

# REGULAR PUBLIC BOARD MEETING – AGENDA

Monday, October 23, 2017

7 pm

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## PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

### A. Call To Order

*The Board of Education acknowledges that we are on the traditional territories of the K'omoks First Nation. We would like to thank them for the privilege of living on their land and the gift of working with their children.*

### B. Adoption of Agenda

Circulated earlier in draft form for Board approval.

Recommendation:

*THAT the Board of Education adopt the October 23, 2017 Public Board Meeting Agenda.*

Or:

*THAT the Board of Education waive the 48-hour notice period required under the Procedural Bylaw in order to consider additions to the Agenda, and adopt the Agenda as amended, the amendments to consist of ...*

### C. Board Meeting Minutes

- Page 4 1. Adoption of the Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, September 26, 2017.

Recommendation:

*THAT the Board of Education adopt the Board Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2017 as circulated earlier for Board approval.*

### D. Report on In-Camera Meeting

In-Camera Minutes of September 26, 2017

School Act Section 72 (3) In-Camera Meeting Record:

- Personnel
- Finance
- Facilities and Properties

### E. Presentation or Delegation

1. Lindsay McGinn, Community Impact Officer – North Island,  
Comox Valley Community Health Network

(15 minutes)

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## F. Education Committee Meeting

Committee Chair: Ian Hargreaves

**Page 10** Minutes of Tuesday, October 10, 2017 Education Committee Meeting provided for Board information.

1. **Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017  
**Time:** 6:30 pm  
**Location:** Arden Elementary School  
3040 Lake Trail Road, Courtenay, BC

## G. Strategic Direction

1. **Superintendent's Report**, Dean Lindquist

**Page 12**

- a. *District News*
- b. *District Protocols*

3. **Human Resources Report**, Lynda-Marie Handfield, Director

**Page 13**

- a. *Retirements and Resignations*

## H. Board Committees

### ***Finance Committee***

Committee Chair: Vickey Brown

**Page 14** Minutes of Monday, October 16, 2017 Finance Committee Meeting provided for Board information.

**Page 19** 1. ***Draft – Unrestricted Surplus Policy***, Briefing Note, Sheldon Lee, Acting Secretary Treasurer

Recommendation:

***THAT the Draft – Unrestricted Surplus Policy be referred to the Policy Committee for revision.***

Recommendation:

***THAT the Board of Education receive the Finance Committee report.***

## I. Board Business / Board Committee Reports / Correspondence

**Page 21** 1. Notice of Motion, School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) **Community School Policy Draft**, Briefing Note, Cliff Boldt, Trustee, City of Courtenay

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- Page 22 2. Correspondence: Gordon Swan, President, BC School Trustees Association to the Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education re: **Request that the 2017 school FSA results not be published**

Recommendation:

***THAT the Board Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education supporting the request from Gordon Swan, President, BC School Trustees Association that the 2017 school FSA results not be published.***

- Page 23 3. Correspondence: Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator, BC Public School Employers' Association to the Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Finance **Recommending Boards of Education Support the Re-election of Trustees to the Board of Directors**

Recommendation:

***THAT the Board Chair write a letter to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education stating their support that the association be released from the direction of the Public Administrator and that the Trustee Directors be reinstated to the BCPSEA Board of Directors.***

- Page 24 4. **BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council Motions, Verbal Update, Ian Hargreaves, BCSTA Trustee Representative**

- Page 25 9.1 Funding for Capital Compliance with SCC Decision  
Page 26 9.2 Standardized Modules of Learning and Assessment  
Page 27 9.3 Funding of Exempt Staff Salary Increases  
Page 28 9.4 Administrative Savings  
Page 28 9.5 School District No. 83 By-Election

Board Information

- Page 31 5. Correspondence: Gordon Swan, President, BC School Trustees Association, **Presentation to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services**

Board Information

6. Chair's Report: **Upcoming Board Chairs Meeting with the Ministry of Education and BC School Trustees Association, Verbal Update, Janice Caton, Board Chair**

Board Information

- J. **Public Question Period**  
K. **Adjournment**

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## PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

### A. Call To Order

**Present:**

**Trustees**

Janice Caton, Board Chair  
Ian Hargreaves, Vice-Chair  
Peter Coleman  
Sheila McDonnell  
Tom Weber  
Vickey Brown  
Cliff Boldt

**Staff**

Dean Lindquist, Superintendent of Schools  
Tom Demeo, Assistant Superintendent  
Sheldon Lee, Acting Secretary Treasurer  
Candice Hilton, Director of Finance  
Allan Douglas, Director of Instruction (Elementary)  
Geoff Manning, Director of Instructional Services K-12  
Esther Shatz, Director of Instruction (Student Services)  
Paul Berry, Director of Instruction (Health and Safety)  
Ian Heselgrave, Director of Operations  
Josh Porter, Director, Information Technology  
Debbie Page, Recording Secretary  
Lynda-Marie Handfield, Director, Human Resources

**Regrets:**

*The Board of Education acknowledges that we are on the traditional territories of the K'omoks First Nation. We would like to thank them for the privilege of living on their land and the gift of working with their children.*

### B. Adoption of Agenda

Circulated earlier in draft form for Board approval.

**Recommendation:**

***THAT the Board of Education adopt the September 26, 2017 Public Board Meeting Agenda.***

**CARRIED**

### C. Board Meeting Minutes

1. **Adoption of the Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, June 20, 2017.**

**Recommendation:**

***THAT the Board of Education adopt the Board Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2017 as circulated earlier for Board approval.***

**CARRIED**

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## D. Report on In-Camera Meeting

In-Camera Minutes of June 20, 2017

School Act Section 72 (3) In-Camera Meeting Record:

- Personnel
- Finance
- Facilities and Properties

## E. Presentation or Delegation

1. *Delegation: Intergenerational Program Aspen Park Elementary School (Grades 5-6) and The View at St. Joseph's – Grandbuddy Program, Mary Lee, Owner, MGG Communications*

### Highlights:

- First introduced by Brenda Phillips – an intergenerational exchange program between students in the school district and seniors living in long term care. It was designed to open up young minds and attitudes towards the elderly living in a long-term care setting.
- Grandbuddies engage in a variety of activities ranging from baking, reading to arts and crafts and through this unique bond – each learning from the other. Every interaction is a different experience but always shared between the same two in the Grandbuddy relationship.
- The Grandbuddy Program fits with a philosophy of care that is practiced at St. Joseph's at The Views – *Eden Alternative* – geared towards creating a human habitat where life revolves around close and continuing contact with people of all ages.
- The Grandbuddy Program empowers seniors with the realization that their life's history gives knowledge and wisdom to a generation decades their junior.
- Once a youth becomes comfortable within a senior care setting they are more apt to come back and volunteer during the summer.

## F. Education Committee Meeting

Committee Chair: Ian Hargreaves

Minutes of September 12, 2017 Education Committee Meeting provided for Board information.

