



April 28, 2015

Ref: 179626

Eric Yung, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 38 (Richmond)
Email: eyung@sd38.bc.ca

Dear Dr. Yung:

Thank you for your letter of January 26, 2015, addressed to the Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education, regarding strike savings for the month of September 2014. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf and I apologize for the delay.

In May 2014, the Minister of Education advised British Columbia's boards of education and school districts that 20 percent of strike savings would be left with boards in recognition of additional costs incurred at the district level as a result of job action, and boards retained these funds for the two-week period in which public school teachers were on strike prior to the end of the school year. Your District's portion of retained strike savings up to August 31, 2014, amounts to more than \$1,455,000.

When the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) job action continued throughout the summer months, government developed the Temporary Education Support for Parents (TESP) program to pay eligible parents \$40 per day, per child (12 and under), to provide families educational opportunities for their children should job action continue into the new school year.

The TESP program was funded using all school district identified strike savings starting September 2, 2014, from categories including: teacher salary and benefits; staffing and staff replacement; utilities; transportation; professional development; travel; and supplies.

On September 12, 2014, Ministry of Education staff emailed all school districts advising that while job action continued, the Ministry would be reclaiming all strike savings, beginning with the September 2014 funding reporting period. BCTF job action ended September 19, 2014 and schools re-opened on September 22, 2014.

School districts were advised that Ministry staff would work with any school districts experiencing particular financial difficulty as a result of the strike, on a case-by-case basis, to recognize reasonable incremental costs and net revenue losses, factoring in the district's financial situation.

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School districts that submitted claims for reasonable incremental costs have been notified of the amount the Ministry offset against strike savings recoveries.

I appreciate that your Board of Education and all school districts are making great efforts to provide the highest quality public education for your communities in a fiscally responsible way. If you require further information, please contact Deborah Fayad, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division, at: Deborah.Fayad@gov.bc.ca or 250-356-2588.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Byng', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dave Byng
Deputy Minister

pc: Monica Pamer, Superintendent
Mark De Mello, Secretary-Treasurer