

B.3

MOTION ON NOTICE

3. Provincial Education Funding Cuts in Vancouver

MOVER: Councillor Andrea Reimer

SECONDER: Councillor

WHEREAS the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) is facing an \$18.1 million provincial government funding shortfall for the 2010-11 school year;

WHEREAS this shortfall will result in severe negative impacts on students, including the elimination of important programs, a shortened school year, layoffs of hundreds of teachers and support staff, and the potential closure of schools;

WHEREAS the \$18.1 million shortfall is the result of the provincial Ministry of Education not providing funding for costs that the Ministry controls, such as inflation on required goods and services; a provincially-approved increase in utility costs such as hydro and natural gas; provincially-negotiated increases in salary increments; and increased tax and benefit costs for employees and other costs beyond the control of the VBE;

WHEREAS the provincial government provides 93% of all funding for the VBE;

WHEREAS the VBE cannot run a deficit and must balance its annual budget through cuts to needed services;

WHEREAS the VBE has already cut \$51 million in accumulated annual education spending over the past eight years, making new cuts even more severe;

WHEREAS Vancouver schools play an integral role in early childhood development, as well as cover gaps in our social safety net, including services such as frontline settlement for new families; and

WHEREAS the public education system is crucial to Vancouver's quality of life, and in attracting people to live, work and invest in our city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Vancouver City Council call on the Province to fund at a minimum the \$18.1 million shortfall in the 2010-11 Vancouver Board of Education budget, and urge the Province to increase funding to reduce the impact of cuts to the Vancouver Board of Education over the past eight years.

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