



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

July 11, 2019

The Honourable Rob Fleming

Minister of Education

PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Carole James

Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier

PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria BC V8W9E2

Mitzi Dean (MLA)

Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity

#104-1497 Admirals Road

Victoria BC V9A2P8

Dear Minister Rob Fleming, Minister Carole James and Mitzi Dean (MLA),

Subject: Funding to Install and Supply Free Tampon and Pad Dispensers in BC Schools

At the most recent Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA), our membership passed the following resolution requesting additional funding in order to install and supply free feminine hygiene products in BC's schools:

That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance and the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity provide funding to all school districts to purchase and supply free tampons, pads and other menstrual products in girls' and universal bathrooms in schools throughout the province, and to purchase, install and maintain dispensers and disposal bins. Be it further resolved that BCSTA commend the Minister of Education for the April 5, 2019 Ministerial Order requiring all BC public schools to provide free menstrual products for students in school washrooms by the end of 2019. And that BCSTA acknowledge the advocacy work of Dr. Selena Tribe and the United Way's Period Promise campaign.

As outlined in the motion, we wish to formally commend the Minister of Education, Rob Fleming, for his work in enduring that free menstrual products be made available to all of BC's students. We also would like to share our appreciation for the dedicated efforts of Dr. Selena Tribe and the United Way's Period Promise campaign. Providing students with regular access to basic hygiene products in our schools sets an example that other provinces will surely follow.

The costs of purchasing and installing both the dispensers and disposal units, as well as the products themselves, will have an impact on the budgets of BC's school districts. We now ask, on behalf our of membership, for full funding to be provided to districts in order to maintain the promises of support we have made to our students regarding this issue should current allocations not fully cover final costs.



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This is an important issue with far reaching consequences, some of which are outlined in resolution's rationale, which outlines that supplying these products to students free of charge "will ensure fair, equitable access of all genders to basic toiletries and hygienic products required to support normal bodily functions; remove stigma and cost barriers that impede the ability of menstruating students to fully participate in school activities; and help all students feel their bodies are valued, dignified and normal."

Thank you for considering the request outlined above. We look forward to any future dialogue on this important issue that you might consider. Your support in bringing the various provincial government ministries together in support of this important initiative is critical to any future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Higginson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephanie Higginson

President

British Columbia School Trustees Association

Enclosure: Original motion rationale (please note, final resolution was amended as presented in the letter)

10. Funding to Install and Supply Free Tampon and Pad Dispensers in BC Schools

Category: Students

Submitted for Consideration at: AGM 2019

Submitted by: SD 40 (New Westminster)

Motion as Adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance and the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity provide funding to all school districts to purchase and supply free tampons, pads and other menstrual products in girls' and universal bathrooms in schools throughout the province, and to purchase, install and maintain dispensers and disposal bins. Be it further resolved that BCSTA commend the Minister of Education for the April 5, 2019 Ministerial Order requiring all BC public schools to provide free menstrual products for students in school washrooms by the end of 2019. And that BCSTA acknowledge the advocacy work of Dr. Selena Tribe and the United Way's Period Promise campaign.

Motion as Presented:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA request the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance and the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity provide funding to all school districts to purchase and supply free tampons, pads and other feminine hygiene products in girls' and universal bathrooms in schools throughout the province.

Rationale:

The motion is needed to support the ability of school districts to support the basic hygiene requirements of menstruating students by purchasing tampons, pads and other feminine hygiene products and making them available in girls' and universal bathrooms in schools in the province. Some districts may also wish to install and maintain tampon and pad dispensers in girls' and universal bathrooms. Supplying these products to students free of charge will: ensure fair, equitable access of all genders to basic toiletries and hygienic products required to support normal bodily functions; remove stigma and cost barriers that impede the ability of menstruating students to fully participate in school activities; and help all students feel their bodies are valued, dignified and normal.

Reference(s):

SD40 Reports and Documents re: Menstrual Initiative Update

Please log in to the BCSTA Hub to open the following link and access the "Motion Background Information" folder:

https://bcstahub.org/EmailNotificationLink.po?handle=4611903&name=Advocacy_Letters

This is an action motion and does not change or contradict any existing Foundational or Policy Statement.