



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

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Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Hon. Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, MLA
Minister of Education
PO BOX 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Ms. MacDiarmid:

Trustees and representatives of Vancouver school district's stakeholder groups are deeply concerned about the potentially damaging effect the preliminary operating budget proposals will have on public education in our city, and have come together to ask for an urgent meeting with you.

It is the 11th hour and our last opportunity to impress upon you the seriousness of the deficit facing the Vancouver Board of Education for 2010-'11. Trustees are scheduled to meet Thursday for final deliberations and possible adoption of a budget that will cut \$18.12 million in district spending.

The signatories to this letter wish to meet with you at your earliest convenience to share our concerns that our world-class public education system is at risk of deterioration due to the chronic and increasing financial pressure from provincial underfunding.

On behalf of the Vancouver Board of Education, the Vancouver District Parents' Advisory Council, the Vancouver Teachers' Federation, the Vancouver Elementary Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, the Vancouver Association of Secondary School Administrators, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 15, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 407, the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 963, and Vancouver District Student Council, we urge you and this government to invest in Vancouver's public schools.

We look forward to your positive response to our meeting request.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Patti Bacchus in black ink.

Patti Bacchus
Chairperson,
Vancouver Board of Education

Handwritten signature of Gwen Giesbrecht in black ink.

Gwen Giesbrecht
Vice-chair, Vancouver District Parent
Advisory Council

Board of School Trustees:

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President, Vancouver Secondary
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Association (VEPVA)



Iona Wishaw
President, Vancouver Association of
Secondary School
Administrators (VASSA)



Paul Faoro
President, Canadian Union of
Public Employees, Local 15



Brent Boyd
President, Canadian Union of
Public Employees, Local 407



Tim DeVivo,
Business manager, International Union of
Operating Engineers, Local 963



Dami Lee,
President, Vancouver District
Student Council

cc. Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools
Brenda Ng, Secretary-Treasurer
VBE trustees
Advocacy committee