



Burnaby District Parent Advisory Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parents Against Education Funding Cuts

Burnaby DPAC anticipates difficult decisions during budget process ahead

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Burnaby, BC - As district budget consultations begin, parents are voicing frustration at the level of funding to public education in the province.

At the Burnaby DPAC meeting February 23, school representatives unanimously agreed to "take a position against the education funding cuts" announced in the Provincial Budget.

"The biggest concern is the \$83 million in 'administrative efficiencies' that government expects districts to cut over the next two years", says Jen Mezei, Burnaby DPAC Chair. "In the last couple of years, our district has been proactive in its approach, finding administrative cost savings and generating revenue with increased international student enrolment so that programs have been saved and cuts have been minimized in our classrooms. I don't know how many times we can pull that rabbit out of a smaller and smaller hat..."

This concern was voiced at the DPAC meeting as well, with representatives unanimously "asserting that school districts should not be penalized by provincial funding cuts if they have already found savings in administrative efficiencies".

"How are we going to cut an already stressed budget?" Mezei asks. "The level of funding provincially has not been able to provide BC students with the level of resources and support that parents want. Districts across the province are facing tough decisions during budget consultations this year. As parents, it is upsetting to see our kids' education and future taking a back seat to other Provincial Budget priorities".

About Burnaby DPAC

The Burnaby District Parent Advisory Council, known as Burnaby DPAC, represents the interests of Burnaby parents in the public education system. The Burnaby DPAC is an advisory and advocacy council made up of representatives from PACs in Burnaby School District #41, and is the recognized voice of parents at the district level.