



Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

Chair: Ryan Painter Vice-Chair: Tom Ferris
Trustees: Nicole Duncan, Angie Hentze, Elaine Leonard,
Diane McNally, Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters, Ann Whiteaker

January 25, 2022

Premier John Horgan
Minister of Education Whiteside
Minister of Children and Family Development Dean

BY EMAIL: Premier@gov.bc.ca
BY EMAIL: EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca
BY EMAIL: MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Horgan, Minister Whiteside and Minister Dean;

On February 21, 2013, the Greater Victoria Board of Education emailed Premier Clark the following motion that had carried unanimously at its meeting of February 18, 2013:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter of endorsement to the Premier Christy Clark and the Leader of the Opposition Adrian Dix supporting the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning, otherwise known as the \$10/Day/Child Care Plan.

On December 13, 2021, the Greater Victoria Board of Education passed the following motion to re-affirm its position with respect to the motion carried in February of 2013:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write to re-affirm its endorsement of the \$10 a day Childcare Plan including the inclusion of early learning and childcare being brought under the Ministry of Education; AND FURTHER that the Chair write a letter to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Family Development urging this change and the necessary capital investment and on-going operating funding to create childcare space on school district property.

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

One *Learning* Community



The Board acknowledges the significant work that the province is doing to facilitate access to affordable childcare spaces and in affirming the Board's commitment to the \$10 a day plan, the Board is signalling its ongoing desire to work with the Province of BC to bring about the development of more spaces in our school district.

As such, the Board welcomes the inclusion of early learning and childcare under the auspices of the Ministry of Education. We acknowledge that early childcare incorporates important aspects of early learning opportunities including exposure to language, individual and group exploration, and prescribed learning outcomes. Access to early learning includes the added benefits of increasing school readiness, supporting social and emotional learning and health, and the foundation of communication skills.

The cost of implementing such a program is considerable and while it is the hope of the Greater Victoria Board of Education that the province moves to expedite bringing early learning and childcare under the Ministry of Education, the District requires the Ministry fund the necessary capital investments and on-going operational funding to do so. This will allow us to continue the important work of creating childcare spaces on school district property.

Yours sincerely,



Ryan Painter
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Board of Education
Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent
Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

One *Learning* Community

