



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

July 11, 2019

The Honourable Katrine Conroy
Minister of Children & Family Development
PO BOX 9057, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W9E2

The Honourable Adrian Dix
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Judy Darcy
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
PO Box 9672, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9P6

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

Dear Minister Katrine Conroy, Minister Judy Darcy, Minister Adrian Dix
and Minister Rob Fleming,

Subject: Funding for Mental Health and Wellness Initiatives for Districts

At the most recent Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA), our membership passed the following resolution requesting that BCSTA call on your various ministries to establish new, sustained and targeted funding for school districts and representatives of your ministries to use in an effort to improve mental health and wellness initiatives:

That BCSTA call on the Ministries of Health, Mental Health and Addictions, Children and Family Development and Education to create new, sustained and targeted funding for school districts to work with local representatives of these Ministries to develop action plans and support the delivery of mental health promotion, mental illness prevention and early intervention in BC schools.

Promoting positive mental health strategies in schools is an important initial step in providing support for those students who suffer, often in silence. Being proactive, and developing strategies that promote the importance of acknowledging mental health issues, and removing the stigmas surrounding them, are integral to ensuring future generations of students are equipped with the skills they need in order to become successful members of our society.

Early intervention in these areas is of high importance. Establishing long-term plans and secure, stable funding is paramount to maintaining any improvements we make along the way. As indicated in the resolution's rationale, "Without targeted funding and action plans, any initiatives will not become part of the culture and direction of boards. These programs need new money to be attached to them so their costs do not divert money from educational programs."



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We are grateful for the recent announcement regarding 'A Pathway to Hope' and look forward to working together on improved mental health supports for students across BC. We also acknowledge and support the present funding to support mental health initiatives in five pilot school districts. Our hope is that such funding can be expanded to all districts as soon as possible as the benefits would certainly be seen across the province.

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

9. Funding for Mental Health and Wellness Initiatives for Districts

Category: Students

Submitted for Consideration at: AGM 2019

Submitted by: Vancouver Island Branch *and* SD 62 (Sooke)

Motion as Adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA call on the Ministries of Health, Mental Health and Addictions, Children and Family Development and Education to create new, sustained and targeted funding for school districts to work with local representatives of these Ministries to develop action plans and support the delivery of mental health promotion, mental illness prevention and early intervention in BC schools.

Motion as Presented:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA call on the Ministries of Health, Mental Health and Addictions, Children and Family Development and Education to create new, sustained and targeted funding for school districts to work with local representatives of these Ministries to develop action plans and support the delivery of mental health promotion, mental illness prevention and early intervention in BC schools.

Rationale:

This motion is needed because motions passed in 2018 were urging the creation of these programs. Without targeted funding and action plans, any initiatives will not become part of the culture and direction of boards. These programs need new money to be attached to them so their costs do not divert money from educational programs.

Reference(s):

[2018 BCSTA AGM Motions 13 \(Support for Mental Health\), 14 \(Mental Health Strategy for BC Schools\) and 18 \(Gender-Based Violence Strategy for Youth\)](#)

[BC School Centred Mental Health Coalition](#)

[BC Children's Hospital Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre](#)

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

This motion relates to Policy Statement 4.6.1P (Coordination of Services).