1. **Date:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017  
**Time:** 6:30 pm  
**Location:** Airport Elementary School

## G. Strategic Direction

1. **Superintendent's Report, Dean Lindquist**

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## a. *District News*

- *Arden Elementary School – Hosting Tour de Rock, September 27, 2017 @ 1:45 pm.*
- *Lake Trail School hosting a viewing of *Most Likely to Succeed* – Wednesday, September 27, 2017 @ 6 pm.*
- *Passage Adventures – two young women are kayaking from Juneau Alaska to Victoria BC. The cause is for ocean ecology, specifically ocean debris and shoreline health. Tentatively, we are looking at having an event when the kayakers paddle by/stop over.*
- *Canada C3 Expedition – “Coast to Coast to Coast” – Icebreaker taking researchers, scientists, indigenous people and business leaders on a voyage as part of a Canada 150 project. The journey started in Toronto on June 1, 2017 and will finish in Victoria on October 28, 2017.*
- *Enrolment – centralized registrations at the School Board Office.*
- *Staffing – thank you to principals, vice principals, senior leadership and HR department for their hard work to finalize the hiring of 50-60 teachers (averaging about 30 applications per position).*
- *Program Reviews – first round has begun: Learning Resources/Services; Elementary Programming; HR Staffing Process; Environmental/ Experiential Education; High School Programming and Organization; Distance Learning/On-Line Learning/Blended Programs; and Early Learning.*

## 2. **Assistant Superintendent’s Report, Tom Demeo**

### a. *School Start-Up*

#### Highlights:

- *Feedback – smooth start-up*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> year of centralized registration system (June-September held at School Board Office – through the Director of Instruction (Elementary) and Assistant Superintendent*
- *175 new elementary*
- *55 new secondary*
- *Final enrolment numbers will be given on Friday, September 29, 2017*

## 3. **Director of Operations, Ian Heselgrave**

### a. *Summer 2017 School Project Work, Briefing Note Attached*

Board Information

## 4. **Human Resources Report, Lynda-Marie Handfield, Director**

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## a. *Retirements*

Lorraine Edward, Senior Administrative Assistant, G.P. Vanier Secondary School will retire effective September 30, 2017 after 14 years of service with the district.

Edvin Randall, Carpenter Chargehand, Maintenance Department will retire effective October 31, 2017 after 29 years of service with the district.

Elizabeth Perry, Education Assistant, G.P. Vanier Secondary School will retire effective November 30, 2017 after 21 years of service with the district.

Francoise Casset, Education Assistant, Ecole Robb Road Elementary School will retire effective November 30, 2017 after 20 years of service with the district.

Mona Wangler, Senior Administrative Assistant, Student Services will retire effective December 31, 2017 after 28 years of service with the district.

Carol Snead, Executive Assistant, District Leadership and Governance, School Board Office will retire effective March 31, 2018 after 24 years of service with the district.

## b. *Resignations*

Theresa Wood, Education Assistant, Highland Secondary School resigned effective June 30, 2017 after 18 years of service with the district.

Tasha Archer, Teacher, G.P. Vanier Secondary School resigned effective August 31, 2017 after 8 years of service with the district.

## H. **Board Committees**

### ***Finance Audit Committee***

Committee Chair: Vickey Brown

Minutes of Wednesday, September 12, 2017 Finance Audit Committee Meeting provided for Board information.

1. **2016/17 Audited Financial Statements June 30, 2017** (Presentation), Sheldon Lee, Acting Secretary Treasurer

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Recommendation:

***THAT the audited financial statements as at June 30, 2017 be accepted by the Board of Education and that they be forwarded to the Ministry of Education.***

**CARRIED**

2. 2016/17 Financial Statements Audit Planning Report from the Office of the Auditor General, Lisa Moore and Russ Jones

Board Information

Recommendation:

***THAT the Board of Education receive the Finance Audit Committee Report.***

**CARRIED**

I. Board Business / Board Committee Reports / Correspondence

1. Regular (Public/In-Camera) Board Meeting, October 2017

Recommendation:

***THAT the regularly scheduled Public / In-Camera Board Meeting be moved from Tuesday, October 24, 2017 to Monday, October 23, 2017.***

**CARRIED**

2. Recommended Changes to the Board Procedural Bylaw and Policy Formation and Review, Briefing Note, Dean Lindquist, Superintendent

- ***Board Procedural Bylaw, 2017 and 1-5: Policy Formation and Review***  
(attached)

Recommendation:

***THAT School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) Board Procedural Bylaw 2017 receive its first reading.***

**CARRIED**

***THAT School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) Board Procedural Bylaw 2017 receive its second reading.***

**CARRIED**

***THAT the Board unanimously agree to suspend the requirements of the School Act and the Board's Procedural Bylaw 2015.2 to have the third and final reading of the Board's Procedural Bylaw 2017 at a subsequent meeting.***

**CARRIED**

***THAT School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) Board Procedural Bylaw 2017 receive its third and final reading.***

**CARRIED**

**And,**



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***THAT the Board of Education receive and approve the changes to 1-5 Policy Formation and Review.***

**CARRIED**

3. **Correspondence (attached)**
- Board Chair Report re: Invitation from Board of Education SD 71 to: Ms. Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA, Courtenay/Comox (NDP); Mr. Scott Fraser, MLA, Mid Island – Pacific Rim (NDP), Minister of Education Rob Fleming
  - Joanne Coyle, President, Rotary Club of Comox: ***Trophy Award***, Mark R. Isfeld Interact Club, July 6, 2017
  - Gordon Swan, President, BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) to Boards of Education re: *Consultation before BC Ferries Schedule Changes*
  - Kevin Black, Secretary Treasurer, School District No. 58 (Nicola-Similkameen)

Board Information

4. **Janice Caton, Board Chair's Report – 2017 Canadian School Board Association (CSBA) and National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education (NTGAE), Briefing Note**

Board Information

5. **Student Input and Consultation into the Governance Process, Briefing Note, Dean Lindquist, Superintendent of Schools**

**Recommendation:**

***THAT the Board of Education direct administration to develop an Administrative Procedure for structured focus groups that define how the board will involve students in the governance process. Accompanying this Administrative Procedure, a yearly planning document will be developed that identifies topics and trustee representation at the focus groups.***

**CARRIED**

- J. **Public Question Period**
- K. **Adjournment - 8:45 pm**

# Education Committee Meeting—Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Location: Airport Elementary School

Address: 1475 Salmonberry Drive, Lazo, BC

6:30 pm

## Members:

Committee Chair, Ian Hargreaves, Puntledge/Black Creek	✓
Board Chair, Janice Caton, City of Courtenay	✓
Trustee, Tom Weber, Lazo North	✓
Trustee, Sheila McDonnell, Baynes Sound (Denman/Hornby Islands)	✓
Trustee, Clifford Boldt, City of Courtenay	✓
Trustee, Peter Coleman, Town of Comox	✓
Trustee, Vickey Brown, Village of Cumberland	✓
Superintendent of Schools, Dean Lindquist	✓
Assistant Superintendent, Tom Demeo	✓
Director of Instruction (Elementary Curriculum) Allan Douglas	✓
Director of Instructional Services (K-12) Geoff Manning	✓
Director of Instruction (Student Services) Esther Shatz	✓

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## AGENDA

### *Acknowledgements / Introductions*

***The Board of Education acknowledges that we are on the traditional territories of the K'omoks First Nation. We would like to thank them for the privilege of living on their land and the gift of working with their children.***

1. **Airport Elementary School Highlights / Report** Al Johnson, Principal

#### Highlights from the Past Year:

- All teachers reporting using portfolio
- Use “maker kits” especially the Gr. 5/6s
- School used program called “mind up”
- Approximately 1/3 of students changed → either moved in or away
- Approximately 35-40% Military families

#### Community Involvement:

- *Terry Fox Run* – joined CFB Comox in doing the run
- Airport Families – celebrating 2<sup>nd</sup> generation families
- *Cops for Cancer* – strong support in the school

#### School Focus:

- Conversation began last year and continued with ongoing discussion through the year
- Used school data to support/guide direction

- Move towards using “CASEL Educating Hearts Inspiring Minds” as well as the data “DMA/DART/FSA” etc to guide direction of the school for the year

2. ***Student Services Tour*** Esther Shatz, Director of Instruction, Student Services

Esther Shatz gave a tour of the new location for SD 71s Student Services Department.

