

January 26, 2015

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

Dear Minister Fassbender:

At the public meeting of January 19, 2015 the Board of Education (Richmond) unanimously resolved to bring to your attention our extreme disappointment and concern over the withholding of operating grants from school districts, and the use of those grant funds for the Temporary Education Support for Parents program.

Richmond alone has lost close to \$7.5 million in funding this year (about 4% of our operating budget), and system-wide the impact on the K-12 education sector is immense. These funds should remain in the sector, and should be used as one-time funding for projects such as the PLNet network infrastructure upgrade which will benefit all districts in the province. Alternatively, the funds could be returned to school districts with a requirement that they be used for such special projects as Boards of Education see fit. This would align with the co-governance role of locally elected Boards, who are entrusted with managing funding.

Both options would ensure that funding that has been allocated for K-12 education as part of the provincial budget continues to benefit the sector, instead of the current use of the funds for a use that is outside the mandate of the Ministry of Education. We respectfully request that the provincial government retain education funding for educational purposes so as to preserve that mandate.

Sincerely,



Dr. Eric Yung, Chairperson
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

cc Richmond Board of Education
Superintendent of Schools
Secretary Treasurer
Richmond MLAs
House Leader, Official Opposition
Education Critic, Official Opposition
BCSTA - For Distribution

Board of Education:
Eric Yung - Chairperson
Debbie Tablotney - Vice Chairperson
K. Hamaguchi Jonathan Ho Sandra Nixon
Donna Sargent Alice Wong