

April 16, 2021

Stephanie Higginson, President

BC School Trustees Association
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Dear Ms. Higginson,

At the public meeting of the Vancouver Board of Education held on February 22, 2021 the Board passed the following motion:

That the BCSTA advocate for the reinstatement of the Chief Educator role at the Ministry of Education.

This motion was forwarded to BCSTA for consideration at the April 2021 BCSTA Annual General Meeting, but unfortunately, the motion was submitted after the deadline in January 2021 and the Legislative Committee has deemed that the motion does not meet the criteria of a Late Motion. Therefore, we are respectfully submitting this motion to the BCSTA Board for your consideration as you begin the strategic planning of your advocacy work for the upcoming year.

In this past year, school boards have faced extreme challenges in the face of the pandemic. As school districts worked with the Ministry of Education to implement various strategies, an addition of a Chief Educator on the Ministry of Education's team would have been a valuable asset during the planning process. As the Ministry of Education may not be fully aware of how schools and districts operate on a day-to-day basis; this role could have assisted in better policy, planning and realistic strategies during this unprecedented time.

The Chief Educator role is an important conduit between the Ministry of Education and British Columbia K-12 school districts. Some key responsibilities for the Chief Educator role may include:

- Providing a trained, expert and professional educator connection and conduit for the Ministry of Education to K-12 school districts and vice versa.
- Bringing advocacy and social capital related to relationship building through various stakeholder groups such as BCSTA, BCPVPA, BCTF, BCSSA, CUPE and BCPSEA.

Board of Education Trustees:

Carmen Cho – Board Chair,
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- Bringing awareness of societal issues in school districts (related to MCFD, Indigenous learners, food insecurity, childcare, etc.), best practices and school operational 'know how' and providing valuable input to the Ministry's goals and plans.
- Providing perspective, guidance and strategic know how related to such topics as curriculum development, bargaining and student well-being.

Ideally this position would sit at the Ministry's Executive table along with the Ministry of Education executives in order to be a part of the decision and policy making discussions.

This secondment at the Ministry of Education is currently not in place and has not been in recent years. The last time this role was filled by a full-time person with senior level management and Superintendent experience was when Suzanne Hoffman had the role prior to her accepting the Superintendent position at VSB.

The role of a Chief Educator would allow for a greater connection between BC school districts and the Ministry thereby allowing for improved communication. The role can assist the Ministry in ensuring it does everything it can to continue to empower BC to have one of the best education systems in the world.

With regards,



Carmen Cho
Board Chair

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