



# BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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December 14, 2012

Via email [minister.educ@gov.bc.ca](mailto:minister.educ@gov.bc.ca)

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

Dear Minister McRae:

At our November 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 meeting, the School District 61 Board of Education passed the following two motions.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) provide the new Minister of Education, Don McRae, with an advocacy letter requesting new targeted funding for students in grades K to 3 who present with significant learning or behavioural challenges, before they become a priority for psycho-educational assessment and Individual Education Plan support. Additionally, this letter be sent to the Leader of the Opposition, Adrian Dix and to the Education critic, Robin Austin.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write an advocacy letter to the Minister of Education, Don McRae, requesting additional funding to be added to existing funding for students with designations on the autism spectrum (A.S.D) or with intensive behaviour. Additionally, this letter be sent to the Leader of the Opposition, Adrian Dix and to the Education critic, Robin Austin.

As you are aware, early intervention is critical for the success of students who present learning and behaviour challenges in the primary grades. We request new targeted funding for primary students who demonstrate significant learning and behaviour challenges in their initial years in school. Additionally, we request a funding increase for both students on the autism spectrum and students designated with intensive behaviour. Properly supporting students with special needs is essential for a strong public education system.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Orchardton".

Peg Orchardton  
Board Chair

cc: Adrian Dix, Leader of the Opposition  
Robin Austin, Education Critic