan, QDTA President
BCSTA – for all other School Boards
Local Media



**Chilliwack
School District**

Partners in Learning!

June 30, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator
BC Public School Employers' Association
#400- 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

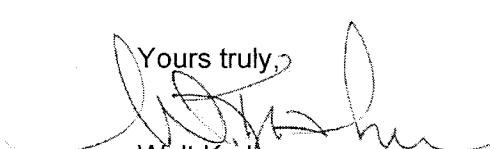
Dear Minister Fassbender, Mr. Iker and Mr. Marchbank:


On behalf of the Chilliwack School District #33 Board of Education, we are writing this letter to express our concern regarding the ongoing labour dispute between the BC Teachers Federation and the BC Public School Employers Association. We believe in the public education system contributing to high quality learning for our students and this ongoing labour dispute is adversely affecting the success of our public education system.

The well-being of our students, staff, families, as well as the positive relationships we have developed and maintained are being negatively impacted. Our board continues to support a negotiated agreement that is a long-term solution so that we can restore relationships and confidence in our education system.

An agreement needs to be reached as soon as possible to halt the continuing damage to our students' education and the public trust in BC public education.

Yours truly,


Walt Krahn
Chair, SD 33 (Chilliwack)


Silvia Dyck
Vice Chair, SD 33 (Chilliwack)

cc: BCSTA for all Boards of Education
Clint Johnston, President, Chilliwack Teachers' Association
Rod Isaac, President, CUPE 411
DPAC

July 18, 2014

The Honourable Michael de Jong, Q.C.
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister de Jong:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Education of School District 38 (Richmond) to express our grave concern about the current labour dispute affecting public education and to request that you take whatever measures you can to ensure that the collective bargaining process resumes without any further delay.

Ongoing uncertainty going into the fall results in a multitude of problems – from staffing levels and decisions, to maintenance issues and budgeting for supplies. Our schools will also suffer from a hit to our reputation – both internationally in terms of the International Student Program where continued labour strife will certainly result in decreased enrollment in our programs, but locally as well, as parents reconsider the public school system and if it is best for their children.

The ongoing dispute is not only extremely damaging to public education in BC, but it also has the potential to have negative connotations for economic growth in the province. For example, the International Student Program (ISP) generates approximately \$10 million a year in revenues for School District 38. This is a program that has been grown and developed over the years, and which competes with similar programs across Canada and around the world. Across the province, ISP revenues are an important contributor to the provincial economy, and the short and long term repercussions of an ongoing labour dispute will be significantly felt. In addition, many small businesses have been impacted by the labour dispute. Daycares are an example of a small business segment that has been directly impacted by the labour dispute, since many of them operate in school facilities (as encouraged by Provincial Government policy). These small businesses have already had to close because they could not access school facilities during the strike, and if the dispute were to extend into September they would again be forced to close their doors to the children they care for. When these economic concerns are added to the more readily apparent educational ones, the cost to the entire province of BC of a prolonged labour dispute is tremendous.

We respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,



Donna Sargent, Chairperson
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

cc Richmond Board of Education
Superintendent of Schools
Secretary Treasurer
Richmond MLAs
BCSTA - For Distribution

Board of Education:

Donna Sargent - Chairperson
Eric Yung - Vice Chairperson
Rod Belleza Kenny Chiu Norm Goldstein
Debbie Tablotney Grace Tsang

July 18, 2014

Ms. Teresa Rezansoff
President
British Columbia School Trustees Association
4th floor - 1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V6J 5K9

Dear Teresa:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Education of School District 38 (Richmond) to express our grave concern about the current labour dispute affecting public education and to request that you take whatever measures you can to ensure that the collective bargaining process resumes without any further delay. Current indications are that the parties are a considerable way apart, and that the impasse could continue past the scheduled resumption of school in September.

The BCSTA has taken a leadership role in advocating for public education in BC, and we are hopeful that your continued efforts on behalf of all school districts in the province will help advance a settlement in this long running dispute. Given recent comments by Minister de Jong, the Richmond Board of Education believes that the BCSTA Executive should meet with both Minister de Jong and Minister Fassbender on the part of the government, as well as with Mr. Iker and others as necessary from the BC Teachers' Federation, in order to get the parties back to the bargaining table as soon as possible. We also believe that the BCSTA has a role to play in ensuring that the savings from the strike are retained for the benefit of public education in BC, and that this should also be discussed in the meeting with the ministers.

Sincerely,



Donna Sargent, Chairperson
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

cc Richmond Board of Education
 Superintendent of Schools
 Secretary Treasurer
 Richmond MLAs
 BCSTA - For Distribution

Board of Education:

Donna Sargent - Chairperson
Eric Yung - Vice Chairperson
Rod Belleza Kenny Chiu Norm Goldstein
Debbie Tablotney Grace Tsang

June 25, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9405 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Email: Minister.Educ@gov.bc.ca

Mr. Jim Iker, President
British Columbia Teachers' Federation
100-550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2
Email: presidentoffice@bctf.ca

Dear Minister Fassbender and Mr. Iker:

The Richmond Board of Education is gravely concerned at the impasse that exists between the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the British Columbia Public Schools Employers' Association (BCPSEA). We ask that both parties resume good faith negotiations in the spirit of compromise to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

Parents, students and staff continue to have questions about report cards, summer programs, and normal year-end activities that have been disrupted. The conflicts at the bargaining table have reached a point where they are negatively impacting our children's education, staff morale, and the underlying goodwill that forms the basis of British Columbia's excellent education system.

The Richmond Board of Education will continue to advocate for increased, stable funding for our public education system. We ask that the government fully fund any negotiated settlement.

The current situation holds our children's education hostage to contract negotiations and is unacceptable in regards to the primary purpose of the public education system – providing our children with the best education possible.

Board of Education:

Donna Sargent - Chairperson

Eric Yung – Vice Chairperson

Rod Belleza Kenny Chiu Norm Goldstein

Debbie Tablotney Grace Tsang

We ask that as leaders of our educational community you work together to resolve this impasse in a timely fashion for the benefit of what matters most – our children.

Sincerely,



Donna Sargent
Board Chairperson



Eric Yung
Board Vice Chairperson



Rod Belleza
Trustee



Kenny Chiu
Trustee



Norm Goldstein
Trustee



Debbie Tablotney
Trustee



Grace Tsang
Trustee

cc: Honourable Christy Clarke, Premier, Government of BC
Honourable Linda Reid, Speaker of the Legislature, MLA Richmond East
Honourable Teresa Wat, MLA, Richmond Centre
John Yap, MLA, Richmond-Steveston
Mike Roberts, Interim CEO, BC Public Sector Employees' Association
Teresa Rezansoff, President, BCSTA
Al Klassen, President, Richmond Teachers' Association
Board of Education (Richmond)
Monica Pamer, Superintendent of Schools
Mark De Mello, Secretary-Treasurer
Local Media



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

June 25, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Shirley Bond
Minister of Jobs, Tourism, and Skill Training
and Responsible for Labour
Box 9071, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Premier Clark, Minister Fassbender, and Minister Bond,

The inability to reach a settlement in the current labour dispute between BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the Provincial government is eroding confidence in our public education system. Leadership is required now by the Province to resolve this dispute as soon as possible to help restore stability to our system.

At a special meeting on June 24, 2014, the Vancouver Board of Education approved the following motion:

That the Vancouver Board of Education urge the Premier, Minister of Education and Minister of Labour to appoint an Industrial Inquiry Commissioner to assist in resolving the bargaining dispute between the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and that the Commissioner be empowered to issue non-binding recommendations for resolving the dispute in a public report.

The Vancouver Board of Education would urge the Province to act quickly on the above recommendation.

Sincerely,

Patti Bacchus,
Chairperson

cc: Vancouver MLAs
All BC School Boards, c/o BCSTA
VBE Trustees
Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Krowchuk, Secretary Treasurer Board of School Trustees:

Patti Bacchus - Chairperson
Mike Lombardi - Vice-Chairperson
Fraser Ballantyne Ken Clement Ken Denike
Cherie Payne Allan Wong Sophia Woo
Rob Wynen

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER) BOARD OF EDUCATION

Phone: (604) 517-6240
Fax: (604) 517-6390

1001 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 1C4

June 24, 2014

Jim Iker
President, BC Teachers' Federation
100 – 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 4P2

Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Mr. Iker and Minister Fassbender;

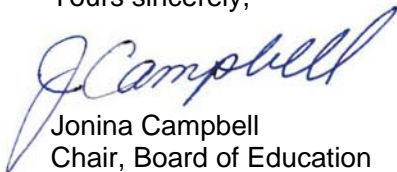
The New Westminster Board of Education and its Superintendent of Schools are concerned that negotiations are not leading towards a resolution. We know that parents, educators and elected officials want to find a resolution to our current impasse. We are asking both the BCTF and our government to re-double your efforts in order to find an immediate solution.

We applaud the willingness of both parties to use a mediator. We ask that both parties show good faith by agreeing on a specific and available mediator and returning to the bargaining table with that mediator immediately. The community's faith in public education is being eroded and we believe that returning to the table with a mediator will help find resolution and end job action.

The strike has been very difficult on everybody. When you look past the brave faces of our teachers and support staff, you learn that morale is quite low. Our principals and vice-principals are exhausted from the demands placed upon them. Our students are concerned about exams, report card marks and year-end activities. Our parents are considering options outside the public education system. We need to find a resolution and we need to find a resolution as soon as possible.

In desperate times, we turn to our leaders. We don't believe that public education has ever been as threatened as it is now. Please take on the mantle of courageous leadership and do what needs to be done in order to resolve this impasse. We write this letter with the expectation that you will indeed be willing to implement the bold steps that will find our educators back in their schools and our students once again in their classrooms. Please do not disappoint us.

Yours sincerely,



Jonina Campbell
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Board of Education
John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools
Al Balanuik, Secretary Treasurer
Media



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER) BOARD OF EDUCATION

Phone: (604) 517-6240
Fax: (604) 517-6390

1001 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 1C4

August 27, 2014

Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Jim Iker
President, BC Teachers' Federation
100 – 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 4P2

Dear Minister Fassbender and Mr. Iker;

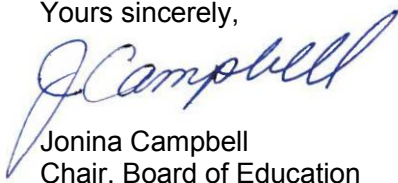
Enough is enough! We need our students to return to their classrooms. We need our teachers to return to their classrooms.

The New Westminster Board of Education understands that the damage being done to public education will soon become irreversible. Every day, we hear stories of our community being fed-up and not understanding why you can't negotiate a settlement. Every day, we learn of parents who are leaving the public school system to enrol their students in private or independent schools, not because they are searching for a superior product, but because they simply want their children in school. Every day, our administrators are responding to questions from our students who are in angst regarding their educational program. They worry about how the strike will affect their future.

This strike must come to an end. You need to be bargaining on a daily basis. If bargaining isn't working, then find a mediator that will help you negotiate a settlement. If the mediator isn't proving effective, then proceed to binding arbitration. There isn't a larger political issue here. This is about our students and the need for our children to continue their education. This is about the need for our teachers to be educating our students. This is about the need for our communities to protect public education.

The harm must end. Enough is enough!

