



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

December 11, 2020

The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside

Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2
educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Whiteside,

Subject: Review of BCSTA Provincial Council Motions and Priorities

On behalf of the sixty member boards of education of the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA), I would like to congratulate you on both becoming a Member of the Legislative Assembly and the Minister of Education. We are certainly looking forward to working with you and your staff to advance initiatives of common interest and to tackle issues of importance to the K-12 education sector. Strengthening our co-governance relationship for the betterment of student outcomes will remain a key priority for us.

Your effort to speak to trustees directly at the very beginning of your term in office is both recognized and appreciated.

I also look forward to meeting with you in the near future to share details about BCSTA's priorities for 2021. Our members continue to identify and reflect on key issues of importance, including:

- Improving student outcomes and equity across the province.
- Student resilience and mental health, especially in light of the pandemic.
- Successful implementation of the B.C. Tripartite Education Agreement.
- Sustainable funding for current programs and district priorities.
- Improving and growing our capital infrastructure.

BCSTA members come together at least three times each school year to identify, discuss and prioritize a number of emergent issues of importance to boards of education. Please find attached the motions passed at the October meeting of our Provincial Council, which identify a variety of issues and objectives for BCSTA. While we have had the opportunity to discuss these motions in general terms with your staff, I look forward to hearing from you, as well as Deputy Minister Scott MacDonald, on how we might best address the identified issues.



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The K-12 education sector is facing unprecedented challenges at this time, but I am confident that we can provide the students, families and communities we serve with world-class opportunities and services by working together. While we may not always share the same perspective or opinions about pathways, I am confident we already have common motivations and goals that put students at the forefront of everything we do.

Our executive and our member boards look forward to working with you in the months ahead and discussing in detail the priorities, concerns and objectives we will each put forward. Thank you for reviewing the information we have provided, and emphasizing your commitment to work in partnership with boards of education and BCSTA.

Yours truly,

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: BCSTA October Provincial Council meeting motions

CC: Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister
BCSTA member boards of education