Ken Bisset and Adria Williams

Good evening Board Trustees,

Adria and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present to you on behalf of the MRTLA tonight. My Name is Ken Bisset and I am the current Teacher Librarian at Maple Ridge Elementary.

As you know the down loading of cuts year after year on our district by the Provincial Government has presented the board with many difficult decisions over the last decade.

One of the areas which has been hit over these many years is funding for school libraries and Teacher Librarians. As you know Teacher librarians are a critical resource in helping students to achieve their learning goals.

The SD42 Library Learning Commons, which encompasses all the SD42 elementary and secondary school Library Learning Commons, is integral to the delivery of the *new* BC Curriculum. The Core and Curricular Competencies outlined in the document presented to you, have been collated directly from the BC Curriculum, are embedded throughout the entire curriculum, and are the key curricular components of the Library Learning Commons. As identified in the *SD42 Teacher Librarians Statement of Philosophy and Practice*, the SD42 Teacher Librarians work to deliver the Library Learning Commons curriculum – with a focus on literacy, inquiry, Social Emotional Learning and technology – through direct service to students, collaborative work with teachers, and district leadership.

I urge you to review this document when you have time.

Keeping the above in mind and knowing this district's commitment to the implementation of the New B.C. Curriculum the MRTLA is urging the board to re-establish a **minimum 0.4** teacher librarian position in schools where this amount of service is not already in place and also restore the 15% of funding which was cut from Library budgets throughout the district. Students and teachers need the resources outlined in the new curriculum in order to meet their academic and instructional needs. It is impossible to imagine the success of this initiative without a strong learning commons/library program.

Thank you for your time.