



May 26, 2015

Ref: 180930

Betty Baxter, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
Email: bettybaxter@dccnet.com

Dear Ms. Baxter:

Thank you for your letter of March 23, 2015, regarding the administrative savings targets for British Columbia's public education system that were announced in *Budget 2015*.

While I respectfully acknowledge your Board's perspective, I am sure your Board recognizes that the new collective agreements with teachers and support staff provide important and significant investments into our public school system in each of the coming three years, and this in the context of declining student enrolment.

I appreciate your Board's perspective, and recognize Sunshine Coast School District's accomplishments to date that demonstrate its resourcefulness and innovation in reducing costs locally.

I also acknowledge that finding efficiencies is not always easy, but the savings expectations are reasonable, realistic and similar to what the Province has seen in the health and post-secondary sectors. To respond specifically to your letter's request, we will not be altering our course to have school districts achieve administrative savings in the coming two years. The K-12 education sector has already made good progress in savings efforts to date, particularly through shared services implementation, and I am confident that school districts have the expertise to identify new administrative and structural savings without impacting classroom instruction. The Ministry will continue to work closely with all school districts to support these efforts.

I appreciate that your Board of Education and all school districts are making great efforts to provide the highest quality public education for your communities in a fiscally responsible way. If you require further information, please contact Deborah Fayad, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division, at: Deborah.Fayad@gov.bc.ca or 250-356-2588.

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Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Fassbender', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Fassbender
Minister

pc: Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat