



Shaughnessy Parent Advisory Council

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Memo

To: PAC Chairs and Parents
From: Shaughnessy Elementary PAC and Parents
Re: Postcard Campaign in Support of Public Education

At our last PAC meeting, Shaughnessy Elementary parents in Vancouver discussed our school board's projected \$18M deficit and its proposed calendar change to save costs. The definitive issue that emerged was the need for government to adequately support our public schools. In short order, motivated parent volunteers (with our PAC's blessings) launched a values-based non-partisan postcard campaign articulating this issue.

At that same meeting, our parents also expressed misgivings about the proposed calendar change. A letter was drafted and sent to our school board trustees. Both the postcard and the letter are attached for your reference.

Shaughnessy PAC believes we must speak out before public schools are eroded further. Please consider adding your voices and feel free to use our postcard or letter to launch your own campaign and spread the word!

Here are a few suggestions:

- Present the issues to your PAC/parents
- Print off or email the postcard and distribute to parents, their family, friends etc
- Use the postcard as a poster to promote the support for public education
- Postcards have been addressed to Minister of Education, Margaret MacDiarmid, but they can also be sent to your MLA, Premier Gordon Campbell, or School Board members.
- You can sign the card and send it individually **or** have school parents return them to your PAC and send off the postcards as a bundle. (We are dropping ours off to the Minister's local constituency office – it will save stamps)
- Feel free to use our letter as a template to voice your concerns specific to your school district (in Vancouver - School Board Chair Patti Bacchus **before** April 20).
- In Vancouver, the proposed calendar change is being put forth as a motion to be accepted at a public meeting of the Board of Trustees of the VSB on April 20: Also, consider providing feedback to DPAC who can speak on behalf of Vancouver schools or by email at school_calendar@vsb.bc.ca

Let's inundate our political leaders with expressions of support for public schools. Please speak up!

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