

For Immediate Release  
Friday, April 29, 2016

## **DPAC supports the vote of the Vancouver Board of Education to reject the proposed 2016/2017 budget**

The Vancouver School District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) is the elected body which advocates for the parents and guardians of the 55,000 students enrolled in the Vancouver School District. Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) operating grants from the Ministry of Education are based on enrolment of just under 50,000 students this year (just under 49,000 for next year).

The proposed 2016/2017 budget contains a significant drop in non-enrolment services which the Vancouver Board of Education has been providing students and families for a long time. These services are part of the expected standard of the education being offered in Vancouver.

Whereas DPAC understands that it is the responsibility of the Vancouver Board of Education to be a prudent steward of the funds provided by the Ministry of Education, DPAC believes that savings should not be taken from the revocation of existing services. Further, because DPAC has not seen evidence that there are \$37 million of long-term savings to be extracted from reducing inefficiencies at this time, we can not support the position of the Ministry of Education that costs at the Vancouver Board of Education are unreasonable. Statistics Canada reports that BC

DPAC holds the position that the ministry of education is responsible for properly funding education in BC and allocating the necessary funds for each district. We understand that the Vancouver Board of Education has no control on the funding formula used to allocate the money the spend. The money is provided by the government of British Columbia.

DPAC believes that the trustees of the Vancouver Board of Education are responsible to the people of Vancouver to provide a functional education system which meets the expected standards of the people who elected them. It is clear that the balanced proposed budget fell far short of this standard in the eyes of the overwhelming majority of Vancouver parents, voters, and taxpayers who voiced their views during the budget review process.

On this basis, the Vancouver School District Parent Advisory Council supports the Vancouver Board of Education's rejection of the budget and thanks them for taking this brave position.

-The Executive Council of the The Vancouver School District Parent Advisory Council

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