



BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)
556 BOLESKINE ROAD, VICTORIA, BC V8Z 1E8
PHONE (250) 475-4106 FAX (250) 475-4112

February 10, 2012

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
Province of British Columbia
PO Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V9W 9E2

Dear Minister Abbott:

Re: Class Organization Fund

The "Class Organization Fund" was proposed in October 2011 to "supplement existing resources, allow school-level planning for vulnerable learners and address complex class organization issues".

The Greater Victoria Board of Education estimates that our school district share of the proposed \$30 million Class Organization Fund provincial allocation for 2012/2013 would be approximately \$1.0 million. Given the fact that we have 48 schools, this would mean an increase of just under \$21,000 per school, which translates to approximately a 0.6 FTE educational assistant. Our students need more. Even in the year, 2013/2014, we would only be able to add 1.2 educational assistant FTEs or 0.5 FTE of a teacher. While we appreciate any extra funding, we are in need of more than what you are providing within the class organization fund for the next two years. When we project to the third year of the implementation of the class organization fund, we find, using today's dollars, that we still will not be able to afford two educational assistants at each school. Since we are assuming that there will be salary increases for both support staff as well as teachers, the class organization fund is not sufficient to meet our needs.

The Greater Victoria Board of Education supports any increase in public education funding that will provide for the appropriate resources required to ensure each student's educational success. We ask that you please reconsider the amount of dollars attached to the class organization fund so that we can truly make a difference in the education of our students.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P Orchardton".

Peg Orchardton
Chair

cc Christy Clark, Premier
Maurine Karagianis, MLA, Esquimalt-Royal Roads
Ida Chong, MLA, Oak Bay – Gordon Head
John Horgan, MLA, Juan de Fuca
Lana Popham MLA, Saanich South
Carole James, MLA, Victoria – Beacon Hill
Rob Fleming, MLA, Victoria – Swan Lake
Board of Education
BC School Trustees Association
Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
Victoria Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association
Greater Victoria Teachers' Association
Allied Specialists' Association
CUPE Local 947
CUPE Local 382
John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools
George Ambeault, Secretary-Treasurer