

VIA Email:

From: Marysia McGilvray <marysiamcgilvray@gmail.com>
Date: May 21, 2024 at 7:35:37 PMPDT
To: Dave Stevenson <DStevenson@wvschools.ca>, Carolyn Broady <CBroady@wvschools.ca>, Lynne Block <LBlock@wvschools.ca>, Nicole Brown <NBrown@wvschools.ca>, Felicia Zhu <FZhu@wvschools.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Please Stop the Dissolution of the Bowen Island Community School coordinator Position

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Hello WVSD board of trustees,

I am writing to echo Emily van Lidth de Jeude's letter to you all (please see below). It is imperative that you keep the Community School Coordinator position at Bowen Island Community School. The programs and community connections that the children and community benefit from will be lost without this position to make them happen.

Beyond that, who will administer use of the community school facilities? Dumping all these tasks on current administrative staff seems unrealistic and disrespectful.

And this is to say nothing of the person who currently has the CSC position, Sarah Haxby, who has served the BICS children and the whole Bowen Island community in such a passionate, selfless, and dedicated way for a very long time through this position (and beyond).

It is my hope that you rethink the dissolution of this position. Getting rid of it will cause a deficit of culture, learning, and connections for the children of BICS and the entire community who connects with BICS.

Sincerely,
Marysia McGilvray
Bowen Island

Emily's letter:

To the WVSD board of trustees,

Please take very seriously our community's plea to retain the position of community school coordinator, which has been central to our community's vitality for generations--and yes, it still is!! We're a small community, and the coordinator position is what makes community resources (human and otherwise) available to a school population that might otherwise be under-served because of our distance from the resources of the mainland. Our coordinator brings community members in to engage the students with valuable activities and projects. She brings the students out to engage with their community in all kinds of deeply meaningful activities, and creates community programming at the school, giving the wider community both a means of connecting

with each other, and with the education of our children. The community supports the school because the coordinator inspires that connection. To take away this position would not only impoverish the school population, but also our island as a whole.

I grew up on Bowen Island, myself, attended Bowen Island Community School, as well as Sentinel, have raised my own children here and also been involved as a community art and wilderness educator, offering programs that have benefited BICS children, sometimes in connection with the school. I have also reached out to the coordinator to invite school-groups to various events on the island, which she has often accompanied. I have also worked on the mainland with schools that do not have a community school coordinator, and feel very strongly that the connections made possible by the coordinator are an important part of a healthy education. Instead of discontinuing the position at BICS, WVSD should be instituting it at mainland schools. WVSD could be an example of great education, especially considering the direction of the new curriculum. This position is visionary, and should be preserved and highlighted.

Thank you for hearing me,
Emily van Lidth de Jeude



Rockridge Secondary School PAC
5350 Headland Drive
West Vancouver, BC
V7W 3H2
Via email

June 6, 2024

The Honourable Rachna Singh
Minister of Education & Childcare
P.O. Box 9179
Stn. Prov Gov't
Victoria BC V8W 9H8

Dear Minister Singh,

I am writing on behalf of the parents of Rockridge Secondary School to convey concern regarding the negative impacts of the current funding model as it impacts medium sized school districts with lower enrolment growth.

West Vancouver School District is challenged under the current funding model, as enrollment numbers are neither growing nor declining significantly. As such, our district does not benefit from increased funding support provided through growth, nor are we eligible for funding protection or supplemental funding provided in situations where enrollment is in decline.

In attending school district meetings, it is clear that although the increase in operating grants reflect annual salary lifts, they do not take into account overall inflationary pressures. In these situations, districts like West Vancouver are perpetually facing reductions in program supports and resources to balance the budget. The potential impact of reductions to specialty programs, mental health supports and services for diverse learners could negatively impact outcomes for many of our students and is an area of concern for many parents in our school community.

We urge you to consider the challenges faced by school districts like ours, who are negatively impacted by the inequity inherent in the current growth model of funding. We request that an inflationary adjustment or change in the funding formula be considered to ensure that all school districts can sustain the programs and supports that are necessary for continued student success.

Sincerely,

Kelly Richter
Chair, Rockridge Secondary Parent Advisory Council

cc: Honorable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance
Board of Education, West Vancouver Schools
West Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council
Principal Trevor Kolkea, Principal - Rockridge Secondary School



West Vancouver DPAC
1075 21st Street,
West Vancouver, BC
V7V 4A9
Via email

June 14, 2024

To: Honourable Minister of Education and Child Care Rachna Singh

Dear Minister Singh,

The West Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council is writing to address critical issues related to the sustainable funding of our School District's budget.

As you are aware, adequate funding is essential to support the programming and infrastructure necessary for our students' success.

Our School District faces challenges as it is neither experiencing significant growth nor a decline in student enrollment. This status presents distinct financial constraints the current funding model must address adequately. The inflationary costs of maintaining quality programming and infrastructure are rising, yet our funding has yet to keep pace. This disparity threatens the quality of education and the safety of our facilities.

The 2018 Report on the Funding Review Model Panel emphasized the importance of improving equity and accountability within the funding formula. One of its key recommendations was to ensure that districts like ours receive fair and adequate funding. Implementing these recommendations is crucial for maintaining the high standards of education and infrastructure that our students deserve.

We urgently and earnestly request that the funding model be revised for the 2025-26 school year to ensure all districts can sustain programs and support student achievement. The time for action is now.

Sincerely,

Maria Bird and Tanja Imhoff



Co-Chairs

West Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council