

February 2, 2015

The Honourable Mike de Jong  
Minister of Finance and Government House Leader  
P.O. Box 9048, STN Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister De Jong:

Subject: Findings and Recommendations of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

At the January 20, 2015 Public Board Meeting, the Board of Education passed the following motion related to the findings and recommendations within the above noted report that relate to K-12 Public Education funding.

*"That the Board of Education write a letter to the Ministry of Finance acknowledging the *Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services' First Report on the Budget 2015 Consultations*" conclusions and recommendations and request the Ministry of Finance accept and implement the Report Recommendations 24, 25, 27, 28, and 40 regarding public education."*

As evidenced in the recommendations of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, the K-12 system is continuing to experience cost pressures as a result of inflation and aging school facilities. Given the increasing number of students identified with special needs, the Board supports a review to ensure sufficient funding is in place. The Board also agrees that budgeting should be introduced for public libraries and additional funding for community literacy work; and continued support for adult basic education programs.

The recommendations of the Select Standing Committee echo the observations provided within the North Vancouver School District's Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement for 2014-2015, noting the following budgetary concerns and impact of insufficient funding upon our public education system:

*"The provincial grant available to the Board of Education has been insufficient to sustain service levels to students. This has constrained the School District's capacity to provide services that contribute towards improved student achievement and personal success."*

*"While we have developed an increased capacity to monitor progress and intervene more quickly when a student is at risk of not fulfilling graduation requirements, we are financially challenged to maintain the teaching, support and administrative staff to provide these important services to students."*

The North Vancouver School District's Superintendent's Report on Student Achievement for 2014-2015, further identifies the following significant unmet needs and challenges:

- *Complex class composition challenges related to a diversity of students*
- *Actual costs associated with supports for students with special learning needs compared to provincial funding levels*
- *Increased professional and program development supports needed for teachers and support staff working directly with students*
- *Costs associated with expanded mandates and provincially negotiated contracts*
- *Applications of information technology: hardware, software and technical support*

The North Vancouver Board of Education supports the conclusions and recommendations within the *Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services' First Report on the Budget 2015 Consultations* and looks forward to the acceptance and implementation of the Report Recommendations regarding public education.

Yours truly,  
NORTH VANCOUVER BOARD OF EDUCATION



Barry Forward  
Chair

BF/mg

Enclosure

cc Select Standing Committee on Finance & Government Services  
The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia  
Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education  
Hon. Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Small Business, MLA North Vancouver-Lonsdale  
Ralph Sultan, MLA West Vancouver-Capilano  
Jane Thornthwaite, MLA North Vancouver-Seymour  
Board of Education, School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)  
John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools  
Georgia Allison, Secretary Treasurer  
Mayors and Council, City and District of North Vancouver  
All Boards of Education (Via BCSTA)  
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE Local 389)  
North Vancouver Administrators' Association (NoVA)  
North Vancouver School District Parent Advisory Council (NVPAC)  
North Vancouver School District Student Leadership Council (DSLCC)  
North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTA)  
MLA Rob Fleming, NDP Opposition Spokesman for Education  
MLA Carole James, NDP Opposition Spokesman for Finance