

Leigh Glancie

From: Olsen, Adam <A.Olsen@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 11:44 AM
To: Singh, Rachna; r.singh@gov.bc.ca
Cc: Minister, ECC ECC:EX; Tim Dunford; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Leigh Glancie; Olsen.MLA, Adam
Subject: Fwd: Saanich School Board Attached Letter
Attachments: Ltr to Min of Ed Min of Finance May2024.pdf

[Caution: External Sender] This email is from a sender outside the organization. Do not open attachments, reply, or click links unless you have verified the content and sender are legitimate.

Hello Minister Singh,

I am forwarding a letter from the Saanich School District (no. 63) Chair Tim Dunford that was copied to my office to again repeat concerns I have raised in both budget estimates and question period about concerns regarding the funding model in education.

On May 7, 2024, I raised in question period the issue of both teacher recruitment and retention as well as the funding formula for school districts. You disagreed with my assertion that there is an erosion of public education under your government, and you pointed to funding capital projects and again trumpeted unparalleled investments in education. This is starkly contrasted with the picture that is illustrated by Chair Dunford.

[\(https://adamolsen.ca/2024/05/why-is-the-bc-ndp-government-failing-to-support-our-children-and-public-education-system/\)](https://adamolsen.ca/2024/05/why-is-the-bc-ndp-government-failing-to-support-our-children-and-public-education-system/)

On April 26, 2024, I raised in budget estimates, the lack of funding to cover the inflationary pressures on the budgets of school districts. Again, you highlighted the spending government is doing while failing to recognize the urgency that school districts have, and the cuts they must navigate every year that the provincial government allows the current funding model to persist. As the Saanich School District Chair Dunford writes in the letter attached, "It is crucial that action is taken to rectify the inequity inherent in the growth model of funding to ensure that all districts, regardless of enrollment changes, receive adequate support to maintain financial sustainability and to continue to provide world class education for their students."

[\(https://adamolsen.ca/2024/04/budget-estimates-education-and-childcare-fails-to-meet-targets-and-expectations/\)](https://adamolsen.ca/2024/04/budget-estimates-education-and-childcare-fails-to-meet-targets-and-expectations/)

Each time I have asked these questions, these challenges have been avoided. It is incredibly frustrating to manage these two disparate realities. It is our children who are paying the price of decreased activities, outdated textbooks, and technology infrastructure, and a lack of support for children with a designation or who are suffering from a mental health crisis. Neither you, nor your government, have acknowledged the problem that exists.

For example, my son is in grade 11 and in a class called Outdoor Pursuits. His camping trip to Mt. Albert Edward has substantive fees that make it inaccessible to families who cannot afford the extra cost. It is inexplicable to me that we have a scenario where students whose families have the financial capacity can access these amazing experiences, while students whose families cannot afford the extra fees, are getting a very different experience from their public education system.

I see the public education system for what it is. My experience has more closely resembled the challenges articulated by the Saanich School District letter than the responses government gives me about the status of our system.

Please do not hesitate to meet with Chair Dunford and his team from the Saanich School District to discuss how the provincial government can immediately assist the district navigate the funding gap created by a formula that does not adequately support districts with static or decreasing enrollment navigate the inflationary environment without diminishing our children's public education. Thank you.

HÍSWKE,
Adam Olsen (he/him)
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Saanich North and the Islands
BC Green Caucus

Constituency Office
9828 Fourth St., Sidney, BC V8L 2Z3
Phone: 250-655-5600 | Fax: (250) 655-7398

Legislative Office
Room 101 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone: (250) 387-8347 | Fax: (250) 387-8338

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This message contains confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the addressee or authorized to receive this for the addressee, you must not use, copy, forward, disclose or take any action based on this message or any information herein. If you receive this message in error, please advise the sender immediately by reply e-mail and delete this message.

From: Leigh Glancie <lglancie@saanichschools.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 3:16 PM
Subject: Saanich School Board Attached Letter

Hello,

Attached please find a letter from the Saanich Board of Education.

Best,

LEIGH GLANCIE

Sr. Exec Admin Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools & Secretary Treasurer, Saanich Schools

2125 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton, BC V8M 2A5
☎ [250-652-7332](tel:250-652-7332) ☎ [250-686-0619](tel:250-686-0619)