Yours sincerely,



Jonina Campbell
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Board of Education
John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools
Al Balanuik, Secretary Treasurer
Media



CHAIR:

Melissa Hyndes

VICE-CHAIR:

Holly Butterfield

TRUSTEES:

Gail Alty

John J. Keryluk

Brian Robinson

Judy Shirra

Diane Sowden

Gerri Wallis

Keith Watkins

July 8, 2014

Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9405 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

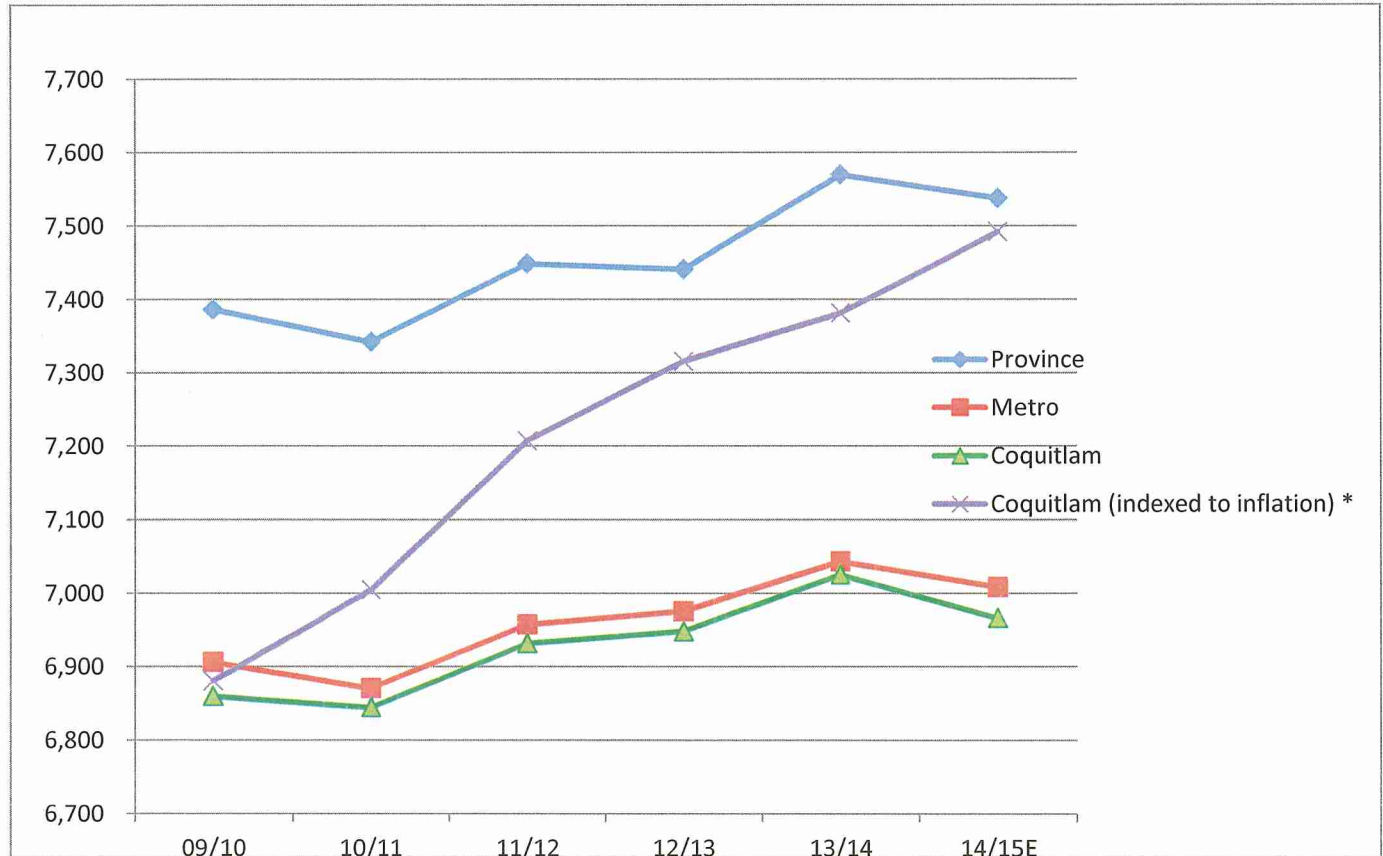
Dear Minister Fassbender,

At a recent meeting, the Board of Education for the Coquitlam School District decided to write you to express our deep concern with the state of funding for public education, and specifically highlight the funding shortfalls which exist within the context of our School District.

All children have a right to an education system which is responsive to their needs – not just the children who are easy to educate. Our school district has become a leader in improving graduation rates, an objective which was clearly articulated as a priority by our Board of Education and by the Ministry of Education. In this school district, we have found ways to address the needs of many more children who are at risk of failure. That said, we are not complacent about the fact that some children in our system still have far less chance of reaching graduation than others. As inflation continues to outpace any incremental funding to the school system, we are continually faced with having to cut educational programming to absorb cost pressures. All school districts require adequate and stable funding which allows them to reach all students.

To illustrate this point, since the 2009/10 fiscal year, the Coquitlam School District has seen its per student funding change from \$6,880 to a projected \$6,966 in 2014/15. Had the per student funding amount in 2009/10 kept up with inflation, per student funding in 2014/15 would have been \$7,492 per student. This \$526 difference per student is significant. Considering our student base, it demonstrates that we have had to absorb \$16.3 million in cost pressures over the past 5 years. It is our position that these monies be returned to the school district.

Rates of Funding and Inflation – 2009/10 to 2014/15 – Coquitlam School District



* Inflation reflects Consumer Price Index, for 2014/15 5 year average inflation was applied. Note that Ministry funding for 2014/15 is based on current figures provided by the Ministry.

School District 43 was able to reduce its operating budget by \$13.4 million to ensure a balanced budget for the 2014/15 fiscal year. That said, the impacts to the public education system are tremendous. In order to balance the budget, the District**:

- Eliminated 91 teaching positions including Psychologists, Speech Language Pathologists, High Incidence Teachers, Librarians, Student Services Coordinators, Counsellors, and Teachers working to maintain class size and composition
- Eliminated 55 support staff positions, including many Noon Hour Supervisors and Maintenance positions
- Eliminated 33.5 educational support positions which includes Teaching Assistants, Youth Workers, and Library clerks
- Eliminated 2 Administrator positions despite opening a new middle school
- Closed middle school cafeterias
- Eliminated before and after school busing for students

** Positions reflect full-time equivalents. Due to part-time work, actual number of persons impacted is higher

During our public budget meetings, it was clear that these cuts would impact all students, especially those students who are most vulnerable and most in need. The Board of Education empathized with the many parents and guardians, teachers, administrators and support staff, who spoke with emotion about the reductions that the Board of Education had to implement. We are greatly saddened that the cuts we were forced to make will limit our ability to help students achieve their full potential as individuals and citizens.

The Coquitlam School District has had a history of student success. The impact of these cuts will be devastating and our continued high-level of achievement is in jeopardy. While the dedicated professionals in our District will continue to go above and beyond, there are limits to what can be accomplished with such reduced resources.

The Board is greatly concerned by the potential of further inflationary costs and new cost pressures. The 2014/15 budget assumed that any provincially negotiated labour agreements with CUPE and the BCTF would be fully funded. Further, it is assumed that any negotiations to settle issues around class size and composition would also be fully funded.

Minister, we ask that you fully consider the impact that lack of adequate funding is having on our system. Further, we ask that you work to restore our funding by:

- Increasing our 2014/15 allocation to reflect inflation over the past 5 years
- Building into future funding a provision for inflation
- Ensuring that any labour agreements are fully funded
- Ensuring that any settlement regarding class size and composition is fully funded
- Committing to reviewing funding for vulnerable students to ensure that their needs are met
- Committing to reviewing the funding formula to ensure equitable funding amongst all School Districts

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Yours truly,

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)



Melissa Hyndes, Chair
Board of Education

c: Board of Education
Thomas J. Grant, Superintendent
Mark Ferrari, Secretary-Treasurer
Ken Cober, President, CPVPA
Charley King, President, CTA
Dave Ginter, President, CUPE Local 561
Chuck Dennison, President, DPAC
Premier Christy Clark
Michael de Jong, Minister of Finance & Treasury Board Chair
MLA Mike Farnworth (Port Coquitlam)
MLA Douglas Horne (Coquitlam-Burke Mountain)
MLA Linda Reimer (Port Moody-Coquitlam)
MLA Selina Robinson (Coquitlam-Maillardville)
Mayor Richard Stewart and Coquitlam City Council
Mayor Greg Moore and Port Coquitlam City Council
Mayor Mike Clay and Port Moody City Council
Mayor Heather Anderson and Village of Anmore Council
Mayor Ralph Drew and Village of Belcarra Council
Teresa Rezansoff, President, BCSTA
BC Boards of Education c/o BCSTA
Terry Sullivan, President, BCSSA
Lyle Boyce, Executive Director, BCASBO
Michael Hind, Executive Director, Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce

CHAIR:

Melissa Hyndes

VICE-CHAIR:

Holly Butterfield

TRUSTEES:

Gail Alty

John J. Keryluk

Brian Robinson

Judy Shirra

Diane Sowden

Gerri Wallis

Keith Watkins

July 11, 2014

Honourable Minister Fassbender
Minister of Education

VIA EMAIL: Minister.Educ@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Fassbender:

RE: International Education and September Opening

We are writing regarding the possibility that schools may not open on September 2nd due to the ongoing labour dispute and the implications for our International Education Program. We are concerned that labour instability in the Province of BC in the short-term will have long-term negative repercussions on the success of our efforts internationally. If schools do not open in September, international students may decide to withdraw from our programs and attend school in other provinces or countries. The potential financial loss to our Board and our communities is staggering.

- As a Province, we appear to be taking international students, their tuition fees, and their passion for our public education system “for granted” and not valuing their contribution. International education is a \$2 billion industry that is crucial to the economy of the Province of BC.
- Our international revenues contribute provincially to employment, the housing market, retail sales, private academies, and tourism. International students become new Canadians and attract immigration and new business opportunities to our Province.
- As a school district, international education brings significant additional revenues to our operating budget providing us with the flexibility to meet the needs of students and contributing to student success.
- The International Education Program has in turn helped to build the economies of our local communities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore, and Belcarra as well as the Province of BC.
- The lack of a strike resolution by September 2nd may result in the inability in the K-12 sector to fulfill its commitments to international students.

.../2

- The apparent lack of concern for international education during the current labour dispute contradicts the concept and spirit of Board revenue generation.
- Our Board of Education has embraced the Liberal government's initiatives - as outlined in British Columbia's International Education Strategy document, published in 2012 as part of the BC Jobs Plan - to encourage Boards of Education to generate revenue and become more entrepreneurial.
- In the report by the BC Progress Board, established by the BC Liberal government in July 2001, The Role of International Education: Expanding Student Opportunity and Economic Development in British Columbia, recommendation 4 says that the government must: "Support the international education sector's role in regional economic development."
- According to a recent report of the Council of Ministers of Education (Education ministers signal transformation key to the future, July 9, 2014): "International education continues to be a high priority for ministers. They reaffirmed the importance of Canada's position as a preferred study destination for international students and agreed that they would continue to work with the federal government to strengthen Canada as a brand, which is already being used by institutions across the country as part of their international marketing strategies."
- Entire nations have seen their international programs fail as a result of carelessness and lack of stewardship. It may not be possible to rebuild.

As a Province, we must think globally and act locally. The Board of Education of School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) exhorts both of the parties to reach an expeditious, negotiated agreement or mediated settlement through continuous bargaining throughout the summer in order to preserve the BC Brand and our position at the forefront of the global education industry.

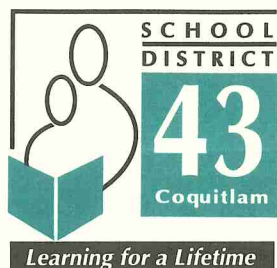
We would be pleased to participate in further discussions with you on this very important matter.

Yours truly,
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)



Melissa Hyndes, Chair
Board of Education

c: Board of Education
Thomas J. Grant, Superintendent
Mark Ferrari, Secretary-Treasurer
BCTSA – All Boards of Education
Mayors & Council of: Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore and Belcarra
MLA's: Linda Reimer, Selina Robinson, Mike Farnworth, and Douglas Horne



550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, BC, Canada V3J 6A7 • Phone: 604-939-9201 • Fax: 604-937-6758

CHAIR:

Melissa Hyndes

VICE-CHAIR:

Holly Butterfield

TRUSTEES:

Gail Alty

John J. Keryluk

Brian Robinson

Judy Shirra

Diane Sowden

Gerri Wallis

Keith Watkins

August 28, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier, Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041, Stn Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Re: Teacher Collective Bargaining and Use of Strike Savings

Dear Premier Clark and Minister Fassbender,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Education of School District 43 (Coquitlam) to urge you both to use the influence of your respective offices to facilitate and encourage the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) to urgently continue their bargaining efforts, with the full support of the mediation expertise of Vince Ready.

Further, we would like to share our grave disappointment with the Government's recent announcement to remove strike savings from public education. Like many other Boards of Education, we learned of the proposed \$40/ day childcare subsidy through the media. As co-governors of public education, an announcement of this nature should never come to Boards of Education as a surprise. When this happens it seriously undermines the trust required to work collaboratively to benefit the students of British Columbia. Further, it produces additional and completely unnecessary acrimony in the education sector.

The public perception of the chaos surrounding public education shifts focus away from the many strengths of our public education system.

Our Board strongly supports the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Back to School Action Plan proposal that states that all strike savings be returned to the Learning Improvement Fund (LIF).

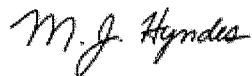
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We are sensitive to the financial hardship parents will experience as a direct result of the delayed start to the school year. The proposed \$40/ day subsidy will bring some financial relief to parents. With a shortage of regulated and affordable childcare spaces available in the Lower Mainland, however, we are concerned that unregulated "pop-up" childcare options may represent a safety concern for some children, particularly our most vulnerable.

