



January 9, 2013

Ref: 164346

Peg Orcherton, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Email: sorcherton@telus.net

Dear Ms. Orcherton:

Thank you for your letter dated December 14, 2012, regarding two motions that were passed at the Greater Victoria School District Board meeting on November 19, 2012—one motion supporting new targeted funding for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 who present significant learning or behavioural challenges, and the other motion requesting additional funding to be added to existing funding for students with autism spectrum disorder or who have intensive behavioural intervention needs.

The Ministry of Education annually reviews the education funding formula through a Technical Review Committee comprised of a mix of school district superintendents and secretary-treasurers from both rural and urban districts, as well as Ministry staff members. I have noted your suggestions for changes to the Ministry's funding model and I will pass your request on to the Technical Review Committee for consideration in future adjustments to the funding allocation system.

During times of economic uncertainty, government continues to work with all school districts to provide the best possible education and support for all students. I recognize that it is challenging to meet all the financial pressures, but it remains the responsibility of locally elected trustees to establish priorities and to allocate funding for all students based on local needs. In this regard, British Columbia school districts are doing a good job in serving the needs of students.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to students in School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria). I look forward to meeting with you and members of your Board on January 10, 2013, to discuss funding pressures in your school district.

Sincerely,

Don McRae
Minister