

NEW BUSINESS
Public Session, Tuesday, September 10, 2013

1. BCSTA Provincial Council: Call for Motions

BCSTA has issued a call for motions to be presented at the next Provincial Council meeting to be held October 25-26, 2013. The deadline for submission of motions is Monday, September 23. BCSTA bylaw 7(m) requires that all Provincial Council motions must be of an emergent nature with emergent defined as “business that, if delayed until the Annual General Meeting, will impact negatively on boards’ ability to influence public policy, or a public education issue”.

A motion template is attached



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

Motion to Provincial Council

MOTION TITLE: [A BRIEF TITLE THAT CAPTURES THE MAIN POINT OF THE MOTION]

SUBMITTED BY: [BOARD OF EDUCATION NAME AND SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER; OR STANDING COMMITTEE NAME; OR BRANCH NAME]

BE IT RESOLVED:

That BCSTA

NOTES:

- 1. The motion should clearly indicate the action requested of BCSTA, rather than an action for some other body or organization.*
- 2. Wording should be as succinct as possible. Do not use "Whereas" statements. Instead, provide the required background information in the rationale statement below.*
- 3. Motions must be emergent – i.e. business that, if delayed until the Annual General Meeting, will impact negatively on boards' ability to influence public policy, or a public education issue.*

RATIONALE:

Provide a brief, succinct description of why this motion is needed, plus any relevant background information.

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2. Board Correspondence

The attached letters were issued during the summer at the Board's request and are brought forward for formal board approval:

- Letters to Kennedy Stewart MP and Peter Julian MP regarding recent decisions related to the operational model of Canadian Immigration Centres and implications of the current job action on the delivery of services
- Letter to the Minister of Education expressing the Board's concerns regarding some of the proposed changes to the International Education program
- Letter to the Board of Directors of BCSTA expressing the Board's concerns over the recent directions taken by BCSTA

Attachments - 4



2013-07-02

Kennedy Stewart, MP
4658 Hastings Street
Burnaby, B.C.
V5C 2K5

Dear Mr. ~~Stewart~~ *Kennedy*:

I would like to draw to your attention the serious implications of the current job action related to the delivery of services through the Canadian Immigration Centres. As you know, our School District and School Districts across the metro region are actively engaged in recruiting and placing International students within our schools each year. The welcoming of students from around the world enhances British Columbia's position as an International Centre, develops the 'international-mindedness' and global perspectives within our own students, and provides a significant source of revenue not only to School Districts, but also to the general economy of British Columbia.

Recent decisions related to the operational model of CIC in combination with current job action are having a significant impact on school districts ability to support the entry and placement of these wonderful students, planning to start their studies in Burnaby, British Columbia, or Canada in September 2013.

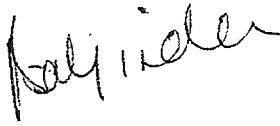
The closure of offices in Seoul, Korea and Berlin have resulted in considerable difficulties for the entry of students from Asia, including Mainland China, and throughout Europe. The current job action has disrupted the services that are necessary to enable current students to extend their study permits, allowing them to stay for another year, and is also preventing students from receiving their study permits to come to Canada to begin their studies.

This situation is creating a great deal of uncertainty and anxiety within our International student community and will result in students seeking their educational experience in countries other than Canada. This has the potential to undermine our well-established and highly-regarded program in Burnaby and negatively impact our financial position that supports teaching positions for our staff.

I wanted to apprise you of this situation and its impact on our School District, as representative of the impact that is being felt in all School Districts in British Columbia.

Your support in helping address the issues would be most sincerely appreciated. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions, or clarification you may need in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Baljinder Narang".