We are in the eleventh hour but believe that a final opportunity to resolve the current impasse remains with the mediation support of Vince Ready. We are looking to all parties involved in teacher collective bargaining to focus on finding an immediate resolution that will benefit students, parents and teachers and ensure a September 2nd start to school.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Yours truly,
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)



Melissa Hyndes
Chair
Board of Education

cc: Board of Education SD43
Tom Grant, Superintendent
Mark Ferrari, Secretary-Treasurer
Ken Cober, President, CPVPA
Charley King, President, CTA
Dave Ginter, President, CUPE Local 561
Chuck Dennison, President, DPAC
Minister of Finance, Mike De Jong
MLA Mike Farnworth (Port Coquitlam)
MLA Douglas Horne (Coquitlam-Burke Mountain)
MLA Linda Reimer (Port Moody-Coquitlam)
MLA Selina Robinson (Coquitlam-Maillardville)
Mayor Richard Stewart and Coquitlam City Council
Mayor Greg Moore and Port Coquitlam City Council
Mayor Mike Clay and Port Moody City Council
Mayor Heather Anderson and Village of Anmore Council
Mayor Ralph Drew and Village of Belcarra Council
Mike Roberts, Interim CEO BCPSEA
Jim Iker, President BCTF
BC Boards of Education c/o BCSTA

June 24, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Mr. Jim Iker, President
British Columbia Teachers' Federation
100 – 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver BC V5Z 4P2

Mr. Michael Marchbank
Public Administrator
BC Public School Employers' Association
400 – 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver BC V6H 4C1

Dear Minister Fassbender, Mr. Iker and Mr. Marchbank:

The North Vancouver Board of Education is writing you today to urge both parties to reach a negotiated agreement or mediated settlement as soon as possible. The bargaining impasse is directly impacting our students, parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff within our community.

As a School District, we are proud of the achievements and continuous strides we have made towards stability and towards our 'Vision' for the North Vancouver School District. We take time to celebrate and acknowledge our successes, honour our graduates and promote quality public education in our community. However, the current labour dispute is having a negative impact on our public education system.

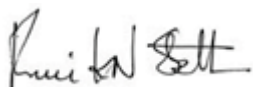
We have heard from parents, students, teachers and members of our community who are trying to understand both sides of the issue, but don't see a solution happening any time soon.

While it is looking like school is over for students this year, everyone is very anxious and worried about summer school, start up for September and how this may impact students and staff.

We all value public education and we all value the relationships we have built and maintained with our partner groups. Relationships at all levels of the system are key to collaboratively working together to create a quality public education system that is thriving, innovative and sustainable for our students, now and into the future.

Yours truly,

NORTH VANCOUVER BOARD OF EDUCATION



Franci Stratton
Chair

FWS/mg

cc. John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools
Georgia Allison, Secretary Treasurer
North Vancouver Teachers Association
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 389
North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council
North Vancouver Administrators' Association
The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
Ralph Sultan, MLA West Vancouver-Capilano
Jane Thornthwaite, MLA North Vancouver-Seymour
Hon. Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Small Business, MLA North Vancouver-Lonsdale
Teresa Rezansoff, President, British Columbia School Trustees Association
Mayor Mussatto and Council, City of North Vancouver
Mayor Walton and Council, District of North Vancouver
All Boards of Education c/o BCSTA

August 29, 2014

Layne Christensen
Editor
North Shore News
100 – 126 East 15th Street
North Vancouver, BC V7L 2P9

Dear Ms. Christensen:

RE: An open letter to the community from the North Vancouver Board of Education

The impacts of the labour dispute between the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) have been widely felt in our community, where high standards of education are the prevailing norm.

As Trustees, we have heard from many students, parents and employees about the effects that the current job action has had upon their learning and their lives. We do understand the many frustrations that have arisen from the dispute and we are concerned for all our students, parents, teachers, support staff, and administrators if the current situation should continue into September.

We have also been asked about our role in the dispute and what we have done, as a Board, toward a positive resolution. As an employer, the Board of Education is represented by BCPSEA and there are two Trustees representing the views of BCSTA at the provincial bargaining table. Our provincial body, the BC School Trustees Association, developed a [Back to School Action plan](#) through provincial-wide Board feedback with the goal of having the school year begin on time on September 2nd.

We have been consistent in our message to all concerned that we want to see a negotiated or mediated settlement as soon as possible that provides long term stability for students. A record of our correspondence and advocacy can be found here: <http://www.sd44.ca/Board/Advocacy>. We also encourage members of the community to share their thoughts directly with the negotiating parties, and their contact information is available on our website.

Should the dispute continue into September, we are asking that the parties suspend any further lockout measures or strike action to allow teaching and learning to resume without impediment while bargaining proceeds.

.../2

We have a long history and a great deal to be proud of in the provision of public education in North Vancouver. Ours is a diverse community. There is a great strength to be found by recognizing that we share a common concern: students and their learning. All good school communities are built upon relationships. Individually and as a Board, these relationships are the cornerstones that will strengthen our ability to serve students when school is once again in session.

In the meantime, we thank everyone in the community for their understanding and patience through this challenging time. We remain optimistic we will be welcoming students back to school very soon.

On behalf of the North Vancouver Board of Education,



Franci Stratton
Chair

cc: John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools, North Vancouver School District
Georgia Allison, Secretary Treasurer, North Vancouver School District
North Vancouver Teachers Association
Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 389
North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council
North Vancouver Administrators' Association
The Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education
Mr. Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator, BC Public School Employer's Association
Mr. Jim Iker, President, British Columbia Teachers' Federation
The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
Ralph Sultan, MLA West Vancouver—Capilano
Jane Thornthwaite, MLA North Vancouver—Seymour
Honourable Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Small Business, MLA North Vancouver-Lonsdale
Teresa Rezansoff, President, British Columbia School Trustees Association
Mayor Mussatto and Council, City of North Vancouver
Mayor Walton and Council, District of North Vancouver
All Boards of Education c/o BCSTA



August 19th, 2014

The Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Finance
Province of British Columbia
PO Box 0048 – Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister de Jong,

The West Vancouver Board of Education would like to express its profound displeasure with your government's unilateral announcement to pay \$40/day to parents of children 13 years and under this fall, should the BCTF labour dispute continue beyond the summer.

We have worked hard to establish and maintain a respectful discourse with the government and build strong relationships with the many stakeholders in BC public education, despite ongoing cost and political pressures. The current impasse continues to have an enormous impact on the fine reputation of BC's education system, and we have shared our concerns on several occasions with BC's Minister of Education, Peter Fassbender.

The announcement to redirect strike savings to parents rather than direct them into the Learning Improvement Fund as prescribed in the BCSTA's *Back to School Action Plan* dismisses this Board's concerns, along with those of hundreds of thousands of BC parents and students. This announcement further undermines the credibility and reputation of our school system and is an unacceptable way to demonstrate your government's stated commitment to respectful co-governance.

Parents and students need and deserve certainty. Indeed, businesses also depend on certainty in public education to thrive in today's economy. Stakeholders must have confidence that the government is committed to resolving this conflict and that it supports a strong public education system. To date, the government's strategy has failed to instil confidence and trust, imposing myriad risks for the future of public education and the provincial economy overall.

We urge you to rescind the offer to pay parents \$40/day and instead redirect funding to enhance the Learning Improvement Fund to ensure that public education dollars are directed towards educating all students as intended.

While the recent involvement of mediator Vince Ready is a sign that talks may be moving in a more positive direction, it is imperative to have students back in class on September 2. We urge you to meet this goal to begin the process of rebuilding trust in one of the world's finest education systems.

Yours sincerely,



Cindy Dekker, Chair
West Vancouver Board of Education

cc: Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education
Ralph Sultan, MLA
Jordan Sturdy, MLA
All Boards of Education

West Vancouver Board of Education



BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 15, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
100-550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Mr. Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator
BC Public School Employers' Association
400-1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

Dear Minister Fassbender, Mr. Iker and Mr. Marchbank:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) to express our dismay that there is no bargaining happening between the parties to resolve the BC Education labour dispute and that summer is quickly passing without efforts to ensure a stable, positive return to school in September for students, teachers, school district staff and their families.

Once again, we urge you to bring some flexibility to the table, pursue the opportunity to mediate the differences with the well-regarded Justice Stephen Kelleher and commit to reaching a collective agreement in the next six weeks.

It is hard to express how difficult the lockout/pay reduction and strike action have been for our students and school communities. This must not continue into September and only you can determine that. Our students and staff must have stability and predictable timelines to start off the year. We have a terrific education system in this province and the risk of damage to hard-won relationships and innovative programming is higher each day and week that passes with the current dispute. We will do our part in delivering the finest education possible at the local level. We urge you to do your part and give us the tools to start a new school year that will be safe, positive and productive for students.

Sincerely,

Betty Baxter
Board Chair

p.c. Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
Patrick Bocking, Superintendent of Schools
Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer
Louise Herle, SCTA President
Carolyn Smith, CUPE Local 801 President
Nicholas Simons, MLA, Powell River-Sunshine Coast
All Boards of Education, via BCSTA



BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 1, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

We are clearly in troubled times for education in British Columbia. Like many school districts across the province, School District No. 46 has written you several times asking for a commitment to reach a freely negotiated collective agreement with teachers. Yesterday's announcement of a \$40/day program for parents is an appalling step in the wrong direction.

We are dismayed that, like your Ministry's announcement on July 31, 2013 that the BCPSEA Board of Directors would be replaced with your own appointed administrator, the announcement timing of a parent subsidy on July 31, 2014 prior to a long weekend appears to justify the opinions of many that you are not interested in supporting a healthy relationship with all partners in education.

To take funds that all citizens contribute to public education and use them to continue a game of "gotcha" with the BCTF is misguided at best. Parents already express concern about the tax implications, administrative costs and how this subsidy will likely never reach those who need it most. There is no surplus of daycare spaces available in BC at any price. To single out students 13 and under also reductively emphasizes the custodial aspect of our system when families throughout the province are clearly more upset and alarmed about their children not receiving their fundamental right to public education. This is another hasty, ill-conceived decision.

It is not too late to change direction. We urge you to:

- rescind the offer of \$40/per day and keep the funds in education where they will benefit all students;
- ensure your negotiator has the resources at the table to negotiate in the interests of public education in British Columbia;
- keep bargaining out of the media until an agreement is reached; and
- bring some flexibility to enable a mediator to assist the parties to find an agreement.

It is our sincere hope that some of the commitment and pride that your government brings to the goal of a balanced budget can be brought to the goal of a functional, world-class education system. Please change your course and put the students of British Columbia first. It is they who suffer the longer you fail to negotiate but who can succeed beyond our expectations if we all determine to work together.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Betty Baxter
Chair, Board of Education
School District No 46 (Sunshine Coast)

p.c. Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
Patrick Bocking, Superintendent of Schools
Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer
Louise Herle, SCTA President
Carolyn Smith, CUPE Local 801 President
Nicholas Simons, MLA, Powell River-Sunshine Coast
All Boards of Education, via BCSTA



**SCHOOL DISTRICT 47
POWELL RIVER**

4351 Ontario Ave., Powell River, B.C. V8A 1V3
Tel: (604) 485-6271 Fax: (604) 485-6435

August 1, 2014

The Honourable Michael deJong
Minister of Finance
P.O. Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister DeJong

The Powell River Board of Education would like to express its shock and disappointment at the news which we received yesterday.

Like other school districts in the Province, we pride ourselves on offering quality educational opportunities for our young people, even in the face of on-going financial challenges. Over the years of conflict between the BCTF and the Provincial Government, we have seen increasing stress placed on our students, parents, staff and community. This year has been particularly difficult with year end activities curtailed and a failure to complete proper examinations, report cards and forward records of students wishing to enter post-secondary institutions. In addition, summer programmes have had to be cancelled and now we are having to tell our incoming international students that they will probably not be able to register for the fall semester.

As strong advocates for children and public education, aware that British Columbia schools have had, deservedly, a fine reputation in the past, we do not understand why the government would assume that transferring tax dollars, collected for public schools, would appropriately be redirected to daycare.

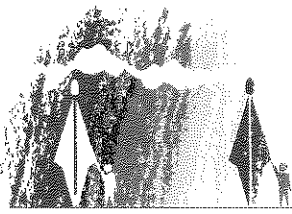
Surely, if there were a willingness to move those funds into the Learning Improvement Fund, this would be a sign not only of the government's willingness to move toward a resolution of the conflict but moreover of its support for public education.