3. ***FSA Presentation*** Geoff Manning, Director of Instructional Services (K-12)

Geoff Manning gave an overview of the changes in the FSA – reasons why there is a battle around FSA and what the results are being used for?

- Big change is that the assessment is given in October/November instead of February/March
- New this year is the collaboration component as well as the self-reflection component
- An overview of the timeline of the change was shared

**Next Education Committee Meeting:**

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017  
**TIME:** 6:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Arden Elementary School  
3040 Lake Trail Road, Courtenay, BC

# School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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## *District News*

There are many, many things to celebrate daily in our schools. We encourage anyone with news to send items to [debra.page@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:debra.page@sd71.bc.ca) so that monthly we can honour all that our schools do to support the community and world.



### *WorldSkills Competition*

Judd Foster, Highland Secondary School Grad – In 2016 Judd won a gold medal in Electronics at the Skills Canada competition and the right to represent Canada at the WorldsSkills competition being held in Abu Dhabi, October 15-18, 2017.

### *The Celebration of "All Things Salmon" – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Salmon Day Festival*

Ecole Puntledge Park, Thursday, October 12, 2017

- Aboriginal Welcome
- River Exploration; Salmon Spawning Tour
- Hands-on activities: Project Watershed, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, Comox Valley Nature, and Hand-in-Hand Early Years Nature Education
- Storytelling Salmon Tent
- Little Bears' Drumming

### *Most Likely to Succeed* – Film Screening

This film offers an inspiring look at what students and teachers are capable of – if we have the vision and courage to transform our schools. The purpose of this event is to promote meaningful discussion among educators, administrators, parents and students about how current obstacles can be overcome and steps towards change can be taken on a local level.

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017  
**TIME:** 6:30 pm  
**LOCATION:** Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School, Multi-Purpose Room

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Dean Lindquist, Superintendent of Schools

**Retirements:**

Beth Funk, Library Clerk, Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School will retire effective December 31, 2017 after 12 years of service with the district.

Lisa McKenna, Computer Support Worker, Student Services will retire effective December 31, 2017 after 22 years of service with the district.

# MINUTES (Public)

## Finance Committee

**Meeting Date:** Monday, October 16, 2017  
**Time:** 2:30 pm Called to order at 2:37 pm  
**Location:** School Board Office, Seminar Room

### Committee Members

Vickey Brown (Chair)  
Peter Coleman (Trustee Representative)  
Cliff Boldt (Trustee Representative)  
Dean Lindquist (Superintendent of Schools)  
Tom Demeo (Assistant Superintendent)  
Sheldon Lee (Acting Secretary Treasurer)  
Candice Hilton (Director of Finance)  
Ian Heselgrave (Director of Operations)  
Carol Snead (Recording Secretary)

### In Attendance

Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
No  
Yes

Item #	Topic
1.	<b>Review Prior Finance/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2017</b>  Reviewed the September 12, 2017 Finance / Audit Committee Meeting Minutes re: unfinished business. Minutes adopted at the September 26, 2017 Board meeting.
2.	<b>Month End Year to Date Variance Report – Candice Hilton, Director of Finance</b>  Director of Finance Candice Hilton spoke to the Month End Year to Date Finance Variance Report. A copy of the Report will be attached to the public Finance Committee meeting minutes.
3.	<b>Month End Capital Financial Summary to September 30, 2017 – Sheldon Lee, Acting Secretary Treasurer</b>  Acting Secretary Treasurer Sheldon Lee spoke to the Month End Capital Financial Summary to September 30, 2017.

4.	<p><b>DRAFT – Unrestricted Surplus Policy</b>, Briefing Note, Sheldon Lee, Acting Secretary Treasurer</p> <p>Acting Secretary Treasurer Sheldon Lee spoke to the briefing note provided. The Finance Committee will bring forward the following recommendation to the regular public Board meeting being held on Monday, October 23, 2017.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u>  <b><i>THAT the Draft – Unrestricted Surplus Policy be referred to the Policy Committee for revision.</i></b></p>
5.	<p><b>2018 – 2019 Budget Approach</b></p> <p>Acting Secretary Treasurer Sheldon Lee spoke to the 2018/2019 Budget process – which includes updated 2018/19 budget timelines, and budget discussion theme with stakeholders for the November Finance Committee meeting.</p>

**Meeting Adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 71 (COMOX VALLEY)**  
- Financial Comparison -

11/10/2017

	2016/17			2017/18			Notes
	Amended Budget	Actual Sept 30/16	% Spent or Collected	Annual Budget	Actual Sept 30/17	% Spent or Collected	
<b>REVENUE</b>							
<b>PROVINCIAL GRANTS</b>							This report does not include any outstanding commitments  Budgeted in SPF Fund 5
Operating Grant	71,997,368	7,827,272	10.9%	73,677,026	8,351,200	11.3%	
Other MOE Grants-Reduction for LEA	-174,538			-134,428			
Other MOE Grants-Ed Guarantee							
Other MOE Grants-Fed French	0						
Other MOE Grants-Pay Equity	451,831		0.0%	451,831	45,183	10.0%	
Other MOE Grants-Labour Settlement							
Other MOE Grants-Misc	890,982		0.0%	855,316	294,983	34.5%	
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY OF ED GRANTS</b>	<b>73,165,643</b>	<b>7,827,272</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>74,849,745</b>	<b>8,691,346</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	
<b>OTHER REVENUES</b>							
Other SD/Ed Authorities							\$2.6 was unearned from 16/17
LEA/Direct Transfers from First Nations	174,538		0.0%	134,428	0	0.0%	
Offshore Tuition	3,797,500	3,534,760	93.1%	4,132,500	4,235,037	102.5%	
Miscellaneous other	350,000	8,670	2.5%	328,000	54,112	16.5%	
Rental and Leases	203,220	24,453	12.0%	150,000	62,522	41.7%	
Investment Income	117,000	40,088	34.2%	87,000	40,508	46.6%	
<b>TOTAL OTHER REVENUE</b>	<b>4,642,258</b>	<b>3,607,951</b>	<b>77.7%</b>	<b>4,831,928</b>	<b>4,392,179</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>77,807,901</b>	<b>11,435,222</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>79,681,673</b>	<b>13,083,525</b>	<b>16.4%</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
<b>SALARIES AND BENEFITS</b>							
Teachers	31,803,558	3,021,550	9.5%	32,453,296	3,576,365	11.0%	
Principals and Vice Principals	4,679,873	1,041,578	22.3%	4,622,994	1,192,384	25.8%	
Educational Assistants	5,092,307	330,158	6.5%	4,249,970	271,588	6.4%	
Support Staff	6,744,492	1,276,469	18.9%	7,053,354	1,256,601	17.8%	
Other Professionals	1,916,233	443,737	23.2%	2,244,062	527,717	23.5%	
Substitutes	2,364,681	145,403	6.1%	2,995,184	108,023	3.6%	
Benefits	13,308,573	1,944,265	14.6%	13,582,724	1,582,062	11.6%	
<b>TOTAL SALARIES AND BENEFITS</b>	<b>65,909,717</b>	<b>8,203,160</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>67,201,584</b>	<b>8,514,740</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	
Benefits as a % of Total Salaries	25.3%	31.1%		25.3%	22.6%		
<b>SUPPLIES AND SERVICES</b>							
Services	3,615,813	560,796	15.5%	3,708,506	507,216	13.7%	Homestay Payments Incl
Student Transportation	1,941,587	13,206	0.7%	2,096,566	13,059	0.6%	
Training and Travel	331,666	74,641	22.5%	326,250	9,221	2.8%	
Dues and Fees	57,117	41,506	72.7%	63,537	42,150	66.3%	
Insurance	193,790	13,385	6.9%	203,500	24,307	11.9%	
Supplies	4,088,369	887,413	21.7%	4,379,956	1,033,692	23.6%	
Utilities	1,554,576	95,029	6.1%	1,515,321	96,782	6.4%	
<b>TOTAL SUPPLIES AND SERVICES</b>	<b>11,782,920</b>	<b>1,685,976</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>12,293,636</b>	<b>1,726,427</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>77,692,637</b>	<b>9,889,136</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>79,495,220</b>	<b>10,241,167</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	
<b>NET REVENUE (EXPENDITURE)</b>	<b>115,264</b>	<b>1,546,086</b>		<b>186,453</b>	<b>2,842,358</b>		
<b>Prior Year Surplus</b>		<b>585,862</b>					
Transfers from Special Purpose Funds							
Transfer to Capital							
Transfer to Local Capital	-115,264	-150,000		-510,000			
Prior Year Surplus(Deficit) CarryForward School Grants (Network Perform		-112,831			602,764		
Prior Year Surplus(Deficit)CarryForward School Supply Surpluses (Note 15		-51,251			77,938		
Prior Year Surplus Appropriation Student Learning Grant				323,547	363,840		
AbEd Carryover					124,081		
Prior Year Unrestricted Surplus					1,488,166		
<b>Unappropriated Surplus (Deficit), for the Year</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,817,866</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>185,569</b>		



