

October 14, 2016

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
c/o Parliamentary Committees Office
Room 224, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Sent by email

Dear Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services,

The Delta Board of Education thanks the Select Standing Committee for its "Report on the 2016 Budget Consultations" in particular for the recommendations on funding for K-12 Education. We believe these recommendations are as applicable today as they were one year ago, in particular, the recommendation on administrative staff compensation.

In our October 2015 submission to the Select Standing Committee, we spoke to research showing the benefits to global communities of higher levels of education and how our District Vision reflects that belief. We also advised of the strong alignment between the changing BC Curriculum and our District Goals arising from our Vision. These Goals are centered on three main Vision themes; Student Engagement, Student Sense of Belonging and Connectivity, and Preparing Learners for their Future. In the first half of 2016 we undertook a Re-Visioning initiative to assess the continuing relevance of our Vision, including our successes and where we need to work harder. Trustees, staff, students, parents and the community at large participated. The results showed continued support for our Vision, identified where we have made progress and helped to identify where we still have more work to do. We currently have the energy and desire to deeply engage in this work, and connect and embed it into the Provincial Education Transformation initiatives.

In our October 2015 submission, we also spoke to the sources of funding, in particular, enrolment holdback funding and International Student Program funding, to fund learning improvement initiatives in Delta and how that learning contributes as we make strides towards our District Vision. Subsequent to that submission, we learned that, as a result of increasing provincial student enrolment, there was no holdback funding in 2015/16, and likely none for 2016/17 or potentially the foreseeable future. This creates additional pressures not only for Delta as we work towards our Vision, but the resulting reduction in resources means we have had to curtail some of our plans to meet our District Goals at the very time investment is most needed.

With regard to administrative staff compensation, we request that funding be provided to cover the cost of compensation increases for all staff on a go forward basis. While teacher compensation increases have been funded, there have been unfunded increases for both support staff and exempt staff in recent years. Although only teachers are covered by a provincial collective agreement, the reality is that teacher salaries have a significant impact on the compensation of all other employee groups, especially the compensation required to attract teachers to the administrative roles of Vice-Principal and Principal. While British Columbia has one of the top education systems in the world, funding of increases to support staff and exempt staff will free up funds to do even more.

We are in the middle of one of the most significant transformations in education ever undertaken in our District and in this Province. We are excited to be working with the Ministry of Education on our shared goals for our students so they fulfill their full potential as well-educated and well-trained citizens. The Delta Board of Education believes our public education system is the wisest investment we as a society can make for our collective future prosperity. Our request, through the Select Standing Committee, is that in order for our Board of Education to be able to continue to make multi-year goals and properly sustain them, a practice which is consistent with the recommendations in the recent May 2016 report *"Improving Budgeting and Expenditure Management in the Public Education System"* from the Auditor General, the Delta Board of Education Trustees require stable, predictable ongoing funding. We are doing everything we can to ensure that our goals are achieved in Delta but we urge the Select Standing Committee recommend that the Ministry of Education be provided with the budget required to ensure that we can achieve our shared goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Sincerely,



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cc: Mr. Scott Hamilton, MLA - Delta North
Ms. Vicki Huntington, MLA - Delta South
CUPE Local 1091
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BCSTA for circulation to all Boards of Education