



August 24, 2015

Ref: 182230

Michael Nedelec, Chair
Parent Advisory Council
General Wolfe Elementary School
School District No. 39 (Vancouver)
Email: michaelnedelec@shaw.ca

Dear Mr. Nedelec:

Thank you for your letter of May 15, 2015, addressed to the former Minister of Education, Peter Fassbender, regarding education funding levels and technology acquisition for schools. I apologize for the delay in my response.

I appreciate your stating your concerns; however, it is important to recognize that education was one of only a very few areas to receive a significant funding increase in Budget 2015. It is a mark of the government's strong commitment to education that Budget 2015 delivered an additional \$421 million for public schools alone, including a 33 percent increase to the Learning Improvement Fund. K-12 education received the largest funding increase next to health services.

Total funding to school districts will exceed \$5 billion for the 2015/16 school year—an increase of 31 percent since 2000/01. That is \$1.2 billion more per year to public schools despite the enrolment decrease by more than 75,000 students since then. Over this period, the K-12 system has continuously delivered some of the best educational outcomes in the world.

In March 2014, the Ministry began a three-year project, jointly funded by the school districts and the Ministry, to upgrade the Provincial Learning Network used by all public schools. The project will enable access for students and teachers across the province and will provide more efficient Internet connectivity. District responsibilities continue to include making technology investments based on local priorities to support classroom instruction and personalized learning initiatives.

School districts receive annual operating grant funding allocated based on student enrolment levels, as well as targeted funding for specific programs. Boards of education have the flexibility and autonomy to make spending decisions based on district priorities.

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If you have any further questions, please contact Deborah Fayad, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division, at Deborah.Fayad@gov.bc.ca or (250) 356-2588, who will be pleased to speak with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bernier". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mike Bernier
Minister