**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 71 (COMOX VALLEY)**  
- Financial Comparison -

11/10/2017

	2016/17			2017/18			Notes
	Amended Budget	Actual Sept 30/16	% Spent or Collected	Annual Budget	Actual Sept 30/17	% Spent or Collected	
<b>INSTRUCTION</b>							
Regular Instruction	36,806,179	4,348,776	11.8%	39,643,233	4,509,518	11.4%	
Career Programs	653,654	90,954	10.7%	940,651	68,893	7.3%	
Library Services	1,459,772	122,800	8.4%	2,214,835	195,441	8.8%	
Counselling	1,861,947	171,228	9.2%	1,678,087	177,662	10.6%	
Special Education	11,671,881	910,145	7.8%	8,550,565	880,423	10.3%	
English as a Second Language	108,770	12,339	11.3%	118,803	19,778	16.6%	
Aboriginal Education	1,453,803	108,468	7.5%	1,454,422	96,254	6.6%	
School Administration	6,681,445	1,221,201	18.3%	6,799,167	1,392,874	20.5%	
Off Shore Students	3,377,225	496,898	14.7%	3,771,065	527,817	14.0%	
Other	706,710	104,581	14.8%	705,715	97,740	13.8%	
Function 1 - Instruction	64,981,386	7,587,390	11.7%	65,876,543	7,986,400	12.1%	
<b>DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION</b>							
Educational Administration	451,553	128,345	28.4%	742,506	157,151	21.2%	
School District Governance	224,768	76,359	34.0%	237,160	74,671	31.5%	
Business Administration	1,066,787	298,766	28.0%	1,292,919	301,948	23.4%	
Human Resources	451,396	91,900	20.4%	508,002	114,503	22.5%	
Function 4 - District Administration	2,194,504	595,370	27.1%	2,780,587	648,273	23.3%	
<b>OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE</b>							
Operations and Maintenance Admin	441,485	66,773	15.1%	461,125	66,097	14.3%	
Maintenance Operations	3,010,127	640,554	21.3%	3,080,772	602,096	19.7%	
Custodial	3,190,072	719,213	22.5%	3,322,574	689,891	20.8%	
Maintenance of Grounds	100,000	33,443	33.4%	105,000	27,284	26.0%	
Utilities	1,949,578	231,427	11.9%	1,895,321	223,482	11.8%	
Function 5 - Operations and Maint	8,691,262	1,691,410	19.5%	8,844,792	1,608,850	18.2%	
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING</b>							
Transportation and Housing Admin	71,485	14,821	20.7%	74,683	15,056	20.2%	
Student Transportation	1,754,214	144	0.0%	1,918,615	2,588	0.1%	
Function 7 - Transportation and Housing	1,825,699	14,965	0.8%	1,993,298	17,644	0.9%	
TOTAL FUNCTION 1-7	77,692,851	9,889,135	12.7%	79,495,220	10,241,167	12.9%	

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
<b>Typical 10 Month Educational Year:</b>													
Amount	0	0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	1,000
% of Year	0%	0%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	100%
YTD % Spent	0%	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	
<b>12 Month Operational Year:</b>													
Amount	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	1,200
% of Year	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	100%
YTD % Spent	8.3%	16.7%	25.0%	33.3%	41.7%	50.0%	58.3%	66.7%	75.0%	83.3%	91.7%	100.0%	

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 71 (COMOX VALLEY)  
 2017/18 CAPITAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY  
 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

	COA Amt or Def Revenue	Expenditures to Date	Balance		
<b>Annual Facilities Grant #127325 &amp; SPF</b>					
Ministry Grant - SPF Operating Portion	320,599.00				
Ministry Grant - Bylaw Capital	1,297,573.00				
Salaries and Benefits Charge Out		28,823.70			
Building Various		876,645.66			
<b>AFG Balances</b>	<b>\$ 1,618,172.00</b>	<b>\$ 905,469.36</b>	<b>\$ 712,702.64</b>		
	COA Original Amt	Expenditures to Date	Balance Available	COA Drawn to Date	COA Available
<b>Bylaw Capital Balances</b>					
#127370 Courtenay El Safety Enhancements	303,600.00	98,971.64	204,628.36	98,971.64	204,628.36
#127370 Lighting Enhancement Upgrades	285,000.00	134,073.89	150,926.11	134,073.89	150,926.11
#127270 Lake Trail Seismic PDR	75,000.00	54,876.56	20,123.44	54,876.56	20,123.44
#127439 Portables	945,000.00	214,037.49	730,962.51	214,037.49	730,962.51
#115044 GP Vanier Seismic	28,376,101.00	17,852,341.53	10,523,759.47	17,752,341.53	10,623,759.47
<b>Bylaw Capital Balances</b>	<b>\$ 29,984,701.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,354,301.11</b>	<b>\$ 11,630,399.89</b>	<b>\$ 18,254,301.11</b>	<b>\$ 11,730,399.89</b>
	COA Amt or Def Revenue	Expenditures to Date	Balance		
<b>Restricted Capital</b>					
GP Vanier Seismic Contribution	83,676.00		83,676.00		
Capital Trades Equipment Grant	113,400.00	42,358.64	71,041.36		
<b>Restricted Capital Balances</b>	<b>\$ 197,076.00</b>	<b>\$ 42,358.64</b>	<b>\$ 154,717.36</b>		
	Local Capital Surplus 16/17	Expenditures to Date	Balance		
<b>Local Capital</b>					
Future Information Technology Reserve	507,527.00	90,068.82	417,458.18		
Vehicles and Extra-Curricular Fleet	310,000.00	34,552.33	275,447.67		
Multi-Function Devices and Other Equipment	180,000.00	31,548.28	148,451.72		
GP Vanier Seismic Contribution Agreement	350,000.00		350,000.00		
Board Office Prepaid Rent and Updates	915,000.00		915,000.00		
<b>Local Capital Balances</b>	<b>\$ 2,262,527.00</b>	<b>\$ 156,169.43</b>	<b>\$ 2,106,357.57</b>		

# School District No.71 (Comox Valley)



607 Cumberland Road  
Courtenay, B.C., V9N 7G5  
Fax: (250) 334-4472  
Telephone: (250) 334-5521

## Office of the Secretary Treasurer

### Re: Draft Unrestricted Surplus Policy

#### **Policy:**

The Board of Education for School District No.71 (Comox Valley) is responsible for ensuring the district is protected financially from extraordinary circumstances which would negatively impact the education of students. To discharge this responsibility, the Board will establish a restricted portion of its accumulated surplus which would be used to mitigate any negative impact such circumstances might cause. If possible, the targeted amount of unrestricted surplus will be approximately 2.0% to 2.5% of total operating budget for that year.

