



June 8, 2011

Honourable George Abbott
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Minister.Educ@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Abbott:

We very much enjoyed hearing your thoughts on the future of education at the BCSTA AGM in April, especially your messages that collaborative change is the only enduring change; and the importance of building more pathways to success, and empowering students to explore their passions.

As the conversation continues about what teaching and learning should look like in this century, community forums and conversations on the North Shore have identified student engagement, flexibility and ownership of learning as primary areas in need of improvement at the secondary school level. The Boards of Education of North and West Vancouver recently met to discuss educational issues of mutual interest, including partnering to share limited resources to support students on the North Shore. For example, we have been exploring opportunities for students to attend high school for part of the day in one district and then pursue their passion for hockey, cooking, or auto-shop for the remainder of the day in the other district. Under the current funding model, there are barriers that obstruct these opportunities.

More specifically, students can take courses at a bricks-and-mortar school in one district and then take courses at any DL school in the province, and each district receives per course funding (at grades 10-12) based on the student's courses. If a student wants to attend courses at two bricks-and-mortar schools (e.g. a West Vancouver School in the AM and a North Vancouver School in the PM) only one district can claim funding. The current model makes it easier for a West Vancouver student to take an online course in Prince George than to take a course at a high school in a neighbouring school district.

Our recommendation, if the funding formula is going to continue to be per-course at grades 10-12 is that the same "rules" that apply to DL, apply to all schools for funding purposes. We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss how the Ministry might facilitate a resolution to this issue; as well as to share some of the other exciting initiatives and innovative practices that we have implemented to support and engage our students at all levels in both West and North Vancouver, as we work together toward the important goal of reshaping education in this province.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

Yours truly,



Mary-Ann Booth
Chair
West Vancouver Board of Education



Franci Stratton
Chair
North Vancouver Board of Education

MAB/FS:sr

cc: Trustees, North and West Vancouver School Districts
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