Yours truly



Dr. Jeanette Scott, Chair
Powell River Board of Education

cc: Minister of Education
All Boards



**SCHOOL DISTRICT 47
POWELL RIVER**

4351 Ontario Ave., Powell River, B.C. V8A 1V3
Tel: (604) 485-6271 Fax: (604) 485-6435

August 25, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of the Province of British Columbia
P.O. Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Premier Clark and Minister Fassbender:

The Powell River Board of Education met today to discuss the ongoing labour dispute and the likelihood that our students will not be able to return to school next week.

Like other districts in the Province, School District #47 prides itself on a history of offering quality learning opportunities for our students and, as trustees, we are concerned that not only are these opportunities being jeopardized by a failure to reach a negotiated settlement with the teachers' union but moreover, the continuation of conflict is likely to have a negative effect upon relationships within our classrooms, our schools and our community for some time to come.

Over the past several months, we, like many other boards, have written letters to members of your government as well as to the President of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, expressing our concerns and urging both parties to engage sincerely in the process of bargaining - a process that should be taking place at the bargaining table rather than through the media.

We believe that the decision to take public tax dollars that are intended to support public schools and redirect them to pay for daycare is both an inappropriate use of tax dollars as well as an insult to the public education system which, despite on-going funding challenges, provides high quality learning opportunities for our young people.

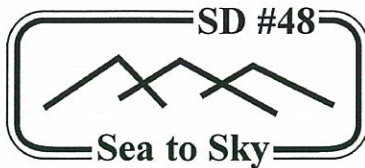
Further, we believe that creating and promoting a parent information website a week prior to the scheduled beginning of a new school year indicates that the government is making clear to teachers and to the public that it is not prepared to move forward to resolve the on-going dispute.

As strong advocates for children and for public education, we strongly urge your government to demonstrate a willingness to move toward a resolution of the conflict, and to support public education, financially and ideologically.

Yours truly

Dr. Jeanette Scott, Chair
Powell River Board of Education

cc: Nicholas Simons, MLA
Cathy Fisher, President, PRDTA
All Boards



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

♦ Squamish ♦ Whistler ♦ Pemberton

July 18, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
Room 310
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4
via email: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Mr. Jim Iker
President
BC Teachers' Federation
100 – 550 West 6th Ave
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 4P2
via email presidentsoffice@bctf.ca

Dear Sirs:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Education to convey its concerns about the current dispute between the Province and the BCTF. This is an appeal to both parties to show reason, generosity and forbearance in the conduct of negotiations.

The mere fact of a dispute such as this is damaging, but the damage can be either mitigated or exaggerated depending on the pace and the means by which the dispute is conducted. For instance, the provision of misleading, incomplete, ambiguous or ill-timed information by either party may serve to advance short-term interests, but it does immeasurable damage to the humans who are at the focus of the dispute. Serious harm is done due to both the slow pace, and the conduct during bargaining. This damage to relationships on the ground in our district has an enduring effect that counters any gains being sought. In this dispute teachers, support staff, management staff, parents, students, and our communities are truly hurting.

The public's confidence in public education is also significantly diminished as a result of such bargaining strategies, and this is another serious concern.

Our plea, therefore, is for a quick resolution to this dispute. We believe the best possibility for such a resolution is to be found with a suspension of both strike and lockout, an immediate return to the bargaining table, and a

.../2

Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
July 18, 2014
Page 2

Jim Iker, President
BCSTA

resumption of bargaining away from the media, as requested by BCSTA President Teresa Rezansoff in her recent letter. We also request that you both agree to access third party interventions including but not limited to mediation or arbitration. Anything less would seem to be an ill-conceived continuation of short term interests, as well as significant indifference to the harm being done to the many people affected by this dispute.

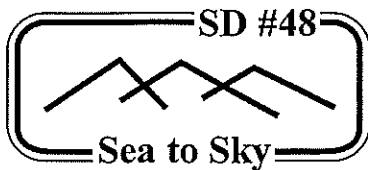
Thank you, both, for listening to our concerns and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Rick Price
Chairperson, Sea to Sky Board of Education

Cc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier
Mike Roberts, BCPSEA
MLA, Jordan Sturdy,
BCSTA for distribution
Carl Walker, SSTA President,
Andrea Smith, CUPE President,
All Staff Distribution
DPAC Co-Chairs,
Aboriginal Education Council
SD48 District Student Council
SD48 Media Partners



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

♦ Squamish ♦ Whistler ♦ Pemberton

August 6, 2014

via email: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
Room 310
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Fassbender:

Trustees in School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky) have asked me to convey their support for the BCSTA Back to School Action Plan. It is a plan that represents the collective wishes of BC Boards of Education, and we hope that you will take it carefully into account as you plan for September and move forward with teacher bargaining.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Price".

Rick Price, Chair
Board of Education

cc: Trustees
Lisa McCullough, Superintendent of Schools
Rick Ikebuchi, Secretary-Treasurer
Stephen Hansen, Executive Director, BCSTA
(for distribution to all school districts)

July 22, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender,
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Mr. Jim Iker,
President
BC Teachers' Federation
#100 – 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Mr. Michael Marchbank,
Public Administrator
BCPSEA
400, 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

Dear Minister Fassbender, Mr. Iker and Mr. Marchbank

Re: Views on Bargaining

The Board of Education of School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert) held a special meeting last night to discuss the current state of bargaining between BCPSEA and BCTF. The many letters that other districts have sent on this topic were considered. In our discussion we focused on why we ran to be trustees – to do the very best for the students in our district. Over the last 5 years this Board has made some very difficult decisions, including school closures and a grade reconfiguration. These decisions are not easily made when your position as trustee is framed within a local election cycle; but we focused on what would be best for our students over the long term.

In the current dispute between BCPSEA and BCTF, we believe both parties also need to focus on students and focus on the long term. We strongly believe that stability in the system is essential in order for districts to provide effective programs for students. That stability will not be achieved if this round of bargaining does not result in a full and final settlement of the court cases arising from Bills 27 and 28.

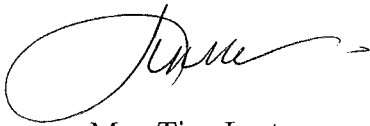
We believe this settlement is essential – and we also understand it is not easy to achieve. As with the resolution of Bill 29 in the health care sector, the government needs to bring money to the table, outside of the bargaining mandate, and both parties need to be realistic in order to agree on an appropriate amount and on the way in which the funding will be used.

With respect to addressing class size and composition in the collective agreement, we concur with the Quesnel School District that a “new compromise” is needed. Our district has significant numbers of vulnerable students, so we know first-hand the challenges of meeting the needs of each student in a classroom based on the principle of inclusion. Local boards and local teachers' unions need the flexibility to address local conditions, so we believe funding should not be formula-based, but situation-based. We encourage BCPSEA and BCTF to focus on the needs of students and work together to arrive at this “new compromise.”

We also reiterate what many other districts have already said: don't bargain in the media; legislation is not the solution; and the final agreement must be fully funded by the government.

It is our sincere hope that the parties will return to the bargaining table in the near future, continue to bargain in good faith, and conclude a long-term agreement that will begin a new era of labour peace in the BC public education sector.

Yours sincerely,
School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tina Last', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

Mrs. Tina Last
Chair

cc: Premier Christy Clark
MLA Jennifer Rice
BCSTA
PRDTU President Kathy Murphy
IUOE Chief Shop Steward Colleen Wiens
DPAC President Kim Nicholls



634 – 6th Avenue East
Prince Rupert, B.C.
V8J 1X1
Tel: (250) 624 - 6717
Fax: (250) 624 -6517
<http://sd52.bc.ca>

August 7, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender,
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

Re: Proposed Payments to Parents

The Board of Education of School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert) is writing to support the letter from BCSTA President Teresa Rezansoff dated July 31, 2014. The second action item of the BCSTA Back to School Action Plan is as follows:

BCSTA will advocate that all savings resulting from the strike and lockout stay within the public school system to benefit students.

This Board is in full support of the BCSTA Back to School Action Plan and is writing this letter to support keeping all strike and lockout savings within the public school system.

Finance Minister de Jong has announced that savings would be used to assist parents with child care costs if the strike continues into September. This would remove funds from the public school system. Boards have struggled to produce balanced budgets in the face of a number of unfunded cost increases, and students will need additional support to make up for the time lost as a result of this labour dispute. It is therefore imperative that school funds remain within the system to address these many challenges and meet the needs of the students we serve.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Last", is written over the printed name.

Mrs. Tina Last
Chair

/hdg

cc: Premier Christy Clark
MLA Jennifer Rice
BCSTA
PRDTU President Kathy Murphy
IUOE Chief Shop Steward Colleen Wiens
DPAC President Kim Nicholls



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

2100 Ferry Avenue, Prince George, B.C. V2L 4R5

Phone: (250) 561-6800 • Fax (250) 561-6801
www.sd57.bc.ca

July 23, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark,
Premier Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E1

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Jim Iker, President
British Columbia Teachers Federation
100 - 500 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4P2

Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator
British Columbia Public Schools Employers' Association
400 - 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 4C1

Dear Premier Clark, Minister Fassbender, Mr. Iker and Mr. Marchbank:

The Board of Education for School District No. 57, Prince George, is deeply concerned by the lack of progress and the current state of negotiations between the Government and its teachers. We find it totally unacceptable that both parties have allowed negotiations to come to a halt. Further delay endangers the start of another school year. Our students' education must not continue to be jeopardized.

As trustees responsible for public education in our communities, we urge the government and the BCTF to:

- Immediately resume negotiations.
- Compromise on wages and benefits.
- Seek resolution on class size and composition.
- Reach a negotiated settlement before school resumes in September.

The current impasse cannot continue. Public trust and faith in our public education system is being eroded as the labour unrest between the province and its teachers continues without resolution.

The Board of Education for School District No. 57, Prince George, calls on both parties to put our students and their future first and through good faith negotiations restore confidence in our public education system. Our communities and the future of this province deserve nothing less.

Respectfully and urgently,



Sharel Warrington, Chair

Board of Education on behalf of the Board of Education (Prince George)

cc: Hon Shirley Bond, MLA Prince George-Valemount
Mike Morris, MLA Prince George-Mackenzie
Hon Coralee Oakes, MLA Cariboo North
Tina Cousins, President, Prince George District Teachers Association,
Karen Wong, President of C.U.P.E. Local 3742
Brian Trotter, President of C.U.P.E. Local 4991
Sarah Holland, DPAC Chairperson
District Student Advisory Council Chairperson
Boards of Education through BCSTA
Peter Cameron, Chief Negotiator, BCPSEA
Mike Roberts, Interim CEO, BCPSEA
Rob Fleming, MLA Victoria-Swan Lake
Jim Martin, Administrator, Regional District of Fraser Fort George
Andru McCracken, Mayor Village of Valemount
Mike Frazier, Mayor Village of McBride
Stephanie Killam, Mayor District of Mackenzie
Shari Green, Mayor City of Prince George

Board of Education:

Sharel Warrington – Chairperson
Tim Bennett – Vice Chairperson
Trish Bella Betty Bekkering Sharon Bourassa
Kate Cooke Brenda Hooker



BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Chair: Peg Orcherton Vice-Chair: Bev Horsman
Trustees: Catherine Alpha, Tom Ferris, Elaine Leonard
Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Michael McEvoy, Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr*

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)
556 BOLESKINE ROAD, VICTORIA, BC V8Z 1E8
PHONE (250) 475-4106 FAX (250) 475-4112**

July 15, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Mr. Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator
BC Public School Employers' Association
#400 — 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.

Mr. Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
100 - 550 West 6th Avenue,
Vancouver B.C. V5Z 4P2

Dear Sirs,

The Board of Education of School District No. 61 is extremely concerned about the current state of affairs in bargaining between the BCTF and BCPSEA. While summer is upon us and there appears to be a lull, it is more urgent than ever to find a resolution before a storm hits Public Education in September.

Our Board has previously sent letters to Premier Christy Clark, Minister of Education Peter Fassbender, BCPSEA and the BCTF expressing our concerns about fairly negotiating class size and composition, urging proper and full funding from the Ministry of Education and requesting a mediator in the current dispute. Our Board would like to reiterate our request for an immediate resolution to this matter.

We write again today to strongly urge all of you to identify with and reaffirm that each of you have a common purpose, that of providing quality Public Education to our students. Please utilize whatever tools you have to find a solution now, in order that we can move forward with providing our students, their parents and our communities with certainty and stability in Public Education for the first day of school. Our students deserve no less. Our Public Education system and all of those who work within it deserve no less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Orcherton".