Baljinder Narang
Board Chair

cc: Alan Chell, President BCPSEA
Teresa Rezansoff, President BCSTA
BCSTA Boards of Education
Kathy Corrigan, MLA Burnaby-Deer Lake
Richard T. Lee, MLA Burnaby North
Raj Chouhan, MLA Burnaby-Edmonds
Jane Jae Kyung Shin, MLA Burnaby-Lougheed



2013-07-04

Peter Julian, MP
7615 Sixth Street
Burnaby, B.C.
V3N 3M6

Dear Mr. Julian:

Peter

I would like to draw to your attention the serious implications of the current job action related to the delivery of services through the Canadian Immigration Centres. As you know, our School District and School Districts across the metro region are actively engaged in recruiting and placing International students within our schools each year. The welcoming of students from around the world enhances British Columbia's position as an International Centre, develops the 'international-mindedness' and global perspectives within our own students, and provides a significant source of revenue not only to School Districts, but also to the general economy of British Columbia.

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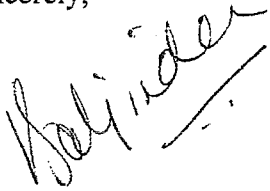
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Your support in helping address the issues would be most sincerely appreciated. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions, or clarification you may need in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Baljinder". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Baljinder Narang
Board Chair

cc: Alan Chell, President BCPSEA
Teresa Rezansoff, President BCSTA
BCSTA Boards of Education
Kathy Corrigan, MLA Burnaby-Deer Lake
Richard T. Lee, MLA Burnaby North
Raj Chouhan, MLA Burnaby-Edmonds
Jane Jae Kyung Shin, MLA Burnaby-Lougheed



2013-07-04

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Ministry of Education
PO BOX 9058 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

Re: 2013 K-12 International Education Regional Roundtables

The district was pleased to participate in the International Education Regional Roundtable meeting on March 14, 2013. The Burnaby Board of Education has a number of concerns regarding several of the recommendations contained in the documents distributed. These documents included the K-12 International Education Strategic Framework & Plan, the Draft K-12 International Education Operations for a Quality Assurance Model, the Draft Semester in BC Requirement, and the Draft K-12 International Education Financial Models.

Along with many other school districts in this Province, Burnaby's Board of Education has embraced the government's initiatives to encourage Boards of Education to generate revenue and become more entrepreneurial. We understood that the government supported these successes that generate revenue to support these valuable programs and services.

The district is concerned about the changes to the annual Financial and Marketing reports to the Ministry. The district has concerns that as part of the reforms, international students were to be treated separately from the regular student body, a practice that this district does not support. The district's students are all treated equally, are regulated by the *School Act* and all expected to abide by our Code of Conduct and district policies and procedures. The documents distributed at the roundtable meeting mentioned limiting the percentage of international students in a school's population, setting thresholds for some linguistic groups and setting maximum and minimum tuition fees to be charged. These matters raise a number of concerns regarding the district's ability to continue effective management of our programs.

Most concerning, under the new proposal, was the suggestion of a per student payment to the Ministry. The district then becomes a funding source for the Ministry. This would contradict the

concept and spirit of Board revenue generation. The proposal also contradicts the intent of the report by the BC Progress Board, established by the BC Liberal government in July 2001, *The Role of International Education: Expanding Student Opportunity and Economic Development in British Columbia*, recommendation 4 says that the government must: "Support the international education sector's role in regional economic development" and recommendation 7 emphasizes that it is imperative to: "Minimize policy and procedure impediments to the entrepreneurial activity of both public and private sector international education providers."

The district has a highly successful international education program that has been achieved through over 11 years of building excellent services to international students and their families. The district has a tremendously positive reputation internationally as a result of the many hours of human and material resources dedicated to the development of the program. The international initiatives have created jobs for many teachers and support staff and have helped to enrich our educational programs and provide services that have resulted in Burnaby students achieving outstanding academic results.

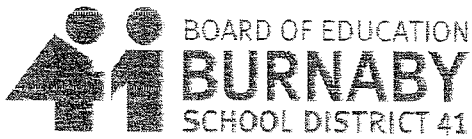
The Board respectfully requests that your Ministry reconsider making the proposed reforms and ask that Boards continue to be allowed the freedom to implement their international education programs, without new restrictions.

