



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

June 18, 2012

The Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Abbott:

RE: School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Needs Budget

Each year School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) engages in a broad based consultative process requesting input from our educational partner groups, school planning councils and the public. Each year through our process, and the groups involved in our process, the same conclusion is reached. The Ministry of Education is not providing the level of funding needed to adequately address the growing fiscal needs of school districts in the province.

The district spends its funds efficiently and effectively but the gap continues to grow each year between what the district receives in provincial government funding and what is required to meet the educational needs of students in the Greater Victoria School District.

- The costs to provide adequate services for students with special needs are not fully recognized in the current funding level. The lack of sufficient funding means that resources are removed from the majority of students to prop up the inadequacy of special education funding.
- Annual funding increases have not provided for consumer price and cost of living increases leaving the school district with less funds to purchase supplies and services. Furthermore, expanded and new mandates of the education system have often not been funded.
- Provincial labour settlements have been only partially funded which reduces the funding available to support students in the classroom.
- The funding formula unfairly disadvantages districts with declining enrolment since operating expenses cannot be reduced as quickly as the funding declines.

The input received from the consultative process has expressed the need to focus resources on additional learning resources, teacher and support staffing. We have estimated that an additional \$48.5 million is needed to effectively address the diverse learning needs of our students.

The years of underfunding have eroded our ability to provide a robust quality education system. Additional funding is needed to ensure that our students receive the best education possible in the 21st century.

The Honourable George Abbott
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Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Orchardton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peg Orchardton
Chair

cc: Board of Education
John Gaipman, Superintendent of Schools

**Greater Victoria School District No. 61
Costing of Budget Submissions**

Proposed Needs Budget Additions:	Teacher FTE	Teacher Salary & Benefits	CUPE 947 FTE	CUPE 947 Salary & Benefits	TOTAL COST	
	FTE	\$	FTE	\$		
Classes of 20 or less K- Grade 3	4.00	\$ 383,275			\$ 383,275	
Classes of 24 or less Grades 4-5 (Elementary Schools) and Grades 6-8 (Middle Schools)	27.37	\$ 2,457,971			\$ 2,457,971	
No class with labs over 24	31.000	\$ 2,783,862			\$ 2,783,862	
No English/Socials class over 24	54.000	\$ 4,849,308			\$ 4,849,308	
For every 12 students with an IEP, 1.0 additional teacher and 2.0 additional EAs	171.750	\$ 15,423,494	343.500	\$ 13,352,312	\$ 28,775,806	
Additional full-time teacher and EA for every 70 ESL students	6.850	\$ 615,144	20.860	\$ 810,857	\$ 1,426,000	
Additional full-time teacher for every 70 Aboriginal students	12.350	\$ 1,109,055			\$ 1,109,055	
Library: A full time teacher librarian for every school, and two teacher librarians for schools over 800	26.900	\$ 2,415,674			\$ 2,415,674	
Counselors: A half-time counsellor for every elementary school and 1.0 counsellor for every 400 students for middle and secondary schools.	13.616	\$ 1,222,744			\$ 1,222,744	
0.5 Teacher Mentor for every school to work with beginning teachers	23.500	\$ 2,110,347			\$ 2,110,347	
School Wide Teaching and Learning Resource Budgets					\$ 650,000	
Speech Language Pathology Assistants			7.200	\$ 279,874	\$ 279,874	
TOTAL Proposed Needs Budget Additions	371.337	\$ 33,370,872	371.560	\$ 14,443,043	\$ 48,463,915	see Note
Note: 1) The estimated total cost does not include additional facilities and supplies costs related to the proposed increase in FTE staff.						
Note: 2) The Learning Improvement Fund has not been taken into consideration in this proposal.						
Note: 3) The budget costing reflects the input received from the consultative process with our educational partner groups, school planning councils and the public.						