Peg Orcherton
Board Chair

Cc: Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools
Trustees
Boards of Education c/o BCSTA
MLA's



BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Chair: Peg Orcherton Vice-Chair: Bev Horsman
Trustees: Catherine Alpha, Tom Ferris, Elaine Leonard
Edith Loring-Kuhanga, Michael McEvoy, Diane McNally, Deborah Nohr*

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)
556 BOLESKINE ROAD, VICTORIA, BC V8Z 1E8
PHONE (250) 475-4106 FAX (250) 475-4112**

August 07, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

I write today on behalf of the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria). Our Board is quite taken aback by your government's unilateral announcement regarding the repurposing of education dollars to provide \$40.00 per day for child care in the event that the current labour dispute extends into the 2014-2015 school year.

The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance and your government as a whole appears to have completely lost focus on the issues at hand, firstly supporting public education, and, secondly negotiating a collective agreement with the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF). Our Board has repeatedly called on your government to properly fund and resource public education. We along with other Boards and the British Columbia School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) have urged your government to focus on finding solutions to this bargaining impasse. We have called for mediation, and a renewed focus on finding a solution. We believe that there is a common purpose that is shared by the Ministry of Education and the BCTF—the recognition of the value of public education for our youth in British Columbia.

This announcement does damage to an already damaged relationship between the parties, it undermines public education and further it signals to parents and students that the government is planning for continuing uncertainty and confusion in the K-12 public education system. Your energy would be far better spent in finding a solution to this impasse.

It is ironic that on the very day that your government makes this announcement you received the BCSTA "Back to School Action Plan". Your government's actions, taken without consultation and with a seemingly complete disregard for co-governance will not lead to certainty. We urge your government to support the BCSTA "Back to School Action Plan".

...../2

We are less than a month away from the school year start-up. We now have a circumstance where everyone involved in the K-12 system in BC is unsure as to when the school year will begin. Minister our concern is for our students—they do not get a “do over” and there is no second chance for them to fully regain what will be lost.

Minister, we are very concerned that both parties are working at brinkmanship when both parties need to be advocating for public education and our students. Now is the time to be focussing on solutions and keeping education dollars in Education, for the benefit of our students, parents, teachers and public education itself.

Sincerely,



Peg Orchardton
Board Chair

Cc: Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools
Trustees
Boards of Education, c/o BCSTA
Honourable Christy Clark, Premier
Honourable Mike De Jong, Minister of Finance
MLA's
Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
British Columbia Public School Employers' Association
British Columbia Teachers' Federation
Media

Saanich Schools

2125 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton, BC, Canada V8M 2A5

(250) 652-7300 Fax: (250) 652-6421

June 23, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

With the end of the 2013/2014 school year fast approaching, the Board of Education of School District No. 63 (Saanich) is very concerned that the current level of uncertainty our district is experiencing due to the ongoing labour strife will be continued through the summer and that it could detrimentally affect yet another school year if not resolved. We must emphasize that the students, their parents, and the employees in our district have borne the pressure of this conflict for the last decade with no foreseeable conclusion in sight. Our students' educational experience is negatively effected when their teachers and support staff are continually at battle with government and this cannot continue.

Our optimism is waning and we look to your government to resolve the dispute by swiftly appointing a mutually acceptable mediator to assist the parties in arriving at a negotiated settlement. Your leadership is crucial. The students in the Saanich School District deserve to be certain of their educational future. As you are aware, they are the future electorate in this province.

Sincerely,



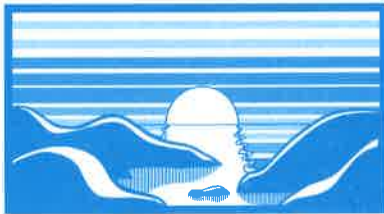
G. Wayne Hunter
Chair, Saanich Board of Education

MS:rd

cc: **BC School Trustees' Association**
Gary Holman, MLA, Saanich North & the Islands
Lana Popham, MLA, Saanich South
Saanich Administrators' Association
Saanich Teachers' Association
CUPE Local 441
Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils of Saanich

Saanich Schools

Visit us at our website: www.sd63.bc.ca



SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 (GULF ISLANDS)

112 RAINBOW ROAD, SALT SPRING ISLAND, B.C. V8K 2K3
(250) 537-5548 FAX (250) 537-4200

August 5, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

I write in response to last week's announced proposal by Finance Minister de Jong that the savings from the strike/lockout be used to provide funds to parents for daycare assistance if a settlement is not reached prior to school opening on September 2.

Our Board fully supports the BCSTA's Back to School Action Plan, in which savings from the strike/lockout go into the Learning Improvement Fund.

As the parties are resuming talks this week, we believe that this would provide a positive beginning to this new round of discussions and it would send a strong signal that Government is actively working towards reaching a settlement as soon as possible. We believe that all savings should stay within the public education system. Further, it is our position that since students have been the most affected by the strike/lockout, all savings should be used to their benefit.

We strongly encourage the Government to support the recommendations in the Back to School Action Plan to help bring about a quick and successful end to the bargaining impasse.

Sincerely,

May McKenzie
Chairperson
School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)

p.c. All School Boards via BCSTA



**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)**

425 Jermyn Avenue
Penticton, BC, Canada V2A 1Z4

Telephone: (250) 770-7700 ext. 6621

Fax: (250) 770-7722

E-mail: bjohnson@summer.com

Website: www.sd67.bc.ca

Office of the Chairman of the Board

August 27, 2014

The Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Finance
PO Box 0048 – Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister de Jong,

The Okanagan Skaha Board of Education is writing this letter on behalf of our education community which includes teachers, support staff, administrators, parents and students to express our shock at your announcement that money saved by the government due to the ongoing labour dispute would be paid to parents of students under 13 years of age at an amount of \$40 per day should the strike continue into September.

This Board of Education strongly feels that monies dedicated to education through governmental budgeting should remain in the education system whether the funds are the result of strike savings or simply regular annual funding. It is our position that long-term stability and sustainable funding is a high priority of our advocacy and to see these funds removed rather than being reiterated back in to the budget is disappointing. These funds could easily have been used to extend or enhance the Learning Improvement Fund (LIF) directly affecting our most vulnerable learners and meeting one of the suggestions in the BC School Trustees Association *Back to School Action Plan* (www.bcsta.org).

We acknowledge and appreciate that families are feeling the impact of this ongoing dispute and that the financial alleviation of some of this impact would be appreciated or deserved; however, we must question the source of this funding as our public education system is already struggling with underfunding on an ongoing basis.

We continue to advocate for a negotiated settlement between these parties before September 2nd and strongly urge your ministry's advocacy of the same.

On behalf of the Board of Education,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Johnson".

Bruce Johnson
Board Chair

c: Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education
Premier Christy Clarke
MLA Dan Ashton
MLA Linda Larson
BCSTA
All school districts

July 7, 2014

Honourable Minister Fassbender
Minister of Education
VIA EMAIL

Mr. J. Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
VIA EMAIL

Dear Minister Fassbender and Mr. Iker:

The Board of Education of Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools, is extremely frustrated and disappointed about the lack of progress made with bargaining between the BCTF and BCPSEA, and the resulting turmoil and disruption, as this school year comes to a close with no end in sight.

The present bargaining standoff is having a direct and severely detrimental effect on students, parents, teachers, administrators and support staff within our communities, and undermining confidence in the public education system as a whole. Morale is at an all-time low while anxiety levels are at an all-time high, as we move beyond the end of June deadline into a summer break overshadowed by uncertainty and conflict.

The possibility that this conflict and uncertainty could extend into September and prevent the start of the coming school year is of grave concern to everyone affected. Therefore, on the behalf of our students, the Board of Education of SD68, Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools exhorts both of the parties to reach an expeditious, negotiated agreement or mediated settlement through continuous bargaining through the summer.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dot Neary', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dot Neary, Board Chair

pc: Trustees, Board of Education
D. Hutchinson, Superintendent
P. Turin, Secretary-Treasurer
BCSTA Members
M. Stilwell, MLA
L. Krog, MLA
D. Routley, MLA

July 7, 2014

Ms. T. Rezansoff, Chair
BCSTA – VIA EMAIL

Dear Teresa and Board of Directors:

The Board of Education of School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) was stunned when the Board of Directors was fired and Government appointed a public administrator to assume the responsibilities of BCPSEA and its Board of Directors in June 2013. Despite holding strong reservations about this turn of events, the Board was initially appeased by government's assurance that this was, "an interim measure until such time as the necessary legislation is in place to restructure the bargaining process," and that in the interim, as co-governors of the system, Boards of Education would, "remain in an advisory capacity to government and BCSTA as they work to redefine BCPSEA's role for the future."

At that time Teresa, you stated that, "Now, more than ever, BCSTA must work with member Boards of Education to ensure that our interests are fully included in the new bargaining structure. This news represents a significant change in the collective bargaining landscape for public education. I am reassured to see that the former BCPSEA Board members will continue to be involved in an advisory role during the interim period. I am committed to including the tremendous knowledge and experience of these nine trustees as we develop new structures within BCSTA to ensure a strengthened voice for trustees in the bargaining process."

Our expectation was that, as the employer accountable for the process and outcome, Boards of Education would continue to have strong, meaningful representation at the bargaining table. However, no legislation has been forthcoming and the Board is disappointed to observe that, with government taking the lead on bargaining provincial matters, trustee representation was reduced to two, in an advisory capacity, and the role of Boards of Education in the bargaining process has been rendered marginal, at best. This is a flawed and unsatisfactory arrangement and therefore, this Board is respectfully requesting that the trustee representatives be withdrawn from the bargaining table forthwith, while hoping that the parties can conclude an agreement without further disruption to the system.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dot Neary', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Dot Neary, Board Chair

pc: Trustees, Board of Education
BCSTA Members
D. Hutchinson, Superintendent
P. Turin, Secretary-Treasurer

P. Fassbender, Minister of Education
L. Krog, MLA
M. Stilwell, MLA
D. Routley, MLA
M. Marchbank, BCPSEA

August 11, 2014

The Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

VIA EMAIL
FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister de Jong:

I write on the behalf of the Board of Education of School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith), in response to the announced proposal by Finance Minister de Jong that the savings from the strike/lockout be used to provide funds to parents for daycare or tutoring assistance if a settlement is not reached prior to school opening on September 2.

While we recognize that a prolonged strike creates financial hardship and inconvenience for many families, the Board is troubled that the government would see this proposal by Finance Minister de Jong as a realistic and appropriate response. The offer of an allowance of \$40 a day to parents is an impractical strategy given that suitable licensed daycare and / or quality alternative tutoring are in woefully short supply. We also note that neither of these would adequately compensate for the loss of learning that would otherwise be taking place in our public schools.

This scheme will create blatant and deplorable inequities. In addition to the unreliable, universal availability of quality, alternative services for those who would qualify for the subsidy, secondary students who comprise approximately one third of our total student body are completely excluded.

The Board believes that any savings from the strike/lock-out should go back into the public education system to be used to the benefit of all students. We therefore urge the government to abandon this plan and, instead, invest the savings into the public education system as a whole.

The Board continues to believe that the appropriate solution to this problem is a negotiated agreement or mediated settlement to be achieved by continuous bargaining through the summer, thus allowing schools to open on time.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DMJ' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dot Neary, Board Chair

pc: Trustees, Board of Education P. Fassbender, Minister of Education
BCSTA Member Boards C. Clark, Premier
D. Hutchinson, Superintendent M. Stilwell, MLA
P. Turin, Secretary-Treasurer L. Krog, MLA
M. Ball, President, NDTA D. Routley, MLA
R. Zver, President, CUPE Local 606



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

August 8, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
Room 310 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Mr. Jim Iker
President
British Columbia Teachers Federation
100-550 West 6th Ave
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 4P2

Mr. Peter Cameron and Mr. Michael Marchbank
BCPSEA
Government Bargaining Team
400-1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V6H 4C1

Dear Sirs:

The Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) recently held a special meeting to discuss our grave concerns over the current state of negotiations. We add our voice to the growing number of elected Trustees across British Columbia, urging both parties to get back to meaningful, around the clock bargaining.

Recognizing that conversations start again today we emphasize that in a few short weeks a negotiated settlement must be reached to ensure students will be in their classrooms for a September 2nd start of school. As duly elected officials we have the responsibility to advocate for student success and achievement, and as such, it is our duty to demand that both government and the BCTF put our children's interests first.

It is our sincere hope that classrooms will be open on September 2nd and students will start the new school year with a feeling of security and confidence.

