



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Delivered via email: K12fundingreview@gov.bc.ca

February 28, 2018

Reg Bawa
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education
Government of BC

Dear Assistant Deputy Minister Bawa,

RE: Funding Model Review – Draft Principles Feedback

The Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) appreciates the opportunity to participate in the K-12 Funding Model Review. We have discussed the draft principles extensively within our district, as well as had an opportunity to provide feedback through BCSTA Provincial Council.

The commentary from our board can be summed up under the following:

- Equitable: We have concerns with the heading “Equitable”, regarding the bullet which reads “Allocations should result in measured improvements and with demonstrated accountability for results”. What is the accountability measure for results? Funding should be delivered based on student needs, and reflect student learning over student achievement.
- Special Education Funding: School districts in BC spend, on average, double the amount they receive to support students with special needs. Districts do this by using general funding, provided for basic programming, to hire additional special education teaching and support staff. Some districts, such as School District No. 46, have a significantly higher proportion of their students requiring additional supports, which can either place pressure on general operating budgets, or lead to inequitable service levels. The resulting potential for failure in properly serving students with special needs may lead to human rights violations and broader societal costs in the long term.
- New Curriculum: The past funding allocation for focused staff support in curriculum implementation was greatly appreciated. It is important to recognize the direction of the new curriculum focuses on engaging students in *learning*, and will need to be

supported as such in order to support all learners in the dynamic new world. As the new curriculum will continue to that the principles reflect the direction of the new curriculum changes to learning.

- Capital Funding: New, improved processes for accessing capital funding need to be addressed. School districts across the province have aging facilities, many beyond their useful life. Districts are also trying to respond to diverse physical student needs as well as curriculum requests to make buildings more welcoming. Also, as districts endeavor to reduce their carbon footprint, access to capital funding to improve environmental sustainability would be greatly appreciated.

Once again, we would like to reiterate that any funding principles be based on student needs and reflect student learning over student achievement.

Sincerely,



Lori Pratt
Board Chair

cc: Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
Patrick Bocking, Superintendent of Schools
Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer
Louise Herle, SCTA President
Janice Budgell, CUPE Local 801, President
Nicholas Simons, MLA, Powell River-Sunshine Coast
All Boards of Education, via BCSTA