



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

August 21, 2020

Honourable Rob Fleming

Ministry of Education

PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

E: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Fleming,

On August 19, 2020, our Board of Education met in a Special Meeting to discuss the Vancouver School Board's K-12 Restart Plan for September. This meeting followed a Trustee workshop held on August 17, 2020 at which all aspects of the Restart Plan were discussed, including:

- Supporting school staff in using outdoor spaces for learning
- Consideration of clubs, extracurricular activities and student connections
- Classroom ventilation
- Communication with parents and VSB staff
- Students' food programs
- Online learning options for elementary students' and their connection to/place at their school
- Coordination with out of school care
- Maximizing physical distancing in school and on school grounds
- Use of masks in schools
- Ensuring adequate provincial funding for students

At the Special Board meeting the Board adopted a multi-topic motion addressing many of these matters. Included in that motion were two directions for the Chair to write to you, namely:

- The Chair of the Vancouver School Board write to the Minister of Education to advocate for the following COVID-specific needs:
 - 1701 data collection monthly beginning September 30th
 - Additional funding to expedite improvements to all indoor classroom spaces to meet minimum ventilation requirements, to maximize ventilation and fresh air flow, and to avoid air recirculation, including, but not limited to ensuring that all windows open
 - Provisions to ensure physical distancing is in place for all elementary students.

Board of Education Trustees:

Janet Fraser – Board Chair

Carmen Cho – Vice-Chair

Fraser Ballantyne Lois Chan-Pedley

Estrellita Gonzalez Oliver Hanson

Barb Parrott Jennifer Reddy Allan Wong

- The Chair of the Vancouver School Board write to the Minister of Education advocating for full funding and flexibility to create an elementary hybrid model for families who choose to continue to educate their children at home which allows students to remain connected to their school community though the COVID 19 pandemic and in the event that the Ministry does not support the hybrid model the District would not penalize families who do not wish to send their children back to school by taking placements away.

On behalf of the Board of Education I respectfully submit these requests to you. There is a strong belief by Trustees that given the uncertainties around what school will look like in September, particularly for elementary students, further direction from the Ministry is required to give families an extra layer of confidence for their children's safety. Funding for identified improvements in ventilation as well as physical distancing will help address the concerns of parents and guardians.

The Board does appreciate receiving the \$3.5 million Safe Return to School Grant and our hope is that this grant could be reviewed to include additional allocations for ventilation and physical distancing.

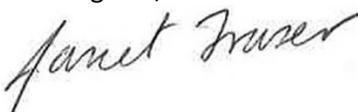
Another concern shared by Trustees is the number of students, particularly elementary students, who will return to in-class learning. The Board feels the flexibility provided by an elementary hybrid model for families who choose to continue to educate their children at home would also help alleviate the fears of parents and guardians.

In addition, because some families may choose to wait to return to in-class learning the Board requests that the 1701 data collection process should occur monthly. There is no mechanism in the current funding allocation model to get funding for a student if they return after September 30, 2020.

Finally, I want you to know that the Board of Education also unanimously passed a motion to support the District's proposed K-12 Restart Plan. Our Board very much appreciates the work of District staff and stakeholders in developing our Restart Plan.

I thank you for your attention to these matters and I look forward to your reply.

With regards,



Janet Fraser
Board Chair

cc: VBE Trustees
Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent
J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer