

January 8, 2016

The Honourable Mike Bernier  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045 Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bernier:

The Board of Education (Richmond) will shortly be embarking upon preparing a balanced budget for the 2016/17 school year in accordance with the requirements of the School Act. Our district continues to face the impact of declining enrollment, inflationary pressures and unfunded salary increases, all of which will require significant budget reductions. In recent years, we have had to make cuts totaling over \$15 million, most of which have had to involve reductions in staff. These staffing reductions have resulted in untenable workloads, declining morale and an inability to provide the desired levels of service to our parent and student community.

The requirements of Budget 2015 would see a further \$25 million of targeted administrative cuts for school districts for the 2016/17 fiscal year. This will mean another \$900,000 in staff cuts in Richmond, a burden that will stress our system even further. We believe that we are at a time where the ability of the organization to sustain current levels is in jeopardy, and that even further administrative cuts will push administrators past the breaking point. We urge you to recognize that the constant budget reductions are not sustainable, and that services to students are inevitably affected. Please rescind the requirement for school districts to make these unwarranted cuts.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Debbie Tablotney, Chairperson  
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

cc Superintendent of Schools  
Stakeholder Presidents  
Richmond MLAs  
House Leader, Official Opposition  
Education Critic, Official Opposition  
BCSTA - For Distribution

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