



BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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August 6, 2015

Teresa Rezanoff, President
BC School Trustees Association
4th Floor 1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 5K9
Email: teresa.rezanoff@sd51.bc.ca

RE: 2015 B.C. CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS - MEMBER RESOLUTIONS

Dear Ms. Rezanoff,

At the 2015 BCCPAC Annual General Meeting, member delegates representing Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and District Parent Advisory Councils (DPACs) gathered together from around the province to discuss important issues vital to student success and approved several resolutions.

At this time, we would like to bring to your attention the following resolutions; we kindly ask that you review these resolutions **listed in Section A** and provide a written response indicating steps you are prepared to take to address the concerns expressed. We also welcome an opportunity to discuss the resolution in person with your organization at your earliest convenience.

Section A:

2015.21 Proper Funding for Quality Public Education in B.C

BCCPAC insist on the Government's commitment to an immediate significant increase in grants to School Districts in B.C., which directly address the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services' five recommendations for K-12 Public Education in B.C. - Nov. 2014 (pgs.24-25) which read as follows:

22. Provide stable, predictable, and adequate funding to enable school districts to fulfill their responsibility to provide continued equitable access to quality public education, and to meet required repair and maintenance needs.
23. Provide adequate capital funding to school districts for facility improvements, seismic upgrades, and additional schools in rapidly growing communities.
24. Provide support for proposed new K-12 initiatives such as personalized learning and enhanced trades and technology training.
25. Provide resources to identify and address the growing number of students with special needs and those with minimal English language skills.
26. Restore the separate library line item in the Ministry of Education budget for public libraries, and commit to stable, ongoing funding.

2015.22 Reflective Clothing Recommendations

BCCPAC advocate for guidelines that require reflective material on all outerwear that is supplied to students by Districts for school sponsored programs.

2015.27- Gender Identification

BCCPAC call on the Ministry of Education to allow students to select and use their preferred gender and name on district documentation and in the classroom.

2015.28 – Seismic Upgrades Needed for Schools

BCCPAC call on the Ministry of Education to fully fund repairs and replacement of all British Columbia schools that have deemed 'high risk' and in need of seismic upgrades by 2020.

In addition we have listed the following resolutions (Section B) passed by our membership that may be of specific interest to your organisation and you may wish to comment on:

Section B:

2015.13 Reaffirmation of Resolution 2007.6: Prohibition on Asbestos Removal

This resolution (2007.6) was approved in 2007, and to date has not been acted upon by the Ministry. At this time we request this old but highly relevant resolution be brought forward to the 2015 BCCPAC Annual Meeting for reaffirmation.

The original resolution reads:

2007.6 Prohibition on Asbestos Removal

That BCCPAC request the Minister of Education to issue a Ministerial Order prohibiting asbestos removal in schools except in emergency situations when asbestos cannot be covered, contained, or sealed. Also, such emergency removal must never take place during "in-session time" unless students have been evacuated from the premises and kept off site for several weeks after removal. Prior to re-entering the school, air quality testing using state of the art technology must be performed so as to ascertain the absence of risk to students.

2015.14 Reaffirmation of Resolution 2008.22: Construction Guidelines

BCCPAC advocate for the development of guidelines for construction during periods when students occupy a school.

2015.17 Transfer of Special Needs Supports and Adaptations to Post Secondary Institutions

BCCPAC strongly urge the Ministry of Education to enter into a process with the Ministry of Advanced Education to create a clear and systematic way for graduating students with IEPs to have their adaptations transitioned to the post-secondary school(s) of their choice.

2015.18 Advocating for Systemic and Cultural Change

BCCPAC advocates for systemic and cultural change in our schools to reflect the principles of sustaining passion for learning, building on strengths and addressing challenges.

2015.19 Transitional Support for Systemic Change

BCCPAC advocates for additional resources including support services for school staff whenever substantial systemic change is being implemented.

2015.20 - Funding for Private Schools

BCCPAC insist that the government redesign its funding formula for independent schools to remove the unfair advantages inherent in its current policy by doing the following:

1. Only include the funding amounts for English Language Learners, Aboriginal Students, Adult Learners and Vulnerable Students (associated with poverty) **if** the independent school actually has equivalent proportions of properly identified students in those categories enrolled.
2. Remove the public school's declining enrolment supplement from the base amount used to calculate the per student grant for independent schools.
3. Only fund distributed learning programs to the 50% (Group 1) or 35% (Group 2) base standards used for independent school grants.

2015.23 – Regulation of Special Education Assistants

BCCPAC advocates for the creation of an organization similar to the Teacher Regulation Branch to oversee and regulate the conduct of Special Education Assistants.

2015.24 – Standards for Special Education Assistants

BCCPAC advocates for provincially mandated standards and practices for Special Education Assistants and similar support staff that include training, conduct and discipline processes.

2015.25 – Reaffirmation of 1998.2 Retribution

BCCPAC promote the development of policy and procedure in collaboration with schools and school districts to ensure that students and parents will not experience retribution when bringing their concerns forward to school district staff.

2015.26 – Outdoor Play Structures

BCCPAC call on the provincial government to provide new funds to cover the full cost of accessible outdoor play environments and equipment for new and replacement schools and for schools where existing equipment is deemed unsafe.

2015.28 – Seismic Upgrades Needed for Schools

BCCPAC call on the Ministry of Education to fully fund repairs and replacement of all British Columbia schools that have deemed 'high risk' and in need of seismic upgrades by 2020.

We have included a compilation of all the approved resolutions from our 2015 Annual General Meeting for your interest.

If you have any comments or questions about how to respond, please direct them to info@bccpac.bc.ca

Sincerely,



Nicole Makohoniuk, BCCPAC President
On behalf of the BCCPAC Board of Directors
nicolemakohoniuk@bccpac.bc.ca

Enc.