

NVPAC
North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council

c/o School District # 44 North Vancouver
2121 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver BC V7M 2K6
<http://www.northvanpac.org/>

4 April 2016

Trustee Christie Sacré, Chair,
Finance and Facilities Standing Committee
North Vancouver Board of Education

Re: 2016-17 Budget Development Process

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute the perspective of parents to the 2016-17 budget development process.

From our surveys and ongoing conversations with PACs and parents across the school district, the NVPAC has found that the top priorities for budget consideration remain consistent with those we identified as in need of increased funding during last year's budget discussions. The most commonly listed concerns are:

1. Better support for the different learning needs of all students, wherever they may lie on the educational spectrum. This includes:
 - more Education Assistant (EA) hours
 - more extensive and specialized training for EAs to assist the diversity of student needs in the classroom, including physical, cognitive and behavioural supports.
 - more specialist teachers, including Learning Support Teachers
 - more training for specialist teachers to ensure they have the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively address the wide range of student learning needs, as well as physical, emotional and behavioural challenges
 - more hours for Counsellors and Speech Therapists
 - more resources and time allocated for assessment, so that students requiring extra help can be identified as soon as possible
2. Increased funding for libraries and librarians, as well as music and art programs.
3. Safe, clean and healthy classrooms and school facilities, including more janitor time to dust and disinfect in classrooms.
4. Increased funding for technology and to equalize the advantage amongst schools.

Sincerely,

NORTH VANCOUVER PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



Amanda Nichol
Chair