

Statement by the Burnaby School Trustees

The seven School Trustees that serve on the Burnaby Board of Education wish to present their perspective on the current labour dispute between the Teachers (BCTF) and their employers represented at the bargaining table by BCPSEA

We wish to state our commitment to:

- a fully funded public education system for all school aged children in British Columbia; and
- the right of teachers to a freely-negotiated contract.

To date, we have unanimously voted to communicate our position to the government in a number of different ways, ensuring that we represent well, the views of our school communities. Please see below the various steps we have taken this year alone.

Date	Items
January 14, 2014	Board Chair Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Urges the Minister to implement the recommendations of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services and provide sufficient education funding.○ Encourages the government to achieve a freely-negotiated contract with unions.
February 14, 2014	Letter to the Minister requesting the government: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Withdraw the appeal of Justice Griffin's decision.○ Negotiate a stay of implementation of the 2002 collective agreement provisions to provide stability.○ Provide adequate funding so districts may return to compliance.○ Continue negotiations in good faith.
April 9, 2014	Public Consultation – Budget 2014-2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Call on the Provincial Government to stop the rhetoric and properly fund public education.○ To show leadership and reverse the acrimonious climate of labour relations.○ To negotiate a contract with a fair wage increase and address the recent court decision on class size and composition, once and for all.

Date	Items
April 22, 2014	Board Chair Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Present budget reductions and difficult decisions. ○ Request the Minister properly fund education and again to reverse the acrimonious climate of labour relations. ○ Address Justice Griffin’s decision on class size and composition.
April 24, 2014	Meeting with Burnaby MLAs.
April 24-27, 2014	Support for BCSTA motions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Return trustee governance to BCPSEA. ○ Provide full funding for increasing costs, (Hydro, MSP, etc.), any costs related to class size and composition and ministry initiatives. ○ Additional Special Ed funding, including supplemental funding for “grey area” students. ○ Provide full funding for approved capital projects, including seismic. ○ Bargaining to continue during the summer to achieve a resolution before the start of the 2014/2015 year. ○ Remove the language of essential service in legislation regarding public education.
April 30, 2014	MLA Kathy Corrigan responds to various questions on education in parliament as a result of meeting with Trustees.
May 6, 2014	Preliminary 2014/2015 annual operating budget submitted to the Ministry, with a list of budget reductions (\$2.9 million/27 FTE, in addition to \$1.6 million/9 FTE to fund support staff salary increases under the Cooperative Gains Mandate)
May 7, 2014	Letter to the Editor, Burnaby Now, in response to letters: “Creativity Could Help Alleviate School Cuts” and “Why aren’t Kids in Public Schools?”
May 28, 2014	Letter to the Minister: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completion of a collective agreement without further disruption. ○ Provision of adequate resources to achieve a freely-negotiated settlement. ○ Poor communication of lockout details. ○ More discussions with the field.

Date
June 20, 2014

- Items**
- Letter to the Minister:
- Concern that negotiations between BCTF & BCPSEA are stalled.
 - Low staff morale, pressure on administrators, and extreme concern by parents & students for their educational future.
 - Disruption is putting the reputation of public education in jeopardy that can lead to irreparable harm.
 - Urge the Minister to appoint a special, mutually agreed mediator, to help expedite a negotiated settlement.

Please know that we respect and admire our teachers. This dispute has not been easy for them or their families. We wish to thank them for their dedication to their profession.

We play different roles in the school district but are all partners in education, existing only to provide quality learning opportunities for our students.

We remain committed in the belief that a freely negotiated contract for teachers is the most effective way of achieving stability in our schools.

SD41 School Trustees 2011-2014:

Chair - Baljinder Narang

Vice Chair - Ron Burton

Meiling Chia

Larry Hayes

Harman Pandher

James Wang

Gary Wong