



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

February 3, 2021

The Honourable Selina Robinson

Minister of Finance

PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Robinson,

Subject: Public Sector Executive Wage Freeze

At the October 24, 2020 meeting of the BCSTA Provincial Council, representing all 60 boards of education in our province, our members passed the following motion:

“That BCSTA advocate to the BC Public School Employers’ Association, Public Sector Employers’ Council and the Ministry of Finance to exempt the K-12 sector from the Public Sector Executive Compensation Freeze Policy.”

During the summer of 2020, Carole James, then Minister of Finance, announced a public sector executive compensation freeze policy. In comparison to this ask, the bargaining units in the K-12 sector achieved wage increases of 2% per year through to 2022.

BCSTA’s membership perceives that requesting a compensation freeze when we actively ask leaders in public education to work more and take on additional duties they were formally never assigned in response to this pandemic is inequitable.

While we certainly appreciate the financial impact that COVID-19 has on British Columbia’s budget, we also wish to highlight the success we have had in keeping schools open and safe for students and staff during this time of crisis. The K-12 sector has not only kept schools operating safely during a pandemic, limiting learning loss and minimizing the damage done to student learning while doing so, but has also contributed to a functional economy by keeping this important public service operational.

Due to these considerations, we ask that executive leaders, having played a critical role in preserving public education during this crisis, not be excluded from performance-driven wage considerations.



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Thank you for considering this request on behalf of our member boards of education, as well as the districts and communities that they serve.

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

Motion: P1202010.3

CC: Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside
John Davison, President and Chief Executive Officer, Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat
Alan Chell, Board Chair, BC Public School Employers' Association
Deborah Stewart, Executive Director, Corporate Services and Communications, BC Public School Employers' Association
BCSTA member boards of education