Sincerely,



Lynette Kershaw
Board Chair, School District 69 (Qualicum)

cc: BCSTA
MLA Michelle Stilwell
Lisa Paine, President, Cupe Local 3570
Deb Moran, President, Mount Arrowsmith Teachers Association
Kelly Wray, President, SD69 DPAC



School District 70 (Alberni)

4690 Roger Street, Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 3Z4 Ph: (250) 723-3565 Fax (250) 723-0318

August 25, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
Room 310 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Mr. Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
100 – 55- West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6H 4P2

Dear Sirs:

The SD 70 Alberni Board of Education urges the provincial government and the BCTF to immediately return to the bargaining table and implement the recommendations of the BCSTA Back to School Action Plan:

- To work towards a negotiated settlement that falls within the economic mandate set by the provincial government and makes improvements to class size and composition; and
- That savings resulting from the strike and lockout stay within the public school system to benefit students.

Furthermore we support the BCSTA call for a commitment from both parties to make moves signaling a readiness to reach a settlement. With the assistance of mediator Vince Ready we believe it is possible for schools to open on September 2, for the benefit of students.

Larry Ransom

Larry Ransom, Chairperson
Board of Education

Mr. Vince Ready
BCPSEA
All BC Boards of Education c/o BCSTA
Mr. Greg Smyth, Superintendent of Schools
SD 70 Board of Education

School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Board of Education

607 Cumberland Road
Courtenay, B.C., V9N 7G5
Fax (250) 334-5552
Telephone (250) 334 -5528

July 21, 2014

Honourable Minister Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC., V8W 9E2

Mr. Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator
BC Public School Employers' Association
400 – 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC., V6H 4C1

Mr. Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
100 – 550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC., V5Z 4P2

Dear Sirs:

RE: The Current Labour Dispute in BC Schools

The Board of Education in School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) joins our fellow Trustees and Boards of Education in declaring our serious concern with the current state of the labour dispute which has created so much upheaval in BC's public school system. The school year has ended without an outcome that would allow everyone to move forward in a positive anticipation of next school year. Students, families, staff and our communities are increasingly anxious about how our system can continue to thrive and support learners when year after year we find ourselves in protracted labour relation battles. The current situation is undermining confidence in public education and we are concerned as morale is at an all-time low and anxiety levels are at an all-time high.

To move ahead it is clear that both parties must continue bargaining through the summer months, earnestly and sincerely, towards a resolution that:

- acknowledges a reasonable wage increase for teachers, fully funded by government;
- provides supportive learning environments for all students which allow for local input into resources directed towards vulnerable learners; and,
- embeds a model for future bargaining that will avoid the acrimony and protraction of the model government/BCTF currently engages in.

Our Board believes that it is simply not enough for both parties to shrug their shoulders and assume that this negative situation should continue into September. Our children and their families deserve to believe that schools will open as scheduled for September and that the rebuilding of stretched relationships can begin with a focus on our students.

We urge both the government and the BCTF to work with a mediator to open the gridlock and to extend their efforts to resolve their differences. We support the BCSTA letter of June 23, 2014 which called for the parties to reconvene on-going bargaining, mutually agree not to bargain through the media and resolve the dispute prior to commencement of 2014/2015 school year.

Our children deserve our best work, today and for tomorrow. Public education needs selfless leadership in response to crisis. We find ourselves in crisis now.

Respectfully,



Janice Caton
Board Vice-Chair
School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

JC:dp

copy: Board of Education, School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)
Sherry Elwood, Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)
Don McRae, MLA, Comox Valley
All Boards of Education, via BCSTA



School District 72

Campbell River, B.C.

425 Pinecrest Road, Campbell River, B.C. V9W 3P2 • Tel: 250.830.2300 • Fax: 250.287.2616 • www.sd72.bc.ca

June 23, 2014

Honourable Peter Fassbender
Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

School District 72, Campbell River Board of Education is concerned with the lack of progress made with the negotiations between the BCTF and BCPSEA.

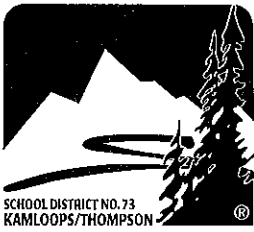
As a Board we feel strongly that the reputation and effectiveness of our Public Education system is being diminished and that parents, stake holders and our communities are losing faith in our ability to provide a high level of services to our students.

We also believe that there is still an opportunity to use the collective bargaining process to reach an amicable agreement and that a lack of political will is currently marginalizing this process.

To avoid irreparable harm to our Public Education system, local staff relationships and delivery of services to students we, the Campbell River Board of Education, strongly urge the Minister to appoint a special, mutually agreed upon mediator to help the parties come to a negotiated settlement.

Michele Babchuk
Chair, SD 72 Campbell River

cc: Board of Education, School District No. 72
Thomas Longridge, Superintendent of Schools
Kevin Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer
BCSTA for distribution to all Boards of Education
Phil Cizmic, President, CRPVPA
Elaine Thompson, President, CRDTA
Christine Szaflik, President, CUPE Local 723
Michael Savoie, Chair, DPAC
Claire Trevena, MLA
Rob Fleming, Education Critic/MLA



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON)

1383-9th Avenue, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 3X7 • Telephone: (250) 374-0679 • Fax: (250) 372-1183

August 6, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

I write on behalf of the Board of Education, Kamloops/Thompson School District No. 73 to ask that you use the influence of your office to encourage parties bargaining on behalf of the BCTF and BCPSEA to continue in their efforts, both public and private, to arrive at a collective agreement prior to the end of August.

Further, we ask that you reconsider last week's proposal, announced by Finance Minister de Jong, to use savings realized as a result of teacher job action to assist parents of children under the age of thirteen with daycare costs should the dispute extend into September.

The Kamloops/Thompson Board of Trustees endorses the BCSTA's Back to School Action Plan which proposes any savings be directed back into the Learning Improvement Fund where they can benefit all students. While we are not insensitive to the financial hardships facing families who must secure quality care for their school-aged children should schools not open in September, we strongly feel the monies properly belong in the education system where they can be directed to meet the needs of struggling students.

We encourage your Government to support the objectives outlined in the Back to School Action Plan and ensure all dollars earmarked for education remain within the system.

Thank you for your attention to our requests.

Sincerely,

Denise Harper, Chair
Board of Education, School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)

DH:kt

cc: K. deBruijn, Superintendent of Schools
K. Stretch, Secretary-Treasurer
BCSTA Member Boards of Education



650 KAWKAWA LAKE ROAD
HOPE, B.C.
V0X 1L4

Phone (604) 869-2411 (Hope residents)
Phone (604) 796-2225 (Agassiz residents)
Fax (604) 869-7400
www.sd78.bc.ca

July 7, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Mr. Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
100 - 550 West 6th Avenue,
Vancouver BC V5Z 4P2

Mr. Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator
BC Public School Employers' Association
#400 — 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Fraser-Cascade School District #78 Board of Education, I am writing to express our concern regarding the ongoing labour dispute between the BCTF and the BCPSEA. All of us who believe in public education are dismayed that we have reached this point in the school year with no resolution in sight.

Something must change. This method of bargaining cannot continue if we are to have sustainable and reliable public schools.

I urge you to find a way to resolve the current situation so that students, parents, teachers, and support staff can look forward to September, and a positive start to the 2014-2015 school year.

Yours truly,

Linda McMullan, Chair
Fraser-Cascade Board of Education
LMC/KN/tlm

c.c.: BCSTA member school boards
DPAC



Coast Mountains Board of Education School District 82

3211 Kenney Street, Terrace, BC V8G 3E9

Tel. (250) 635-4931 or 1-855-635-4931 - Fax 1-888-290-4786 - www.cmsd.bc.ca

August 26, 2014

The Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Finance
Province of British Columbia
P.O. Box 0048 – St. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister de Jong:

On behalf of the Board of the Education for Coast Mountains School District 82, I write to you today to express our overwhelming displeasure with the government's proposal that the savings realized as a result of teacher job action will be used to assist parents of children under the age of thirteen with daycare costs or tutoring assistance if a settlement is not reached prior to school opening on September 2.

While we are not insensitive to the financial hardships facing families who must secure quality care for their school-aged children should schools not open in September, we strongly believe the monies should be retained in the education system where they can be directed to meet the needs of all students.

The Coast Mountains Board of Education endorses the BCSTA's *Back to School Action Plan* which proposes any savings be directed back into the Learning Improvement Fund where they can benefit all students as intended. We are very concerned that the government plan was developed without any consultation with BCSTA or Boards of Education despite our co-governance role. The government's proposal further undermines the credibility and reputation of our school system and does not support the government's stated commitment to respectful co-governance. Working more closely together is essential if we are to achieve the goals we share for education in this province.

We strongly urge the government to rescind the proposal to pay parents \$40/day and recommend that savings from the strike/lockout go back to enhance the Learning Improvement Fund to invest the savings into the public education system as a whole.

... continued



The Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Finance
Province of British Columbia
Victoria, B.C.

August 26, 2014

Page 2

The Coast Mountains Board of Education is confident that the appropriate solution to this problem is a negotiated agreement or mediated settlement to be achieved by continuous bargaining.

The recent involvement of mediator Vince Ready is a sign that talks may be moving in a more positive direction, it is imperative to have students back in class on September 2.

Yours truly,

Art Erasmus
Chair, Board of Education

AE/cg

cc: Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education
Board of Education for Coast Mountains School District 82
All BC Boards of Education via BCSTA
Skeena MLA, Robin Austin
Stikine MLA, Doug Donaldson
Coast Mountain Teachers' Federation Co-Presidents
Canadian Union of Public Employees - Local 2052, President



Bringing Learning to Life!

Vancouver Island North School District No. 85

PO Box 90, Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0
Tel: (250) 949-6618 Fax: (250) 949-8792

June 27, 2014

Honourable Christy Clark
Premier Of British Columbia
PO Box 9045
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Premier and Minister Fassbender:

The North Vancouver Island Board of Education is dismayed at the lack of progress achieved to date by BCPSEA and BCTF in the negotiations toward a fair, realistic settlement for teachers.

This Board values teachers. It cares for students and works hard to provide them with safe, high quality learning environments in often difficult conditions. Quality education for students and the good relationship this Board has worked hard to achieve with its staffs are threatened. The trustees of this Board are united in joining the many Boards of Education in the province urging all parties involved to negotiate in good faith toward a settlement that honours teachers as the professionals they are, and provides the province with stability and the opportunity to enhance the reputation and effectiveness of our educational system.

The parties' unwillingness to put politics aside and show leadership by working together to achieve a fair contract for teachers is bringing the reputation of our public education system into question with parents and the larger community. We strongly support public education but are losing students to bands schools and private schools because of the instability of the public education system. We all believe today's students are tomorrow's leaders. To continue to compromise their education not only affects their future, but also our society's future wellbeing.

The Vancouver Island North Board of Education will continue to advocate for increased, stable funding and improved class compositions for our public education system. We ask that the government will provide the resources needed by school districts to deliver to tomorrow's leaders the best education possible. This Board stresses reaching a fair, negotiated settlement soon and labour peace is necessary to achieve this important work. We must also urge government to fully fund any negotiated settlement.

The North Vancouver Island Board of Education firmly believes it is in the interest of all parties at the negotiation table to continue their work together to achieve an honourable and speedy settlement.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leighton Wishart', written in a cursive style.

Leighton Wishart
Board Chair

Cc: All B.C. Boards of Education c/o BCSTA
Jim Iker, President, BCTF
Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator, BCPSEA
V.I.N.T.A.
BCCPAC
DPAC



Bringing Learning to Life!

Vancouver Island North School District No. 85

PO Box 90, Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0
Tel: (250) 949-6618 Fax: (250) 949-8792

June 27, 2014

Mr. Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
100-550 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Mr. Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator
BC Public School Employers' Association
400-1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

Dear Mr. Iker, Mr. Marchbank and Minister Fassbender:

The North Vancouver Island Board of Education is dismayed at the lack of progress achieved to date by BCPSEA and BCTF in the negotiations toward a fair, realistic settlement for teachers.

This Board values teachers. It cares for students and works hard to provide them with safe, high quality learning environments in often difficult conditions. Quality education for students and the good relationship this Board has worked hard to achieve with its staffs are threatened. The trustees of this Board are united in joining the many Boards of Education in the province urging all parties involved to negotiate in good faith toward a settlement that honours teachers as the professionals they are, and provides the province with stability and the opportunity to enhance the reputation and effectiveness of our educational system.

The parties' unwillingness to put politics aside and show leadership by working together to achieve a fair contract for teachers is bringing the reputation of our public education system into question with parents and the larger community. We strongly support public education but are losing students to bands schools and private schools because of the instability of the public education system. We all believe today's students are tomorrow's leaders. To continue to compromise their education not only affects their future, but also our society's future wellbeing.

