



North Vancouver  
Teachers' Association

# NVTA Budget Priorities

April 5, 2022



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Significant Increases to:

Counselling  
Learning Support Teachers (LSTs)  
Teaching Resources

## Counselling

- ❖ There has been a significant impact of the pandemic on mental health, but this increased need has not led to increased staffing
- ❖ Increased staffing is needed for a trauma-informed approach, not only training and increased awareness

## Counselling

- ❖ The preliminary staffing allocation for counselling for the 2021/22 year for the Districts' 26 elementary schools and approximately 9240 elementary students this year was 7.5 FTE.
- ❖ This meant that there was approximately one counsellor at the elementary level allocated for every 1232 elementary students.
- ❖ An additional 4.4 FTE was allocated through the Special Needs Schools Committee; however, this is meant to supplement already sufficient staffing

## Counselling

- ❖ Our counsellor colleagues are amazing, but also do more than any person could realistically be asked to fit into a day.
- ❖ Our students need a much higher allocation of counselling at the elementary level than what is in the collective agreement, and waiting for a change at the provincial bargaining table is not supportive of the mental health and well-being of staff and students.

## LSTs

- ❖ Our LSTs, like Counsellors, are staffed under a district ratio bargained thirty years ago. Again, the staffing is done to ratio, but the ratio does not speak to caseload for LSTs or student need in any way
- ❖ Significant unfilled vacancies in LST. This school year alone, there have been six elementary schools with 5.0 FTE total that have had LST postings that have gone unfilled since September

## LSTs

- ❖ When the LAC and LST jobs were combined, there was a significant attrition. Many trained LAC teachers did not wish to do the combined duties, and vice versa, and so these teachers chose to leave their specialist position.
- ❖ We have a high number of teachers with graduate level training in Inclusive Education who currently teach in a classroom.
- ❖ The District has struggled to maintain LST staffing since the LST role became a combined one, and the attrition from this role, as well as positions going unfilled continues to be significant.

## Teaching Resources

- ▶ A wide variety of updated resources are needed in schools.
- ▶ Teachers cannot reasonably find all the resources needed simply by searching the internet and those resources they can find are not the high quality, purpose-made, audience appropriate resources that can be purchased.
- ▶ Beyond the subject based lessons, updated resources support teachers to meaningfully incorporate important social justice learning.

# Resources

- ▶ Textbooks - include extensive supports
- ▶ On-line resources
- ▶ Library books
- ▶ Classroom books
- ▶ Teacher Guides
- ▶ Resource kits - locally developed
  - ▶ Subject specific
  - ▶ Issue Specific

# How do the presented priorities fit with the strategic plan?



Student-Centred Education



Innovative Instruction



Welcoming and Inclusive Culture



Mental Health and Well-Being



Truth, Healing and Reconciliation



Environmental Stewardship