



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Trustees: Catherine Alpha, Tom Ferris, Elaine Leonard
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SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)
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September 9, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Mr. Michael Marchbank, Public Administrator
BC Public School Employers' Association
#400 — 1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.

Mr. Jim Iker, President
BC Teachers' Federation
100 - 550 West 6th Avenue,
Vancouver B.C. V5Z 4P2

Dear Sirs:

Re: Arbitration Call from the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

The current ongoing and protracted labour dispute between the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) needs to be resolved as soon as possible.

Our Board has previously sent letters to Premier Christy Clark, Minister of Education Peter Fassbender, BCPSEA and the BCTF expressing our concerns about fairly negotiating wages, benefits, and class size and composition and urging proper and full funding from the Ministry of Education. We have called for mediation in this dispute and we along with parents, teachers, support staff, students and members of the public continue to be frustrated and dismayed by the continued impasse at the bargaining table. Our Board's focus is straight forward; we want our students back in their classrooms at the earliest opportunity -- our students need and deserve their right to quality public education.

We believed that a mutually negotiated settlement was in the best interest of the parties. When that process reached impasse we called for mediation. As mediation also now appears to be at an impasse, we are again looking at how we can get our students back into their classrooms with their teachers. It is our Board's view that you each need to do whatever it takes to resolve this dispute and to get students back into our schools.

At the board meeting on Monday, September 9, 2014 our Board passed the following motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) publically calls upon the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association to agree to binding arbitration without preconditions on either side in the current labour dispute between the British Columbia Teachers' Federation and the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association. And, further that any cost associated with an arbitrated settlement be borne in totality by the British Columbia Provincial Government and that no costs are down loaded to British Columbia Boards of Education.

To ensure that our students continue to benefit from a robust public education system, Government must take full financial responsibility for all costs arising from bargaining.

We sincerely hope that the escalating rhetoric and public posturing will cease from all parties and that you each will step back and put the needs of students first.

Yours truly,



Peg Orchardton
Board Chair

Cc Board of Education
The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier
All BC School Boards, c/o BCSTA
Greater Victoria Teachers' Association
GVSD Unions and Associations
Sherri Bell, Superintendent of Schools
Debra Laser, Secretary-Treasurer
Media