#### **Procedure:**

Use of the restricted portion of the Board's accumulated surplus under the following circumstances, subject always to the Board of Education's approval:

1. The elimination of any deficit arising at the end of a fiscal year of operations;
2. The incurring of new cost pressures in a fiscal year that were not known at the time of budget development;
3. The payment of severance (wages and benefits) in excess of \$100,000 upon termination of a non- union employee without cause;
4. The settlement of any legal action that is not covered by the School Protection Program;
5. Initial one-time cost outlays for new educational programs where an investment in nontechnology related learning resources is required (non-technology related refers to computer technology)
6. Coverage for disaster recovery expenditures;
7. Extraordinary unknown utilities cost pressures;
8. Replacement of equipment essential to the continuation of educational programming in schools or district facilities.

9. To appropriate to balance the next year's budget.

In recognizing that the use of the restricted portion of its accumulated surplus represents a one-time use of funding, the Board will incorporate into its future budget planning processes, strategies to re-establish the accumulated surplus. Such strategies may be implemented over a period of two years.

# School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Board of Education

607 Cumberland Road  
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 7G5  
Fax (250) 334 4472

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## **Briefing Note:**

### **Notice of Motion for October 23, 2017 public board meeting:**

That the Board of Education, School District 71 approve the following policy draft on Community Schools and refer it to the Policy Committee of the Board, for their report back to the November public board meeting of the Board.

### **SD 71 Community School Policy Draft**

*Community Education is an educational process that serves all age groups in the community. The total resources of the community are employed to develop programs and services needed or desired by students, teachers and residents.*

*The Board of School District 71 demonstrates the commitment of the Board and endorses the concept of community education and supports and encourages the development of community schools in the school district. Community schools are encouraged to extend availability of programs and services beyond the school boundaries wherever this seems appropriate.*

*The Board supports and encourages the development of comprehensive education programs at each community school resulting from joint community school planning. To this end the board enlists the active involvement of other local governments.*

*Within the limits of available finances, the Board will provide support for the development of community schools.*



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

October 3, 2017

**The Honourable Rob Fleming**  
*Minister of Education*  
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming,

**RE: Request that 2017 school FSA results not be published**

I am reaching out to you in advance of fall's scheduled Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) testing to encourage a process that prevents the ranking of individual schools based on student outcomes. Boards of Education have been encouraged by your comments regarding the unfairness of ranking schools and the negative implications this has for the K-12 education system. Like you, we recognize the need for appropriate measures of student achievement to help ensure the most effective instructional practices and school district processes are maintained, but this should not result in the current pattern of unintended negative consequences.

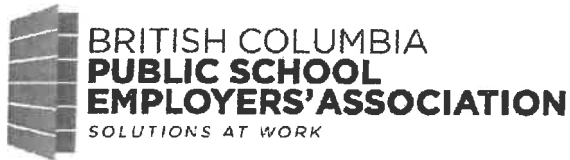
Knowing that FSA testing will proceed this fall as scheduled, I would ask that individual school results not be publically released. Any public circulation of school results inevitably leads to the public ranking of schools by outside groups. This ongoing practice is certainly harmful and unfortunate. Perhaps the only solution is not to create consolidated school-based results in the first place.

The BC School Trustees Association would like to work with you and the other education partner groups to find a solution to this ongoing problem. The unnecessary and unwarranted damage to schools must be stopped as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration of our request and the need for a permanent solution to this problem.

Sincerely,

**Gordon Swan**  
*President*  
BC School Trustees Association

cc: Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister of Education  
BCSTA Member Boards of Education



February 17, 2017

Hon. Michael de Jong, QC  
Minister of Finance  
PO Box 9048 Strn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

The British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) held its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting on January 27, 2017 at the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel in Vancouver.

At that meeting, the BCPSEA members — the province's 60 public boards of education — passed the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the BC Public School Employers' Association members direct the BCPSEA Public Administrator to write a letter to the Minister of Finance requesting that the association be released from the direction of the Public Administrator and that the Trustee Directors be reinstated to the BCPSEA Board of Directors.

*Carried*

In accordance with the direction of the members, I am writing to advise you of this resolution.

We look forward to receiving your response. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Yours truly,



Michael Marchbank  
Public Administrator

c: Renzo Del Negro, CEO



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

**PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING: October 27-28, 2017**

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

- 9.1 Funding for Capital Compliance with SCC Decision
- 9.2 Standardized Modules of Learning and Assessment
- 9.3 Funding of Exempt Staff Salary Increases
- 9.4 Administrative Savings
- 9.5 School District No. 83 By-election



## **9.1 FUNDING FOR CAPITAL COMPLIANCE WITH SCC DECISION**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *SD43 (Coquitlam)*

### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

That BCSTA request that the Minister of Education fully fund portables, classroom conversions and school building additions required to accommodate the increased number of classrooms necessary to comply with the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *BCTF v. BC* and subsequent Memorandum of Agreement with the BCTF.

### **RATIONALE:**

This motion is emergent because it is urgent that districts receive adequate funding in order to create additional classroom spaces for September 2018 and beyond. This motion is emergent because there is a new provincial government and advocacy is required before the 2018 BCSTA AGM in order to influence the 2018-2019 provincial budget which will be released prior to AGM. Districts have made best efforts to comply with class size and composition requirements by converting multiple spaces into classrooms and adding portables to school sites. Increased funding is required to ensure continued compliance with class size and composition requirements for the ongoing implementation of the Supreme Court of Canada decision and Memorandum of Agreement with the BCTF.

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

**This motion relates to Foundational Statement 8.1FS (Government Support for Education).**

### **REFERENCES**

- [BCTF v. BC 2016 SCC 49](#) (November 10, 2016 Supreme Court of Canada decision)
- [Memorandum of Agreement re LoU No. 17: Education Fund and Impact of the Court Cases – Priority Measures](#)

## **9.2 STANDARDIZED MODULES OF LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *SD48 (Sea to Sky)*

### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

THAT BCSTA request the Minister of Education create and distribute standardized modules of learning and assessment for use by teachers in specialist positions who, due to the impact of the restored language, require additional qualifications to satisfy job requirements.

### **RATIONALE:**

We feel this motion is emergent because of the need to communicate it to a new government, and because it would require the necessary funding to be included in the spring provincial budget, which will be developed prior to the 2018 BCSTA AGM.

SD48 (Sea to Sky) would like to request the Ministry of Education create standardized training modules that would help teachers acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for their specialized positions. This would create consistency throughout the province, and be a financially responsible response to the current situation, while reducing costs to individual districts, which are currently doing this separately.

