

Saanich Schools

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March 5, 2015

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

Re: Existing shared services in School District No. 63 (Saanich)

In response to recent media statements directing boards to achieve administrative savings through shared services, the Board of Education of School District No. 63 (Saanich) would like to highlight for you, the following shared service initiatives, which are already in place and providing significant administrative savings in our district:

- A shared Transportation Manager with School District No. 62 (Sooke)
- A shared Energy Manager position with BC Hydro
- Shared procurement opportunities through the Greater Victoria Joint Purchasing Group whose members include School Districts 61, 62, 63, and 79; the Greater Victoria Public Library; the Capital Regional District; Camosun College; Royal Road University; and the University of Victoria (Opportunities include office and paper supplies, courier and shredding services, waste removal and recycling, fuel, purchasing card services, and cell phones)
- WorkSafeBC administration services through School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)
- The Ministry of Education's Provincial Learning Network for internet services
- The Ministry of Education's BCeSIS software solution for student information services
- The provincial TSMA agreement with Telus for school district phone and cellular phone services
- The provincial Educational Resource Acquisition Consortium
- The British Columbia Public School Employers' Association benefits buying group
- The provincial school bus procurement program
- The provincial Schools Protection Plan for liability insurance
- The provincial Release of Assets for Economic Generation (RAEG) program for the sale of surplus properties
- The Ministry of Finance central deposit program for cash management
- Participation in the Municipal Finance Authority of BC's financing program
- The anticipated Employment Practices Liability Program

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The district also uses the following services which are subscribed to by many other school districts in the province, resulting in economies of scale and reduced costs to School District No. 63 (Saanich):

- Audit services through KPMG LLP
- Legal services through Harris & Co. PLLC
- Demographic analysis and enrolment projection services through Baragar Systems
- Enterprise software through SRB Education Solutions

We would also like to remind you of the recent initiative spearheaded by School District No. 63 (Saanich) and supported by other Vancouver Island districts to develop openStudent - a student information system - which would have saved a projected \$9,000,000 per year in operating costs across the province. Due to the lack of support from the Ministry of Education, this initiative is no longer being pursued.

The above list is evidence that School District No. 63 (Saanich) is continuously searching for ways and means to reduce administrative costs in order to redirect the maximum available dollars into supporting student learning. We regretfully report that administrative savings by cutting 'low-hanging fruit' have been harvested years ago.

Sincerely,



Victoria Martin
Chair, Board of Education

VM/da

Cc: BCSTA