The North Vancouver Island Board of Education firmly believes it is in the interest of all parties at the negotiation table to continue their work together to achieve an honourable and speedy settlement.

Yours truly,

Leighton Wishart
Board Chair

Cc: All B.C. Boards of Education c/o BCSTA
V.I.N.T.A.
Minister of Education, Peter Fassbender,
Premier of British Columbia, Christy Clark
BCCPAC
DPAC



Bringing Learning to Life!

Vancouver Island North School District No. 85

PO Box 90, Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0
Tel: (250) 949-6618 Fax: (250) 949-8792

August 28, 2014

Mr. Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
100 – 550- West 6th Ave.
Vancouver, BC V6H 4P2

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier, Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Mr. Iker, Premier Clark, and Minister Fassbender;

I am writing this letter from the Board of Education, School District 85 Vancouver Island North. We are disappointed with the government's decision to divert budgeted education dollars to child care and tutoring. Boards of Education were not consulted about this plan which further undermines the co-governance model. We believe that these funds should remain in the public education system and be used to maintain and enhance services rather than provide short term financial relief for families.

The labour conflict is damaging the public education system of British Columbia. As a Board we have advocated consistently to build and maintain the high quality public education system that our youth deserve. We have written the Minister numerous times sharing our concerns about the continuing underfunding of public education and the need for government to fully fund labour settlements. We support the BC School Trustees' Association's advocacy efforts and BCSTA's recent Back to School Action Plan. Most importantly, we want our schools to be open on September second with our full staff compliment having reached a fair and funded settlement.

We strongly believe a negotiated settlement should be attained this week giving parents and staff time to prepare for the opening of school on September second.

We feel this strike/lock-out, or any disruption in the school year for that matter, is a deterrent to parents choosing the public education system. Students are losing their educational opportunities the longer the dispute continues.

Respectfully,

Leighton Wishart
Board Chair

Cc: All Boards of Education, via BCSTA
BCPSEA
Vancouver Island Teachers' Association
CUPE Local 401
DPAC
Board of Education, SD85

September 3, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark, M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia
P. O. Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier:

I am sending this note to express my opposition to the provincial government's current funding policy and strategy with respect to public education.

As a parent, I have observed the impact of reduced effective funding in the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows school district. I understand that while the actual number of dollars invested into the education system may have increased, the buying power of those dollars has decreased. My specific observations include:

1. My daughter was unable to perform lab experiments in her high school biology class as there were insufficient supplies as well as an insufficient number of workstations for all classroom students to participate.
2. There were an insufficient number of textbooks in my daughter's grade 11 social studies class (a required course). As a result, students resorted to photographing textbook pages in order to complete their studies.
3. In an effort to accommodate increased costs, the local school district has increased the cost to community service organizations for the use of school premises. As a result, Scouts and Girl Guides groups, who have historically used school facilities for their meetings, have been forced to find other accommodations. I fully understand that the success of volunteer/non public education programs are not the direct responsibility of the school district or the provincial government, however I am absolutely convinced that these types of programs are critical to the development of our future society.

The recent action of the provincial government with respect to the teacher job action appears to underscore a lack of respect for the teaching profession and there appear to be some significant inconsistencies in government policy.

1. During previous job action, teaching was identified as an "essential service" and classroom operations resumed during the dispute. In May of 2014, this designation was not pursued and schools closed. In June, following completion of the regular school year, LRB decisions determined that year-round schools were "essential". It is not clear to me why a subset of the public education system is essential while the majority is not. At this time, no declaration/determination has been made identifying any part of public education as "essential" and, of course, all public education is stalled.

2. The action of the government with respect to the \$40.00 / day rebate to parents of young students appears to equate teaching with "day care" and appears contrary to statements that education is an important part of provincial services. Without stipulations about how the \$40 / day rebate is to be spent, it is not at all clear to me that these funds (which are directly associated with taxes collected under the umbrella of public education) will provide education benefit to young children. Older children, those aged 13-18 who are arguably those most impacted by the current situation, have not been extended any form of relief.

I believe that the current course of action will have long term impact to the effectiveness of the BC public education system. At a minimum, this impact will include:

1. A marked reduction in volunteer efforts of teaching staff who feel disrespected in the current negotiation process. Obviously, teachers will return to work once negotiations have been completed, however goodwill has been lost and may never be re-established. As you are aware, teachers have historically committed significant personal money and time into making the classroom environment as inviting and productive as possible. Without these very tangible contributions, classroom provisioning will be left dependent on district funding – which is stretched beyond reasonable limits. The end result will be a severely degraded learning environment for our children.

2. A significant decline in new teachers entering the profession. To qualify as a teacher in this province, an individual must complete a minimum of 5 years of university. As university costs have increased, this is no small financial investment. Historically, once a teacher is qualified, it takes a number of years of part time work in the profession before a permanent position is obtained. There are many career choices and the chronic underfunding of education will dissuade many from pursuing the 5-10 year commitment required to obtain permanent employment.

I urge this government to significantly increase funding and support of all aspects of public education.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Dillen
20851 117th Avenue
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 7S9

CC: The Honourable Peter Fassbender, M.L.A. BC Minister of Education
The Honourable Michael de Jong, M.L.A. BC Minister of Finance
Mr. Doug Bing, M.L.A, Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows
Laurie Meston, Acting Superintendent, School District 42
Mike Murray, Chairperson, Maple Ridge- Pitt Meadows Board of Education
Eleanor Palis, Vice Chairperson, Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education
Susan Carr, Trustee, Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education
Ken Clarkson, Trustee, Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education
Dr. David Rempel, Trustee, Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education
Kathy Marshall, Trustee, Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education
Sarah Nelson, Trustee, Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education

Look Beyond the Numbers in Ongoing Education Dispute: An open letter from BCSTA President Teresa Rezansoff

With September 2 just around the corner, the bargaining impasse between the provincial government and the BC Teachers' Federation hinges on numbers – numbers about wages, benefits and class size. But behind those numbers are over half a million students who are waiting anxiously to start their school year on time. Whether it is their very first day in kindergarten or the beginning of their last year as a high school student, they are the reason any of those other numbers matter. School trustees across BC want our schools open and ready for students on September 2.

We have called on the government to immediately put strike savings back into schools to help address concerns regarding class size and composition. We have told the Ministers of Education and Finance that the money for the proposed \$40-a-day subsidy for parents would be better spent on students in schools. We continue our advocacy for improved education funding, and our trustee representatives at the bargaining table are calling for maintaining flexibility on class size and composition to improve the learning settings for students.

The two parties are approximately a percentage point apart on salary and one year apart on the proposed term of the contract – items that could be resolved through mediation. However, the proposed increases to benefits, the workload fund and the \$5000 signing bonus request makes the full package well outside the affordability range. BC's public education system ranks among the very best in the world, due in large part to our talented and dedicated teachers. Trustees believe that teachers deserve a fair wage increase, but the BCTF's overall compensation proposal needs to be aligned with other BC public sector agreements.

The issues are complex. This is not just about money. Ultimately, we need an agreement that meets the needs of students and provides long-term stability for public education. A deal can be reached. Students can be back in school on September 2. The government and the BCTF must move on the numbers and put students first.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa Rezansoff", is written over a light blue circular background.

Teresa Rezansoff

President

BC School Trustees Association

For media inquiries, please contact:

Heather McKenzie-Beck

Manager of Communications

Email: hmckenziebeck@bcsta.org

Cell: 604-842-1167



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

August 28, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender

Minister

Ministry of Education

The Honourable Mike de Jong

Minister

Ministry of Finance

Dear Ministers Fassbender and de Jong,

The provincial government's July 31 announcement regarding the *Temporary Education Support Program* has been met with a very strong negative response from many Boards of Education, parents and the general public.

You will have received many letters from Boards of Education expressing support for BCSTA's position outlined in our [*Back to School Action Plan*](#) that savings from the strike/lock-out should go to support improvements in class size and composition rather than providing parents with a \$40-per-student supplement. While we appreciate that an ongoing strike may create financial hardship for some parents we firmly believe that students should benefit from any strike/lockout savings.

We strongly urge government to rescind the *Temporary Education Support Program* and commit to putting any future savings from the strike/lockout back into the public education system.

Sincerely,

Teresa Rezansoff

President

BC School Trustees Association

Cc: Boards of Education

Back to School Action Plan

Goal

The goal of the *Back to School Action Plan* is to have all BC public school students start their 2014-2015 school year on time.

Objectives

1. A negotiated agreement with the BC Teachers' Federation by August 31, 2014.
2. Teachers, support staff and administrators in schools to welcome students and parents on September 2, 2014.
3. Schools sites are clean, safe and equipped to receive students by September 2.
4. Harmonious relationships are restored with teachers, support staff and administrators.
5. A commitment by all education partners and government to work collaboratively to strengthen BC's public education system.

Background

Boards of Education are deeply concerned about the impact of the ongoing bargaining impasse on students, families, staff, and the reputation of BC's public education system. In many districts, summer programs for BC and international students have been cancelled or constrained. Parents are growing increasingly worried about the uncertainty of school start-up in September. Summer maintenance and repairs in many schools have been hampered. The lives of our teachers, support staff and administrators have been significantly impacted, and most critically, our students may lose their chance to start the school year on time.

BC school trustees are fully aware of the complexities of the current bargaining impasse. As the governors of BC's local school districts and employers of staff who make our schools successful, BC school trustees know that a balance must be found between the bargaining objectives of the BC Teachers' Federation and the economic mandate established by the provincial government. We believe that such a balance can be found.

We urge teachers to modify the increases they are seeking including their benefit requests so that the overall compensation package falls within the range that was accepted by other public sector unions. We ask government to put all of the savings from the strike and lockout into the

Learning Improvement Fund (LIF) to support students, student learning, and class size and composition. We believe that our students have been the most affected by the strike/lockout and would benefit from the enhancement to the Learning Improvement Fund where local decisions can be made to support their learning needs. These two recommendations could bring a negotiated settlement within reach that would then allow schools to open on time.

There is much work to be done to ensure that the world class achievement of BC's public education system is sustained and strengthened in the years to come. With our students and the long-term prosperity of our future citizens in mind, we must commit to working together to build a strong public education system that is student-centered, collegial and appropriately funded. We are committed to have our schools open on September 2.

Actions

1. BCSTA's trustee representatives at the bargaining table will work towards a negotiated settlement that falls within the economic mandate set by the provincial government and makes improvements to class size and composition.
2. BCSTA will advocate that all savings resulting from the strike and lockout stay within the public school system to benefit students.
3. BCSTA will ensure that member Boards of Education are kept informed through increased conference calls with BCPSEA, the BCSTA Bargaining Advisory Committee, the Bargaining Representative Council, and Board Chairs.
4. BCSTA will work with BCCPAC to keep parents informed.
5. BCSTA will work with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) to ensure that funding for Aboriginal students is not negatively affected due to the strike/lockout.
6. BCSTA will advance this action plan by advocacy to government and raising public awareness through general and social media.
7. BCSTA will establish a productive co-governance relationship with the Ministry of Education.
8. BCSTA will work with all education partners to establish a new bargaining and labour relations structure as per the recommendations identified in BCSTA's October 2013 [*Bargaining Structure Task Force Report*](#).



ITEM 2

To: **Board of Education**

From: Chairperson
Mike Murray

Re: **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Date: September 10, 2014
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Minutes of the June 25, 2014 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

Attachment



**PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, June 25 (6:00 PM)
South Bonson Community Centre**

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Chairperson – Mike Murray
Vice-Chairperson – Eleanor Palis
Trustee – Susan Carr
Trustee – Ken Clarkson
Trustee – Dave Rempel

STAFF:

Acting Superintendent – Laurie Meston
Secretary Treasurer – Flavia Coughlan
Acting Assistant Superintendent – David Vandergugten
Acting Assistant Superintendent – Shannon Derinzy
Mgr. of Communication/Community Relations – Irena Pochop
Executive Assistant – Karen Yoxall

ABSENT:

Trustee – Sarah Nelson
Trustee – Kathy Marshall

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Correspondence

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

- Frank Lento, Chair, SD No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)
- Moyra Baxter, Chair, SD No. 23 (Central Okanagan)
- Robert McFarlane, Vice Chair, SD No. 35 (Langley)
- Laura Dixon, Chair, SD No. 37 (Delta)
- Patti Bacchus, Chair, SD No. 39 (Vancouver)
- Mike Murray, Chair, SD No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)
- SD No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)
- Melissa Hyndes, Chair, SD No. 43 (Coquitlam)
- Franci Stratton, Chair, SD No. 44 (North Vancouver)
- Betty Baxter, SD No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
- SD No. 57 (Prince George)
- Sharel Warrington, Chair, SD No. 57 (Prince George)
- G. Wayne Hunter, Chair, SD No. 63 (Saanich)
- Edie Heinrichs, Chair, SD No. 75 (Mission)
- Teresa Rezansoff, President, BC School Trustees Association
- Alison McVeigh, Chair, BCSTA Fraser Valley

The Board Chair requested that the letters from SD No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) and Mike Murray, Chair, SD No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) be moved to Chair Report.