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

**This motion relates to Foundational Statement 6.1FS (Teacher Education and Professional Growth).**

**This motion relates to Policy Statement 6.1.1P (Teacher Development).**

### **9.3 FUNDING OF EXEMPT STAFF SALARY INCREASES**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *SD48 (Sea to Sky)*

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

THAT BCSTA resubmit to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance motion 9.1 from the October 29, 2016 Provincial Council meeting to provide full funding to school districts for the salary increases approved by the Public Sector Employers Council for exempt and executive staff.

**RATIONALE:**

We feel this motion is emergent because of the need to communicate it to a new government, and because it would require the necessary funding to be included in the spring provincial budget, which will be developed prior to the 2018 BCSTA AGM.

After years of a salary freeze for exempt and executive staff, PSEC has authorized boards of education to catch up exempt staff to market salary levels. However, this increase is not being funded and school districts are required to find the funding through their operating budgets, thereby reallocating monies from education-focused areas to wage increases.

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

**This motion relates to Foundational Statement 8.1FS (Government Support for Education).**

**This motion relates to Policy Statement 8.1.4P (Fully Funded Mandates for Boards of Education).**

**REFERENCES**

- [Disposition of Motions from the October 2016 Provincial Council Meeting](#)

## **9.4 ADMINISTRATIVE SAVINGS**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *SD 72 (Campbell River)*

### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the BCSTA request that the provincial government reinstate the funds that were removed from the public education system by the Liberal government under 'Administrative Savings'.

### **RATIONALE:**

In 2015, the Liberal government removed thirty million dollars from BC's public education system. While additional 'savings' were not imposed in 2016, the initial amount was not reinstated and public education funding was decreased by this amount in each subsequent year.

To date 'Administrative Savings' has removed approximately sixty million dollars from the public education system and the cumulative amount will be increased to approximately ninety million dollars by the 2017-18 budget year if the funds taken in 'Administrative Savings' are not reinstated.

This continues to cause hardship for most school districts in the province and is a continual funding decrease with which Boards of Education still struggle. Board decisions concerning administration have been adversely affected by the removal of these funds and districts have been required to submit plans showing how these 'savings' are to be realized. Reinstating this funding would be beneficial to all students in BC and would remove an irritant left by the previous government.

This is an emergent issue because there is no indication that the provincial government intends to reinstate the approximately thirty million dollars that were removed from the BC public education system in 2015 and in each subsequent year. This is a request for the new provincial government to consider rectifying this situation prior to the passage of the 2018-2019 provincial budget in February, 2018. Advocacy on this issue must take place this fall in order to influence the 2018-2019 budget which will be released before BCSTA's AGM.

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

## **9.5 SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 83 BY-ELECTION**

**SUBMITTED BY:** *SD 74 (Gold Trail)*

### **BE IT RESOLVED:**

THAT BCSTA request the Minister of Education immediately schedule a by-election to restore an elected Board of Education for School District No. 83 (North Okanagan Shuswap).

### **RATIONALE:**

SD83 (North Okanagan Shuswap) has been without a locally elected board since June 15, 2016 leaving the school district without elected leadership for almost 17 months. A democratically elected board is necessary for the constituents to have their voices heard. With election time constraints, the length of time for a democratically elected board is becoming so short that any further delay will mean less time for a democratically elected board to build a foundation and prepare for the fall 2018 elections.

#### History:

On June 15, 2016 the SD83 (North Okanagan Shuswap Board) was fired and replaced by a Trustee.

On June 29, 2016 BCSTA President Rezansoff wrote a letter to the then Minister Mike Bernier regarding BCSTA's concern with the appointment of an official trustee to School District No.83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap). On August 2, 2016 Minister Bernier responded that although he agreed that "the community is best served by locally-elected trustees..." that "given the gravity of the task" to "address these issues and bring stability to the District", the "official trustee needs to be provided with sufficient time to conduct his independent work."

On October 17, 2016 SD39 (Vancouver School Board) was also fired by Minister Mike Bernier. Current Premier, and then Opposition NDP Leader, John Horgan "...blasted the Liberal government for dismissing the board, calling it 'absolutely outrageous' and portrayed it as a move by Premier Christy Clark to seize direct control of operations at the VSB... 'There was no reason to dispatch this board,' he said." "The fact they had to fire the board today speaks to their lack of support for the democratic process and speaks to a government that is going to use education as a partisan tool in the coming election, and I just think that's wrong." (Vancouver Sun, October 17, 2016 "BC Education Minister fires Vancouver School Board":

<http://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/npa-trustees-call-on-minister-to-take-action-on-vs-b>

At the October 2016 Provincial Council BCSTA Provincial Council passed a resolution

"That BCSTA board of directors urge the Ministry of Education to immediately include in the terms of reference for official trustees, a date for a by-election which shall be set within six months of a board being fired and that SD 83 and SD 39 be affected by the said change immediately. Additionally that the BCSTA Board of Directors call on the

## 9.5.

### SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 83 BY-ELECTION

Minister of Education to amend the School Act Section 172 (3) to require a by-election be held within one year in the event that an "official trustee" has been appointed to a District Board of Education."

On August 3, 2017 BC's Education Minister Rob Fleming announced that a by-election will be held for SD39 (Vancouver School Board) but no by-election was announced for SD83 (North Okanagan Shuswap). In response to a query by former BCSTA President, Gordon Comeau, asking why SD 83 was not included in the by-election announcement, Dave Duerksen, Executive Director, Legislation, Policy and Governance for the Ministry of Education responded that "The governance and financial affairs of the school district have stabilized under the leadership of Official Trustee Mike McKay and there is no immediate pressure to issue a by-election" and that "a by-election would cost the district up to \$250,000."

Therefore:

It is imperative that BCSTA continue advocating for a locally elected Board, which our current Premier advocated for as well when he spoke out for the Vancouver School Board in October 2016. The cost of elections would be far outweighed by having the voice of the constituents choose their own public education leadership and having a Board in place that will have a year to build a foundation before the 2018 elections.

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

**This motion relates to Foundational Statements 1.1FS (Mission) and 1.2FS (Values).**

**This motion relates to Policy Statement 2.1.2P (Roles and Responsibilities).**

#### REFERENCES

- **June 29, 2016 letter from BCSTA to Minister Bernier**
- **August 2, 2016 letter from Minister Bernier to BCSTA**



British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association

October 12, 2017

**BC School Trustees Association presentation to the  
Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services**

Good afternoon,

My name is Gordon Swan, President of the BC School Trustees Association. I am here today representing all 60 Boards of Education and school districts across British Columbia. Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with our input and priorities for the upcoming 2018 provincial budget.

Our highest priority is, of course, BC's public education system. A corner stone of every community in our province as well as our economic and cultural future.

Although significant money was added to the overall K-12 education budget for this school year, all of that additional money was directed at fulfilling new obligations for schools arising out of the Supreme Court of Canada ordered reinstatement of collective agreement clauses and the resulting Memorandum of Agreement with the BCTF. In reality, school districts have no additional money this fall to address identified needs, inflation, or new initiatives.

We believe investing in public education is a smart investment that brings both positive short and long-term returns to students, communities, government and society as a whole. If we want **ALL** students to succeed – indigenous students, immigrants, students with special needs, children in care, disadvantaged individuals, and those who live in remote and rural communities - we need to provide them all with the required programs and resources needed to be successful on their own terms.

While BC can be proud of its public schools, we do not yet ensure equal access and success for those students facing unique challenges.

If we are to see equal outcomes for **ALL** students, equitable investments must be made. In particular, there is a need to invest in programs that provide equal opportunities for those students with special needs, our indigenous students, and students who live in remote locations. This will require additions to the public education funding, but also changes to way in which we allocate those resources.

