

June 23, 2010

The Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045, STN Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister MacDiarmid:

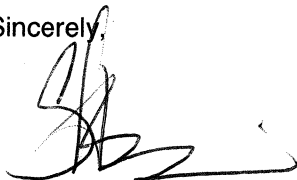
RE: Meeting with North Vancouver School District

Thank you for recently meeting with Superintendent John Lewis, Secretary Treasurer Irene Young and me. Our Board is very appreciative of the opportunity to discuss our concerns regarding funding and other pertinent Board issues with you face to face. As you know, we have had an extremely challenging year balancing our budget for the upcoming 2010/2011 school year while maintaining quality educational programming for which the North Vancouver School District is well known. We certainly comprehend and appreciate the world wide economic downturn that precipitated the fiscal situation faced by the provincial government and our Board is more than willing to continue to work together with the Ministry of Education under the co-governance model to find creative innovative solutions to our respective budget challenges. While we would always welcome additional funding, and will continue to advocate for full funding to cover the true costs of public education, we recognize that may not be possible until the economy improves. In the meantime, we hope that you will consider our suggestions to increase the flexibility for all school districts to manage their budgets within the envelope provided by government.

It is unfortunate that you are unable to join us for our Education Services Centre/Artists for Kids Gallery groundbreaking ceremony; however we wish to extend an invitation to you to visit our School District and meet with our entire Board of Trustees. We would be pleased to arrange a brief tour of some of our school facilities that are undergoing replacement or heritage restoration. The North Vancouver School District's Presidents' Council, a committee chaired by the Superintendent that includes the presidents of the North Vancouver Teachers' Association, the Association of Elementary School Administrators, the Secondary Study Group (secondary administrators), CUPE, the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council and the Chairperson of the Board of Education would also be appreciative of a visit with you if that could be accommodated.

On behalf of the North Vancouver Board of Education, thank you once again for taking the time to meet with us and we look forward to meeting with you at the School District in the near future.

Sincerely,



Susan Skinner
Chairperson
Board of Education

SHS/mg

cc: Board of Education of School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)

