

Saanich Schools

2125 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton, BC, Canada V8M 2A5

(250) 652-7300 Fax: (250) 652-6421

January 28, 2015

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

Dear Minister Fassbender,

As the newly elected Chairperson of the Saanich Board of Education, it is a pleasure to be in communication with you. We very much look forward to a positive dialogue and working relationship with yourself and your staff as we all seek to grow and strengthen public education in British Columbia.

I wish to follow up on a previous communication from the Saanich School Board. Attached is a letter to you dated November 6th, 2014 regarding teachers' pay for the month of September 2014. In this letter, we expressed our support of the BCSTA's letter dated October 14th, 2014 (attached) and encouraged government to consider funding an additional day of pay to ensure equitable treatment of employees in all districts.

We have not yet received a reply to our November 6th letter and encourage government to consider our request. This is a crucial issue at present within the District. Your response would be very much appreciated.

With many best wishes and thanks.

Sincerely,



Victoria Martin
Chair, Board of Education
School District No. 63 (Saanich)

Enclosure
Cc: BCSTA

VM/da

Saanich Schools



Visit us at our website: www.sd63.bc.ca

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November 6, 2014

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

Dear Minister Fassbender,

The Board of Education of School District No. 63 (Saanich) would like to communicate its support for the BCSTA letter written to yourself and The Honourable Mike de Jong on October 14, 2014 regarding teachers' pay for the month of September 2014.

School District No. 63 (Saanich) is one of the districts in the province that, using the express language of the collective agreement, calculated seven days of pay for the month of September. When it became known that other districts' collective agreement language calculated eight days of pay, a tenuous situation ensued requiring extensive communication to our union local and to our union members, that School District No. 63 (Saanich) was not choosing to reduce what the members were paid - instead, the district was strictly following the language of the collective agreement. Unfortunately, at a time when relationship-building was crucial, this issue brought additional strain and anxiety to our educational system that was intensely hoping to return to its exceptional norms.

In the interest of provincial harmony, our Board would like to encourage government to consider funding an additional day of pay so that employees in all districts in British Columbia are being treated equitably.

Sincerely,



Wayne Hunter
Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 63 (Saanich)

WH/da

Cc: BCSTA

Saanich Schools



Visit us at our website: www.sd63.bc.ca



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

October 14, 2014

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

The Honourable Mike de Jong, Q.C.
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Sirs,

I write on a matter of significant concern for BC's Boards of Education and the BC School Trustees Association.

Upon the signing of the negotiated agreement between the BC Teachers' Federation and the BC Public School Employers Association, the government made a clear public statement using very plain language that all teachers would be paid for Friday, September 19 to prepare schools to be ready for students on Monday, September 22. Subsequent to this announcement, Boards were informed that the number of actual paid days would instead be determined by local contract language. As a result of the variances between local collective agreement language, an unintended result for some teachers in the province was that there were inequities in the days paid for teachers.

Boards are trying very hard to repair relationships that were strained during the strike. Those Boards whose local contracts resulted in teachers being paid for only seven days are now in an untenable position. If they do not treat their teachers the same as those in other districts they will further damage local relationships. If these Boards agree to pay their teachers for the eighth day, they have been told by the government that they must do so out of their existing budgets.

This was a provincially-negotiated agreement with a provincially stated commitment that all teachers would be paid for working the Friday to get schools open and ready for students. BCSTA strongly encourages government to consider the relatively small cost of honouring its commitment against the ill will and negative impact of not funding that one day. In the interest of provincial harmony we urge you to fully and equitably fund the eight days of teacher work for all Boards of Education.

Sincerely,



Teresa Rezsansoff
President
BC School Trustees Association

cc:

Dave Byng, *Deputy Minister of Education*
Michael Marchbank, *Public Administrator*, BC Public School Employers' Association
Mike Roberts, *Interim CEO*, BC Public School Employers' Association
Jim Iker, *President*, BC Teachers' Federation
BCSTA Member Boards of Education