



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

June 7, 2022

The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside

Minister of Education and Child Care

PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Whiteside,

Subject: Attributes of a BC Graduate Review Process

At the British Columbia School Trustees Association's most recent annual general meeting, our membership, representing all 60 boards of education in B.C., passed the following resolution:

"That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care, along with sector partners, establish a process to review and refresh the 'Attributes of a BC Graduate' and that the review be commenced in the 2022/2023 school year."

The current expectations of graduating students in B.C. are rooted in language and anticipations based on three-decade-old views. They do not reflect the current societal norms and expectations placed on young people, nor the challenges they face that were not applicable or envisioned in years past. A particularly notable example can be found in recent actions supporting Truth and Reconciliation, which are not directly reflected in the current guidelines.

The present attributes focus on intellectual, human/social and career development and do not reflect our current societal needs and priorities. More than ever, students are expected to have a broader understanding of globalization and the impact humans have on one another beyond our borders.

We have spent considerable time focusing on seeking equity in our communities and teaching our youth about how their actions impact the world. The amount of connectivity and subsequent responsibility today's youth have is a radical departure from what was presented to similarly aged students over 30 years ago. I strongly encourage you to review the enclosed motion rationale for additional detailed examples.

In response to this, B.C.'s boards of education ask that the Ministry of Education and Child Care and relevant K-12 partners create a review process during the 2022/23 school year that will enable future updates to the "Attributes of a B.C. Graduate."



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Our association looks forward to contributing to the processes outlined above as we work together to review and assess any potential changes to our expectations of future graduates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Broady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Broady
President
British Columbia School Trustees Association

Motion: A20229

Enclosure: Original motion rationale

CC: Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care
Melanie Stewart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care
Ray Velestuk, President, BC Association of School Business Officials
Allan Reed, Executive Director, BC Association of School Business Officials
Chris Schultz-Lorentzen, President, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
John Gaipman, CEO, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
Darren Danyluk, President, BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association
Kevin Reimer, Executive Director, BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association
Teresa Downs, President, BC School Superintendents Association
Claire Guy, Executive Director, BC School Superintendents Association
Teri Mooring, President, BC Teachers' Federation
Tyrone McNeil, President, First Nations Education Steering Committee
Deborah Jeffrey, Executive Director, First Nations Education Steering Committee
BCSTA member boards of education
Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA
BCSTA Board of Directors

9. Attributes of a BC Graduate Review Process

Category: Educational Programs

Motion #:	9 : A20229	Sponsor:	SD 44 (North Vancouver)
Meeting:	AGM 2022	Action:	<i>not specified</i>
Category:		Outcome:	Letter to be drafted (April 28)
Disposition:	Carried		

Motion as Adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care, along with sector partners, establish a process to review and refresh the 'Attributes of a BC Graduate' and that the review be commenced in the 2022/2023 school year.

Motion as Presented:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA request that the Ministry of Education and Child Care, along with sector partners, establish a process to review and refresh the 'Attributes of a BC Graduate' and that the review be commenced in the 2022/2023 school year.

Rationale:

Given the social, cultural, technological, and environmental challenges facing our province, country and the world, the Ministry of Education should engage in a consultation process to review and refresh the 'Attributes of a BC Graduate'. Since 1989, we have seen extreme changes in the world impacting how we live together locally and globally. As such, students of today face local and global challenges that were not of consideration at the time the 'Attributes of a Graduate' was written. Issues of truth, healing and reconciliation, urbanization, climate change, equity, inclusion, as well as the ethical use of technology and social media are challenges that were not in the minds of our community in 1989. The Graduate of today needs to be a 'Citizen of Humanity' with insight and dispositions that consider our shared needs as much as the individual needs. The 'Attributes of a BC Graduate' (The Educated Citizen) situates the Individual's achievement at the core with little expectation into care for the environment, Indigenous rights, equity, and inclusion. The current Mandate for Public Schooling was written in 1989, and the Attributes of a BC Graduate stem from a province-wide consultation related to the Mandate. Like any consultation process, the results reflected the concerns and needs of that time. In 1989, the process was rooted in three key goals of public schooling: Intellectual, Human and Social, and Career development. The context and meaning provided to each of these goal areas reflects the values of BC citizens in 1989. If our job is to create thoughtful world citizens who can reason ethically, and embrace collaboration and interdependence, we ask for a timely review and refreshing of 'Attributes of a BC Graduate', and related consideration for the Mandate for Public Schooling published in 1989.

This review could help inform the Enhancing Student Learning Reporting Order 302/20 which was put in place in August 2020 and took effect on September 1, 2020. The Policy outlines requirements for both the ministry of education and boards of education.

Any successful implementation of a policy or plan should incorporate a process for review, assessment, reflection, and amendment. Both parties should have an opportunity to reflect on the goals of the framework and review to see if the



mandated report and other requirements meet that goal. The review will enable boards to share feedback with the ministry regarding improvements that could be made to the reporting requirements in the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning.

Reference(s):

[Framework for Enhancing Student Learning](#)

[Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education and BCSTA](#)

[Enhancing Student Learning Reporting Order](#)

[Program Guide for Graduation Transitions](#)

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

This motion relates to Foundational Statement 4.1FS (Purpose of Public Education).