



SCHOOL DISTRICT No.69 (QUALICUM)

August 28, 2020

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

via email: minister.educ@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Fleming:

The Board of Education of School District 69 Qualicum was pleased to hear Prime Minister Trudeau announce on August 26, 2020 that \$2 billion in federal funds would flow to the provinces and territories in support of a safe reopening of schools this fall, with \$242.4 million of that targeted for British Columbia.

We were equally pleased to hear your announcement, Minister, on the same day, that parents would be supported with home based learning without having to transfer to distributed learning or withdraw from school and register for home schooling. We will, of course, encourage all families to have their children attend school, but we understand that parents also need choice. As you stated, "we understand that there are families who for medical health or other reasons don't feel comfortable yet having their children back in class . . . it is my expectation that school districts will be flexible . . . will work with families to provide options to keep children connected to their school community, and that is why I have directed school districts to contact all families in their school communities to share their safety plans and confirm if their child is attending school or if they will require a remote on-line learning option."

Our Board has already asked parents to advise the school if they need to have their children remain at home for reasons of concern for family health and well-being. Approximately 12% of our families have indicated that they have a need for that home support and they appreciate not having to withdraw from the neighbourhood school to register with DL or as home schoolers. We understand that we cannot expect classroom teachers to teach in the hybrid environment of June; therefore, we will be assigning additional teachers the primary responsibility of serving as home support contacts for children learning from home. Those teachers will liaise with classroom teachers to ensure that the children being supported at home, whether by parent choice for family health reasons or for reasons of illness, symptom monitoring or required isolation, are staying connected to their classes, teachers and classmate.

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We have two requests at this time Minister:

- 1. That the portion of federal funds that will be made available to public schools be distributed on a per capita student enrollment basis;**
- 2. That school districts be provided with the autonomy to direct those funds to areas of greatest need including both health and safety measures and additional staffing to support home based learning.**

We thank you for your continued support during these difficult times and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Eve Flynn, Board Chair

c: Board of Education, SD69
Dr. Keven Elder, Superintendent of Schools, SD69
Mr. Ron Amos, Secretary Treasurer, SD69
BCSTA
BC Boards of Education (via BCSTA)
Local Media

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