There are many options to where you could effectively invest in K-12 education toward ensuring improved student outcomes. Some of the options are relatively inexpensive, and would bring significant improvements across the province.

We respectfully request that you:

- Increase school district general operating grants by the cost of inflation each and every year without assigning the use of those funds. Allow school districts to spend the money where it is needed in local schools.
- Get rid of the requirement for forced administrative savings, and replace that money with an investment in school and district leadership – a key component of ensuring student success.
- Pay the cost of implementing and maintaining the Next Generation Network project in all school districts to ensure equity of access to technology in all schools across the province.
- Add to the Annual Facilities Grant that all school districts receive to maintain school buildings. Safe and adequately maintained facilities should not be optional.
- Increase learning resource grants to school districts so that students have the books, equipment and resources necessary to provide a learning environment reflective of our 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

The key, though, is allowing school districts the flexibility to meet student needs at the local level by ensuring operational funding is not tied to 'one size fits all' requirements.

Beyond simply increasing the quantum of money that comes to school districts – which is truly needed - changes to government policy and regulation could improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of current spending. School districts have very little flexibility as to how dollars are spent, with over 90% of their budgets tied to meeting current government requirements or collective agreement obligations.

There has been an increasing trend toward 'targeted funding' and restrictive provincial requirements that are often unproductive and unwarranted. Last year, for example, school districts were tied to specific transportation grant requirements, targeted rural education grants, and the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement. Virtually every new dollar received by school districts over the previous 18 months was tied to a specific external requirement or new obligation. There was no opportunity for decision making by boards of education to address local priorities.

This does not allow for effective or efficient allocation of resources to meet the needs of students at the school district level. The time has come to remove at least some of these restrictive requirements, and allow boards of education to make financial decisions in the best interest of their students.

Beyond maintaining operating funding at a workable level for school districts, and ensuring board's the flexibility to meet student needs, it is important that funding for capital projects also be sufficient to address the significant backlog of need for new schools, seismic upgrading, and the replacement of aging facilities.



While we recognize the limitations of government spending, providing the dollars AND the expedited processes necessary to address these building projects within a reasonable length of time is of critical importance. This will take an ongoing commitment by government far beyond just the upcoming 2018 budget.

Needed changes to both the funding of school districts and related government policies must be initiated in the February 2018 budget. We do, however, recommend a long range - minimum five year - plan to address both the operational and capital funding of K-12 public education, as well as the needed improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of current allocation and spending requirements.

Should government also announce broad program or policy changes in other sectors during the upcoming budget year, we would expect that all incurred costs of any impact or expanded mandate for K-12 education would be fully covered by new government funding. If school districts are to become directly or indirectly responsible for child care, early learning programs, expanded youth mental health programs, or other new initiatives by government, all of the operational and capital costs of these programs must be covered by additional funding from government.

Certainly, our hope would be that government would also commit to co-construction of new programs under consideration for placement within school districts. As co-governors of public education, boards of education should have the opportunity to participate in the design and initiation of any programs or responsibilities to be added to the school districts they oversee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. Please be assured that the BC School Trustees Association and our member boards are committed to working with government to find meaningful and effective answers to these concerns. We are committed to being part of the solution and not just a requester of additional dollars.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

*Gordon Swan*  
*BCSTA President*



October 12, 2017

**BC School Trustees Association presentation to the  
Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services**

Good afternoon,

My name is Gordon Swan, President of the BC School Trustees Association. I am here today representing all 60 Boards of Education and school districts across British Columbia. Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with our input and priorities for the upcoming 2018 provincial budget.

Our highest priority is, of course, BC's public education system. A corner stone of every community in our province as well as our economic and cultural future.

Although significant money was added to the overall K-12 education budget for this school year, all of that additional money was directed at fulfilling new obligations for schools arising out of the Supreme Court of Canada ordered reinstatement of collective agreement clauses and the resulting Memorandum of Agreement with the BCTF. In reality, school districts have no additional money this fall to address identified needs, inflation, or new initiatives.

---

*The confirmation of a \$681 million increase to the provincial K-12 education budget (over 3 years) in September was both significant and appreciated. It allowed school districts to meet the additional obligations imposed by the Supreme Court of Canada decision restoring collective agreement language.*

- \$521 million to fund the MOA with the BCTF
- \$51 million to fund enrollment growth
- \$44 million for the Economic Stability Mandate
- \$57 million to independent schools as required by law
- \$8 million to the BC Training and Education Savings Plan as required

*It did not, however, provide school districts with any additional funding to address other previously identified needs. Although the Ministry of Education was provided the funding to meet obligations, school districts did not receive any additional money to address rising costs or identified needs. 100% of the \$177 million added to the Ministry of Education budget for this school year went to fund the noted government obligations.*

We believe investing in public education is a smart investment that brings both positive short and long-term returns to students, communities, government and society as a whole. If we want **ALL** students to succeed – indigenous students, immigrants, students with special needs, children in care, disadvantaged individuals, and those who live in remote and rural communities - we need to provide them all with the required programs and resources needed to be successful on their own terms.

While BC can be proud of its public schools, we do not yet ensure equal access and success for those students facing unique challenges.

If we are to see equal outcomes for **ALL** students, equitable investments must be made. In particular, there is a need to invest in programs that provide equal opportunities for those students with special needs, our indigenous students, and students who live in remote locations. This will require additions to the public education funding, but also changes to way in which we allocate those resources.

There are many options to where you could effectively invest in K-12 education toward ensuring improved student outcomes. Some of the options are relatively inexpensive, and would bring significant improvements across the province.

We respectfully request that you:

- Increase school district general operating grants by the cost of inflation each and every year without assigning the use of those funds. Allow school districts to spend the money where it is needed in local schools.

---

*Although the provincial education budget has increased steadily year over year for a significant number of years, the increases have been focused on either added program obligations or meeting required employee compensation improvements. There has been little, if any, money to cover the cost of general inflation. Unfunded cost pressures include such items as:*

- \$11 million cost inflation on operations and supplies
- \$5.5 million compensation improvements for school and district administrators
- \$19 million to implement the Next Generation Network in schools

*As a result, boards of education have had to cut programs or services to students each year in order to produce a legally required balanced budget. By funding the cost of general inflation (BC's CPI is currently at 2% per year) over and above additional required obligations, you would allow school districts to at least maintain existing programs and services.*

---

- **Get rid of the requirement for forced administrative savings, and replace that money with an investment in school and district leadership – a key component of ensuring student success.**
- 

*A policy carry-over to the 2017/2018 school year, is the Ministry of Education requirement for school districts to show a combined \$29 million in administrative savings. On the surface, this requirement may seem insignificant, but it is in fact an arbitrary limitation on school district leadership. At a time of rising student enrollment and greatly increased teacher staffing numbers, districts are hampered by this indirect restriction on principal, vice-principal and senior staff numbers. By cancelling the requirement and replacing the \$29 million boards were required to cut, the province would be investing in school and district leadership.*

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- **Pay the cost of implementing and maintaining the Next Generation Network project in all school districts in support of equity of access to technology in all schools across the province.**
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*The Next Generation Network (NGN) has been a valuable tool for both students and staff in terms of opening access to programs and resources, especially in B.C.'s more remote and rural schools. The ongoing cost of the NGN was, however, assigned to school districts without any corresponding increase in funding. If the NGN were funded by the Ministry of Education directly, school districts would be able to redirect this spending to meet other identified local needs. This ongoing cost is estimated at approximately \$19 million per school year.*