Sincerely,



Baljinder Narang
Board Chair

cc: Alan Chell, President BCPSEA
Teresa Rezansoff, President BCSTA
BCSTA Boards of Education



August 7, 2013

BCSTA Board of Directors
BC School Trustees Association
4th Floor -1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.
V6J 5K9

Dear Teresa and the BCSTA Board of Directors:

I am writing on behalf of the Burnaby Board of Education, School District 41 to express our deep concern for the recent directions that the Board of Directors seem to be taking this summer and the recent actions of the Minister of Education Peter Fassbender in suspending the Board of Directors for BCPSEA and replacing them with public administrator Michael Marchbank.

We understand BCSTA to be the Province's Trustees advocacy organization that is intended to represent and advocate to government the views of Boards of Education across the province. As local Boards of Education, we have entrusted BCSTA to be our voice to the government; and to advocate on our behalf for policies that affect public education as well as the importance of elected representation. Recently it seems as though the BCSTA has taken on the role of representing government's views to its membership and even assisting and advocating in implementing government policy. This is a new approach for the organization and seems to signal that BCSTA is intent on changing its role from advocacy to a watered down view of co-governance – one that appears to be merely advisory.

We believe that the BCSTA Board of Directors do not have the mandate in either policy or legislation to directly co-govern with the government. If there are discussions about a changing role for the BCSTA with government, we request these be brought before the full membership of the association for debate so that a sound strategic direction is developed that results in a true, statutory co-governance model like the model that has been successful with BCPSEA.

For Boards of Education, the ability to set direction for the accredited bargaining agents (BCPSEA) collectively as employers on provincial issues is critical to maintaining statutory co-governance with government. To do otherwise is to risk handing over to provincial government a significant portion of our rights, responsibilities and autonomy as employers.

The Minister of Education Peter Fassbender's recent suspension of the elected Board of Directors of BCPSEA and the appointment of a public administrator, Michael Marchbank to carry out their duties, are of deep concern to us. However a bigger concern has been the lack of a

public statement by BCSTA defending BCPSEA or protesting their suspension. It is crucial that the role of Boards of Education as co-governors be advocated for publicly. If the government is determined to continue on its current course, then in anticipation of potential future changes to legislation and new structures in teacher collective bargaining, the BCSTA Board of Directors should still be advocating that the new model include Boards of Education in a true statutory co-governance relationship. To this end we offer the following suggestions:

- The BCSTA lobby government to reinstate the Board of Directors of BCPSEA and operate within the existing structure of provincial bargaining.
- The re-established Board of Directors of BCPSEA enter into discussions with government to have the appointed public administrator take the lead on all major cost items and the length of the agreement while allowing boards to set direction on other matters in a true co-governance structure as has occurred in the past (Provincial Bargaining 2006).
- As government moves forward, we ask that while advocating for BCPSEA, the BCSTA appoint the same Trustees representing BCPSEA to the advisory committee being established to create the new bargaining model. By doing so, BCSTA will be sending a clear message to the government of the trustees' undivided support for BCPSEA and their elected representatives.
- These are very sensitive times and the need for unity has never been more important. We need BCSTA to be the strong voice made stronger with the knowledge that all Provincial Trustees are united behind BCPSEA.
- It is important the role of Boards of Education as true co-governors of the public education system be strengthened. It is also crucial that they retain their rights, responsibilities and autonomy as employers.

Sincerely,



Baljinder Narang
Chair, Burnaby Board of Education

Cc: Alan Chell, President BCPSEA
BCSTA Boards of Education
Kathy Corrigan, MLA Burnaby-Deer Lake
Richard T. Lee, MLA Burnaby North
Raj Chouhan, MLA Burnaby-Edmonds
Jane Jae Kyung Shin, MLA Burnaby-Lougheed