



Burnaby District Parent Advisory Council

5325 Kinkaid Street, Burnaby, BC, V5G 1W2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parents Against Chronic Underfunding of the BC Public Education System

Burnaby DPAC says "good news" budget presentation is not really "good news"

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Burnaby, BC - As district budget consultations continue, parents are voicing frustration at the level of funding to public education in the province regardless of the fact that Burnaby is not facing budget cuts this year.

At the Burnaby DPAC meeting April 4, school PAC representatives unanimously agreed to voice concern over the total of almost \$10 million in cuts to staffing, resources, supplies and services from the Burnaby district budget compared to five years ago.

"We feel that our district is fiscally well managed and are aware that although we are feeling the cuts in Burnaby, it could be much worse" says Jen Mezei, Burnaby DPAC Chair. "But the "good news" in this budget presentation is not really "good news" when you take five years and nearly \$10 million in budget cuts into context. These cuts are due to the chronic underfunding of the education system and this is not just a Burnaby problem, it is a provincial issue. Many parents from all parts of the province are seeing cuts in their children's classrooms and in services and supports to their children".

This concern was voiced at the DPAC meeting as well, with representatives unanimously asserting the need to advocate for an increase in Ministry of Education grants to school districts in BC, and for the government to implement the recommendations for K-12 Public Education in BC made by the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services report in Nov 2014 that were again brought forward in their report Nov 2015. These include:

- Provide stable predictable, and adequate funding to enable school districts to fulfill provide continued equitable access to quality public education, and to meet required repair and maintenance needs
- Provide adequate capital funding to school districts for facility improvements, seismic upgrades, and additional schools in rapidly growing communities
- Provide support for proposed K-12 initiatives such as personalized learning and enhanced trades and technology training
- provide resources to identify and address the growing number of students with special needs and those with minimal language skills

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.

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