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- **Add to the Annual Facilities Grant that all school districts receive to maintain school buildings. Safe and adequately maintained facilities should not be optional.**
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*Each year, school districts receive funding for school maintenance and minor facility improvements through the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG). Unfortunately this fund has not kept pace with inflation and necessary work. The result has been school buildings and grounds not being maintained at reasonable levels, resulting in a deterioration of learning and working conditions. By adding to the current AFG budget of \$110 million, government would be ensuring our schools are well maintained both for now and the future. This will be even more important going forward due to the large number of classrooms reopened as a result of the Supreme Court of Canada decision regarding class size language in B.C.*

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- Increase learning resource grants to school districts so that students have the books, equipment and resources necessary to provide a learning environment reflective of our 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.
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*In the spring of 2017, school districts shared a one-time provincial learning resource grant of \$30 million intended to provide much needed classroom resources. Although commitments were made that this would be an ongoing grant, no additional money has been allocated for the current school year or for the future. In order for our schools to provide the world class public education we all identify as important, they must have the books, equipment and technology needed to support those programs. This is particularly important for students facing economic challenges, where their family cannot supplement school budgets.*

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The key, though, is allowing school districts the flexibility to meet student needs at the local level by ensuring operational funding is not tied to 'one size fits all' requirements. Beyond simply increasing the quantum of money that comes to school districts – which is truly needed - changes to government policy and regulation could improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of current spending. School districts have very little flexibility as to how dollars are spent, with over 90% of their budgets tied to meeting current government requirements or collective agreement obligations.

There has been an increasing trend toward 'targeted funding' and restrictive provincial requirements that are often unproductive and unwarranted. Last year, for example, school districts were tied to specific transportation grant requirements, targeted rural education grants, and the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement. Virtually every new dollar received by school districts over the previous 18 months was tied to a specific external requirement or new obligation. There was no opportunity for decision making by boards of education to address local priorities.

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*During the previous school year, a few targeted grants were announced to address rural education, student transportation and the purchase of high cost items such as busses. While school districts would never turn down these specified grants, local decision making to address local priorities would have been greatly preferred. A 'one size fits all' budgeting model that specifies spending targets is both inefficient and less effective than allowing boards of education to determine funding priorities to meet the needs of their students and communities.*

*While the quantum of money provided to school districts must be sufficient to cover the cost of providing quality programs and facilities, we must also ensure the money can be spent as effectively and efficiently as possible. At present, this is not happening.*

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This does not allow for effective or efficient allocation of resources to meet the needs of students at the school district level. The time has come to remove at least some of these restrictive requirements, and allow boards of education to make financial decisions in the best interest of their students.

Beyond maintaining operating funding at a workable level for school districts, and ensuring board's the flexibility to meet student needs, it is important that funding for capital projects also be sufficient to address the significant backlog of need for new schools, seismic upgrading, and the replacement of aging facilities.

While we recognize the limitations of government spending, providing the dollars AND the expedited processes necessary to address these building projects within a reasonable length of time is of critical importance. This will take an ongoing commitment by government far beyond just the upcoming 2018 budget.

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*The government spending on capital projects for K-12 education for the next three years is estimated at: 2017/18 = \$635m, 2018/19 = \$687m and 2019/20 = \$629 m. While this is a sizable investment, it is unclear if it is sufficient to meet the demand for needed new schools, seismic upgrades and aging facility replacement. We are also concerned that capital spending plan does not extend further than two years beyond the current school year.*

*We recommend government work with school districts to first determine the scope of capital construction needed to meet the projected requirements for new facilities and safety upgrades, and then budget accordingly over a longer time period. If we are to ever clear the backlog of capital projects needed in B.C.'s school districts, we must take a different approach to both funding and approving construction of schools.*

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Needed changes to both the funding of school districts and related government policies must be initiated in the February 2018 budget. We do, however, recommend a long range - minimum five year - plan to address both the operational and capital funding of K-12 public education, as well as the needed improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of current allocation and spending requirements.

Should government also announce broad program or policy changes in other sectors during the upcoming budget year, we would expect that all incurred costs of any impact or expanded mandate for K-12 education would be fully covered by new government funding. If school districts are to become directly or indirectly responsible for child care, early learning programs, expanded youth mental health programs, or other new initiatives by government, all of the operational and capital costs of these programs must be covered by additional funding from government.

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*The September 8, 2017 throne by government indicated a number of new initiatives that might have a direct or indirect impact on K-12 education across the province. Included were:*

- a provincewide universal child care program*
- the training of more early childhood educators*
- the elimination of tuition fees for adult basic education and English language learners*
- restoration of funding for K-12 public education*
- a new capital investment plan focused on building new schools*
- greater assistance for students attending post-secondary programs*

*The following quote from the throne speech perhaps best summarizes the intent of government:*

*“Education is one of your government’s highest priorities. There is no greater or more important investment we can make in our economy and our future. Education is the key to opportunity for young people to realize their full potential.*

*Your government will fix the problems in our education system, and invest in student success. The September budget update will take our first steps toward restoring proper funding for B.C. classrooms, and give students the supports they need to succeed.*

*This government’s priority is making sure children are ready to learn, and have classrooms to learn in, as B.C. moves toward full implementation of class size and composition requirements.”*

*The BCSTA is encouraged by the promise of new programs as well as the overall commitment to public education. In order for all of these initiatives to come to fruition, government must provide the necessary additional funding and policy changes to support them. It will also be critical that boards of education are directly involved in both the planning and implementation of each initiative.*

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**Certainly, our hope would be that government would also commit to co-construction of new programs under consideration for placement within school districts. As co-governors of public education, boards of education should have the opportunity to participate in the design and initiation of any programs or responsibilities to be added to the school districts they oversee.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. Please be assured that the BC School Trustees Association and our member boards are committed to working with government to find meaningful and effective answers to these concerns. We are committed to being part of the solution and not just a requester of additional dollars.**

**I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.**

**Gordon Swan - BCSTA President**

## **Summary of Recommendations by the BC School Trustees Association**

1. Increase general operating grants to school districts by the rate of inflation each year, and allow boards of education to determine how this funding is spent.
2. Eliminate the current requirement for forced administrative savings by school districts, and return the \$29 million to local budgets.
3. Cover the full cost of implementing and maintaining the Next Generation Network so that school districts do not have to subsidize the project.
4. Substantially increase the \$110 million Annual Facilities Grant to school districts toward supporting increased school maintenance and facilities improvement.
5. Increase learning resource grants to school districts by at least the previous commitment of an additional \$30 million per year.
6. Provide boards of education with increased flexibility to spend their budgets as determined by local priorities. Eliminate requirements for 'one size fits all' spending as well as targeted grants.
7. Increase spending on school capital projects to address the backlog of needed new schools, seismic upgrades and replacement facilities in accordance with a multi-year 'needs' based budget.
8. Consult directly with boards of education regarding the planning and implementation of new programs or initiatives that might have a direct or indirect impact on the K-12 education system, including additional funding requirements. This should include initiatives to address the needs of Indigenous students, students with special needs, immigrants, children in care, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and those who live in remote locations.
9. Identify and address current barriers to the effective and efficient spending of existing budgets by school districts. Wherever possible, provide increased flexibility to ensure boards of education can direct spending to meet local priorities and the needs of students.
10. Emphasize and reinforce the co-governance relationship between boards of education and the Ministry of Education for the oversight of B.C.'s school districts, including identifying future budget priorities and related policy decisions.
11. Continue to invest in B.C.'s public education system as a means of achieving both current and future provincial goals for a society that is rich, both culturally and economically.