

**Partner Group Budget Input 2017-2018**  
**Responses to November 30, 2016 Input Request**  
**From Parent Advisory Councils and Education Partner Groups**

**1. What areas should be given priority in order to support success for all learners?**

- Technology - glad of new supports for schools. Continued support/maintenance is crucial to continue to enhance training and to support schools financially to maintain it.
- Portable Classrooms – replace if possible or upgrade if not. Climate systems, water, bathrooms are important.
- Music/Arts-maintain District programs - help schools have some sort of music programming if they do not with a specialist
- Educational furniture – old desks need to go – tables/chairs or new unattached desks are conducive to collaboration/movement/learning
- Deeper level of learning support so students who are not designated with special needs have bursts of time/opportunities for specialized help so they can be successful (when needed) ie. they need short intervention. Continue with current levels of support
- Library
- Technology
- Extra-curricular – including instruction
- Classroom assistants/aids for learning
- Classroom supplies
- More counselling/YFC support
- Healthy snacks to sustain students throughout the day
- Funding for library books
- Staff-enough support for all learners
- Academic supplies, current books and learning materials in a variety of options to best meet varied learning needs
- Safe physical environment, includes proper heat and ventilation and natural light plus clean drinking water from fountains that meet safety standards
- Engaging physical environment that encourages children to learn through play including playground equipment that is in good condition, accessible, and challenging
- Speech Language Pathologist support in school and increased counselling support for all students
- Inclusion – Special Education, English Language Learning, gender/sexuality, immigrants/refugees (supports for all)
- Anti-capitalist, feminist, anti-patriarchal curriculum, decolonization and indigenization curriculum
- Art and music programs, more drama - budget to bring in outside – yoga, meditation, martial arts and athletics
- Playground funding
- More play based learning and creativity
- Alternative classroom and seating options for self-regulation
- Full time librarian accessible to teachers and students/would allow librarian time to help develop programs for teachers
- Physical Education – all students should get this daily PE specialist would also be beneficial
- Mindfulness education – teach kids to put away the technology
- Technology Education – support tech applications such as coding, graphics
- More support for kids with behaviour and development issues
- Health and wellness, mental health and nutrition
- Equity, ie cultural/gender diversity
- Facilities and resources across the district
- Provide clear information to students and parents regarding curriculum changes for smooth transition
- Student safety
- Increase Speech-language pathologists

**2. What areas do you feel progress is being made and should be continued?**

- Technology
- Continue to improve maintenance/building upgrades – reasonable costs for equipment installation.
- Sustainability/Recycling/Greening
- Aboriginal/First Nations Programming
- Schools of choice for strength based decisions

- Supporting low income families
- Reading support
- Hot lunch and breakfast programs
- Technology enhancements including access to the web
- Relationships with administration seem more positive this year
- Gender, gay/straight alliance in schools
- Arts and music programs at all levels
- Bullying message and strategies. How to look after each other. Continuing social emotional learning.
- Great teamwork in schools, collaboration, climate of schools
- Money towards aboriginal initiatives and education
- Calibre of teachers has been excellent
- Continue with seismic upgrade across all schools
- Inclusion of special needs students but more monies should be made available
- Speech-language pathology services

**3. How do you feel the budget process could be improved for greater public participation and ease of understanding?**

- Opportunities to know more and ask questions.
- Better education at middle and secondary levels.
- Set a clear process and communicate it easily in understandable language.
- Workshops and access
- It may be more successful to have people rank priorities (i.e. give 10 areas and have them identify or rank the top 5)
- Identify expenditure areas and request people to identify what they believe the percentage of expenditure in each area should be
- Summary report of current infrastructure needs with a 5, 10 and 25-year plan on how they are being addressed
- There is a depreciation in supplies that appears to be poorly understood i.e. athletic uniforms need to be replaced every 3-5 years with equipment a yearly expense. These costs should be better budgeted for especially given the mandate to keep our children healthy and active.
- School Board invite parents to a board meeting and inform about process of bringing topics forward.
- Reporting out to parents population
- We as parents are not aware of process at all - more visibility, more information actively pushed to the parents.
- Having increased accessibility for parents to be part of the process
- Greater transparency with the budget process. Is the information published, and if so where do we access the information.
- A fact sheet/brochure summarizing the budget would be most helpful
- Graphics showing where the money goes

**4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?**

- Province should be funding playgrounds as physical literacy is important
- In general, happy with our school. Our PAC funds many things though and there are lots of inequities between schools. We feel pretty lucky at our school.
- Too many cuts
- Parents certainly feel a great responsibility to fundraise to enhance budgets provided to the school in order to make sure that our children's learning and experiential needs are being met. While the demands on money increase, the ability to raise funds becomes more strained due to limited financial resources and availability of volunteers.
- Support the continued exploration of taking out discrimination in school dress codes
- We have concerns around inner-city school funding (lack of it). All public school kids (from Oak Bay to Esquimalt) should have the same opportunities.
- We feel VP hours should be based on the school, not a population of students - look at the socioeconomics and other factors.
- Priorities should be discussed. A priority should be on providing evidence-based best practices to the more vulnerable learners.