THAT the Board receive all correspondence for information.

CARRIED

3. Ordering of Agenda

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Carr

Amendments:

Correspondence:

- Moyra Baxter, Chair, SD No. 23 (Central Okanagan)
- Robert McFarlane, Vice Chair, SD No. 33 (Langley)
- Laura Dixon, Chair, SD No. 37 (Delta)
- Patti Bacchus, Chair, SD No. 39 (Vancouver)
- SD No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)
- Melissa Hyndes, Chair, SD No. 43 (Coquitlam)
- Franci Stratton, Chair, SD No. 44 (North Vancouver)
- Betty Baxter, Chair, SD No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
- Sharel Warrington, Chair, SD No. 57 (Prince George)
- G. Wayne Hunter, Chair, SD No. 63 (Saanich)
- Edie Heinrichs, Chair, SD No. 75 (Mission)
- Teresa Rezansoff, BC School Trustees' Association

Move from Correspondence to Chair Report:

- SD No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)
- Mike Murray, Chair, SD No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)

THAT the Agenda be ordered as amended.

CARRIED

B. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. June 11, 2014 Public Board Meeting Minutes

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

THAT the Minutes of the June 11, 2014 Public Board Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

C. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

a. Achievement Contract 2014

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

The Acting Superintendent presented the Achievement Contract 2014 and explained that it had been presented to the Board of Education in its entirety at the Board Work Day on June 25, 2014. It will be submitted to the Ministry of Education and posted on the School District website.

CARRIED

D. CHAIR REPORT

1. SD No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)

The Board Chair reviewed a letter that was written on behalf of the Board of Education, the District Parent Advisory Council and the Maple Ridge Principals' and Vice Principals' Association to Minister Fassbender re: Education Financing. Discussion ensued on the need to increase funding in public education and the role of School Trustees.

2. Mike Murray, Chair, SD No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)

The Board Chair reviewed a letter that was written on behalf of the Board of Education to the BC Public School Employers' Association and to the BC Teachers' Federation re: Teacher Bargaining.

E. DEFERRED ITEMS

F. TRUSTEE MOTIONS

G. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

1. Decision Items

- a) Superintendent of Schools
- b) Deputy Superintendent
- c) Secretary Treasurer

i. Trustee Elections Bylaw No. 1-2013/14

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

The Secretary Treasurer reported that Trustee Elections Bylaw No. 1-2013/14 has been revised to reflect changes required after the adoption of Bill 21 the Local Elections Statutes Amendment Act, 2014 which amended various statutes related to local elections including the School Act and the Local Government Act.

THAT the School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) Trustee Elections Bylaw No. 1-2013/14 be given three (3) readings at this meeting. (vote must be unanimous)

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

CARRIED

THAT THE Board of Education of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) Trustee Elections Bylaw No. 1-2013/14 be:

Read a first time on the 25th day of June, 2014;

Read a second time on the 25th day of June, 2014;

Read a third time, passed and adopted on the 25th day of June, 2014.

CARRIED

2. Information Items

- a) Superintendent of Schools
- b) Deputy Superintendent
- c) Secretary Treasurer

H. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Committees of the Whole

- a) Finance
- b) Budget

2. Committee & Advisory Committee Reports

- a) Aboriginal Education
- b) Board Policy Development

- i. Policy 2400: School Board Meeting Proceedings

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Palis

The Secretary Treasurer reported that Policy 2400: School Board Meeting Proceedings has followed the appropriate consultation requirements and is being presented for approval.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board approve Policy 2400: School Board Meeting Proceedings.

CARRIED

- c) District Student Advisory
- d) Education
- e) French Immersion Advisory
- f) Inclusive Education

I. QUESTION PERIOD

J. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Joint Parks and Leisure Services

It was reported that the dog park at Volker Park had been dismantled.

Good News Items

It was reported that Golden Ears Elementary PAC had received \$2,700 from the Rotary Club for outdoor playground facilities, the Inclusive Education Committee had hosted a farewell luncheon for Katherine Shearer,

the Acting Superintendent had been presented with her Inclusive Education Award, Kristi Blakeway had won a "Women of Distinction" award for the "Hello" Project which brings awareness to the homeless, and Anthony Wok, a student in the Microsoft Academy had been chosen to represent Canada in the World Championships in Anaheim.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

L. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Trustee Rempel

Seconded: Trustee Clarkson

THAT the meeting of the Board be adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

CARRIED

Mike Murray, Chairperson

Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer



ITEM 3

To: **Board of Education**

From: Finance Committee of the
Whole

Re: **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Date: September 10, 2014
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

To be distributed



ITEM 4

To: **Board of Education**

From: Chairperson
Mike Murray

Re: **BOARD LETTERS**

Date: September 10, 2014
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The attached letter was sent on behalf of the Board of Education to Premier Christy Clark and Minister Peter Fassbender re: use of teacher strike savings. (Attachment A)

The attached letter was sent to the Editor of the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Times and the Editor of the Maple Ridge News re: An open letter to the community from the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Board of Education. (Attachment B)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the letter to Premier Christy Clark and Minister Peter Fassbender and the letter to the Editor of the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Times and the Editor of the Maple Ridge News be received for information.

Attachments

Attachment A



August 5, 2014

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9041, Stn Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E1

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Re: Use of teacher strike savings

Dear Premier Clark and Minister Fassbender,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Education for School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows) in response to the latest announcement by government to use the funds saved from the salaries of striking teachers to pay parents of students under 13 years of age \$40 per day should the strike continue in September. While we appreciate the financial hardship a continuation of the strike/lock out will impose on British Columbian families we cannot endorse the government's plan.

The BC School Trustees' Association has tabled an action plan to end the current impasse suggesting the use of these funds to enhance the learning improvement fund. The BC School Trustees' Association proposal was tabled as a suggestion to end the impasse by September. We sincerely hope that is achieved. However, if a settlement is not reached by then we still believe the funds should be retained for use to achieve a final settlement in the fashion described by the BC School Trustees' Association. We understand the government plan provides a short term benefit in the form of financial relief for families. In our view taking that step removes an important tool from the bargaining team to end this impasse and achieve a longer term benefit for students in the form of increased learning improvement funding. For the sake of our students and a stronger public education system please reconsider the strategy which has been announced and adopt that suggested by the BC School Trustees' Association.

Please know we are also very concerned that the government plan was developed without any consultation with the BC School Trustees' Association or Boards of Education despite our co-governance role. This kind of unilateral decision making is not helpful at a time when we have been working to improve the co-governance relationship. We all know working more closely together will be extremely important if we are to achieve the goals we share for education in this Province.

Sincerely,



Mike Murray, Chair
Board of Education

Cc:

Mr. Doug Bing, MLA

Mr. Marc Dalton, MLA

BC School Trustees' Association

School District No. 42 Board of Education

Laurie Meston, Acting Superintendent

Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer

Maple Ridge Teachers' Association

Canadian Union of Public Employees' Local 703

Maple Ridge Principals' and Vice Principals' Association

District Parent Advisory Council

District Student Advisory Council

Attachment B

September 6, 2014

Mr. Bob Groeneveld
Editor
Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Times
#2 22345 North Avenue
Maple Ridge, B. C.
V2X 0R7

Mr. Michael Hall
Editor
Maple Ridge News
22611 Dewdney Trunk Road
Maple Ridge, B.C.
V2X 3K1

Dear Mr. Groeneveld and Mr. Hall,

Re: An open letter to the community from the Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows Board of Education

We want our students and teachers back in school. We are extremely disappointed and angry that the BCTF and BCPSEA have been unable to reach an agreement in the current labour dispute. The theatrics, vitriol, game playing, personal attacks and politics that have characterized this and previous rounds of bargaining between teachers and the provincial government are, quite simply, unprofessional and unacceptable.

We have heard from many students, parents and employees who are directly affected by the current job action. We understand and share their frustrations, and believe a continuation of the dispute will have a significant long-term negative impact on the public education system in this province.

Over the summer, the BC School Trustees Association developed and promoted a [Back to School Action Plan](http://www.bcsta.org/publications/media-releases) <http://www.bcsta.org/publications/media-releases> through province-wide feedback from Trustees. We endorsed that plan but neither the government nor the BCTF have given it any consideration.

Since there is apparently no end in sight, we now call upon the parties to enter into binding arbitration on all of the issues on the table, including wages and benefits, as well as class size and composition funding and the method of allocating such funding. The only preconditions we feel should be set by the parties are that the result be fair to both sides: affordable for citizens and appropriate for teachers, demonstrating the level of respect for the teaching profession our teachers deserve. We also believe the provincial government must commit to providing full funding to Boards of Education to cover the results of binding arbitration. Finally, we want our students and teachers to return to school while the arbitration process takes place.

A complete record of the board's correspondence and advocacy concerning bargaining and education funding can be found here <http://www1.sd42.ca/node/2329>.

We have a great deal to be proud of in the provision of education in Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District. That pride comes from a record of innovation and achievement built on the outstanding efforts of our entire school community: students, parents, teachers, support staff and administrators. We must not lose that tradition of excellence as a result of this dispute. Our students deserve nothing less than our collective best efforts to solve the current impasse.

We wish to thank everyone in the community for their understanding and patience. We are hopeful that our students will be returning to school shortly.

On behalf of the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Board of Education,



Mike Murray,
Board Chair

Cc Laurie Meston, Acting Superintendent of Schools, School District 42
Flavia Coughlan, Secretary Treasurer, School District 42
Maple Ridge Teachers Association
Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 703
District Parent Advisory Council, School District 42
Maple Ridge Principals and Vice Principals Association
District Student Advisory Council, School District 42
The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
The Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education
Mr. Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator, BC Public School Employers Association
Mr. Jim Iker, President, British Columbia teachers Association
Doug Bing, MLA Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows
Marc Dalton, MLA Maple Ridge/Mission
Teresa Rezansoff, President, British Columbia School Trustees Association
Mayor Ernie Daykin, District of Maple Ridge
Mayor Deb Walters, City of Pitt Meadows
All Boards of Education c/o BCSTA



ITEM 5

To: **Board of Education**

From: Trustee
Ken Clarkson

Re: **MOTIONS TO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**

Date: September 10, 2014
(Public Board Meeting)

Information

The deadline for submitting motions to BC School Trustees Association 110TH Provincial Council is Friday, September 19, 2014.

Attachment



MOTION TO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL SUBMISSION FORM

Deadline for submission: Friday, September 19, 2014

TITLE

[BRIEF TITLE]

SPONSOR

Please indicate if the proposed resolution relates to an existing Foundational Statement or Policy Statement in *BCSTA's Policies*.

Please select your Board, Branch, or Committee from the menu.

- ☐ Relates to Foundational Statement No. [#] _____
- ☐ Relates to Policy Statement No. [#] _____
- ☐ Propose to make this resolution a new interim policy statement.
- ☐ This is an action resolution and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.

MOTION

In accordance with *BCSTA Bylaw 7(l)*, motions must be emergent, i.e., "business that, if delayed until the Annual General Meeting, will impact negatively on Boards' ability to influence public policy or a public education issue."

That BCSTA...

RATIONALE

Provide a succinct description of why this motion is needed, what makes it emergent, plus any relevant background information.

This motion is emergent because...

OPTIONAL REFERENCES

Provide references to additional background material, e.g., legislation, websites, etc.

[Provide references here.]



ITEM 6

RECORD

2013-2014

Pursuant to provisions of 72 (1) of the *School Act*, the following report is a general statement of: (a) matters discussed; and (b) the general nature of decisions resolved at the following meetings from which persons other than Trustees or officers of the Board, or both were excluded:

June 11, 2014

Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m.
Motion of Exclusion	Approved
Ordering of Agenda	Approved as circulated
Confirmation of Minutes – May 28, 2014	Approved as circulated
Superintendent Decision Item	Approved
Superintendent Information Item	Received for information
Superintendent Decision Item	Approved
Secretary Treasurer Decision Item	Approved
Superintendent Information Item	Received for information
Committee Business	Received for information
Adjournment	Adjourned at 3:28 p.m.