

April 27, 2015

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

Dear Minister Fassbender:

The Board of Education (Richmond) is working towards preparing a balanced budget for the 2015/16 school year, in accordance with the requirements of the School Act. Through prudent fiscal management, our district would have been able to offset the impact of declining enrollment and inflationary pressures to balance the budget with only reductions in the number of enrolling teachers. However, despite the fact that district administration is a mere 2.9% of our overall budget, the directive to reduce "administrative costs" across the sector has resulted in the need to generate an additional \$1 million in budget cuts, most of which involve staff reductions.

The Board, together with our stakeholder groups the Richmond District Parents Association, CUPE Local 716, the Richmond Association of School Administrators, Richmond Teachers Association and the Richmond Management and Professional Staff is writing this joint letter to you to express our concern and dissatisfaction with these additional imposed budget cuts, and the infringement upon the autonomy of locally elected school boards. We also presented together to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, which recommended that the provincial government adequately fund K-12 education in recognition of the evidence that costs are exceeding funding allocations.

In Richmond we have made cuts totaling over \$15 million in recent years, and the impact on all of us is immense. We continue to provide the best service we can to our students, because our focus will always be on the learner, but the capacity of the system is being sorely strained.

Board of Education:

Eric Yung - Chairperson

Debbie Tablotney - Vice Chairperson

Ken Hamaguchi Jonathan Ho Sandra Nixon

Donna Sargent Alice Wong

The requirements of Budget 2015 would see a further \$25 million of targeted cuts for school districts next year. This will mean another \$900,000 in staff cuts in Richmond, a burden that will stress our system even further. 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,



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



Al Klassen, President, Richmond
Teachers' Association



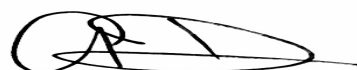
Darlene Shandola, President, Richmond
Association of School Administrators



Ross McLuskie, President, CUPE Local 716



Anne Chen, President, Richmond District
Parents Association



Anita Doig, Co-Chair, Richmond
Management & Professional Staff

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