



SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

March 29, 2023

Hon. Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care
Room 124 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Hon. Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance
Room 153 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Hon. Ministers Singh & Conroy,

RE: Funding Resource Response Letter to the BCSTA

At the School District 5 (SD5), Southeast Kootenay public Board Meeting of March 14, 2023, the Board carried the following motion:

That the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education and Child Care and the Minister of Finance in support of the letters written by School District 83 on January 26, 2023, and School District 52 on September 28, 2023. This letter will address funding constraints districts are facing in the upcoming year. The letter will also address the response letter to the BCSTA from Minister Singh of February 10, 2023.

Our Board will not reiterate the concerns outlined in the school district letters – although we do share them. Rather, we wish to extend our support for the request made by School District No. 83 (SD83), North Okanagan-Shuswap, for government to increase the per student funding rates for the 2023/24 school year.

We also wish to extend our support for the request made by School District No. 52 (SD52), Prince Rupert, that the Ministry fund the increases to exempt staff pay grids, including those costs incurred when staff move to a higher step within the grid.

Doug McPhee (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Irene Bischler • Alysha Clarke
• Nicole Heckendorf • Chris Johns • Sarah Madsen • Wendy Turner

Our Board would also like to express our appreciation to the Ministry for their commitment to fully fund the provincially coordinated labour settlements with employee groups and for committing to work with the BC Association of School Business Officials (BCASBO) to gather information on the impact inflationary pressures have on the K – 12 education sector—and hopefully on strategies to mitigate these pressures so that Boards will not need to make detrimental cuts to the services we provide to students at the classroom level.

We look forward to receiving information on the results of your work with BCASBO as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Doug McPhee, Board Chair

Cc*: Hon. David Eby, Premier, Province of BC
Kevin Falcon, Leader, BC Liberal Party
Sonia Furstenau, Leader, BC Green Party
Tom Shypitka, MLA Kootenay East BC
Elenor Sturko, Critic for Education, BC Liberal Party
Karin Kirkpatrick, Critic for Child and Family Development & Childcare, BC Liberal Party
Carolyn Broady, President, BCSTA
BCSTA for distribution to member Boards of Education

School District 83 Board, c/o Marianne VanBuskirk, Board Chair
School District 52 Board, c/o Kate Toye, Board Chair
Clint Johnston, President BC Teachers' Federation
Chris Schultz-Lorentzen, President, BCCPAC
Shelley Balfour & Adrienne Demers, CFTA Co-Chairs
SD5 CUPE President
Lies Salvador, DPAC Chair
Aaron Thorn, President, SD5 Administrators' Association
Chris Walker/Corey Bullock, CBC Radio
Dennis Walker, 107.5 Today FM Radio
Wylie Henerson, Rewind Radio 102.9
Jeff Johnson, Wild B104 Radio
Josiah Spyker/Ryley McCormack, 107.5 Today FM
Barry Coulter/Trevor Crawley, Cranbrook Daily Townsman
Ian Cobb, e-know Online News

Doug McPhee (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Irene Bischler • Alysha Clarke
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Joshua Fischlin, Fernie Free Press

*This correspondence is public and transparent. Please feel free to share and/or respond with comment.

Doug McPhee (Chair) • Trina Ayling • Bev Bellina • Irene Bischler • Alysha Clarke
• Nicole Heckendorf • Chris Johns • Sarah Madsen • Wendy Turner

940 Industrial Road #1, Cranbrook BC, V1C 4C6 • Tel: 250.417.2055 • Fax: 250.489.5460 • www.sd5.bc.ca