



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

## S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

June 21, 2019

Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Education  
Room 124 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Hon. Minister Fleming,

RE: Resource Support for Implementation of the New, Revised Curriculum

At the May 14, 2019 School District 5 (SD5) public Board meeting, the Board carried the following motion:

*That the Ministry of Education support the implementation of new curriculum with recommended resources and implementation planning time for teachers, both collaboratively and individually, to view and choose resources that align with the new curriculum and support student learning.*

The 2016–17 school year was the first year of implementation for the K–9 curriculum, and while our Board is in full support of the revised curriculum and the flexibility it provides and student-centered learning approach it offers, our educators continue to struggle with its implementation, due to a lack of:

- Available, Ministry approved instructional materials & up-to-date resources
- Adequate funding for teacher in-service and collaboration opportunities
- Professional development opportunities
- Access to appropriate technology

In the absence of an adequately fulsome “library” of Ministry approved instructional materials and up-to-date resources, teachers are required to spend considerable personal time searching for current resources. This dramatically increases classroom preparation time. As you must be aware, teachers already put many hours each week into planning, reporting, and getting their class ready each day –many hours of which go unpaid.

For French Immersion and French as Second Language teachers, this proves even more difficult, as there are even fewer bilingual resources provided.

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• Chris Johns • Kathryn Kitt • Doug McPhee • Wendy Turner • Patricia Whalen

In addition to the lack of available resources, Districts have not been given the financial means to provide teachers with the time or opportunity to explore even those resources they have been able to gather; to collaborate with colleagues, to partake in quality inquiries and share best practices or to receive additional in-service and professional development specific to the revised curriculum.

Unless government is willing to step up to the plate and provide the necessary resources and in-service time for teachers, good intentions and the desire to help students succeed in the 21st century will not be enough to ensure the success of the revised curriculum. Please don't allow all the good work that has gone into redesigning the existing curriculum fall short of its potential to modernize education in BC.

We would appreciate a timely response to the concerns we have raised.

Sincerely,



Frank Lento, Board Chair

Cc\*: John Horgan, Premier, BC New Democratic Party  
Carol James, Minister of Finance  
Andrew Wilkinson, Leader, BC Liberal Party  
Tom Shypitka, MLA Kootenay East BC  
Mary Polak and Dan Davies, Education Critics, BC Liberal Party  
Gordon Swan, President, BCSTA  
BCSTA for distribution to member Boards of Education  
Glen Hansman, President BC Teachers' Federation  
Jen Mezei, President, BCCPAC  
Shelley Balfour & Chris Kielinski, CFTA Co-Chairs  
Tara McKee, DPAC Chair  
David Martin, President, SD5 Administrators' Association  
Catherine Shaw, FACE BC Vancouver  
Summit 107 Radio  
Drive 102.9/B104 Radio

Black Press  
Cranbrook Daily Townsman  
Elk Valley Herald  
e-know Online News  
Fernie Free Press

\*This correspondence is public and transparent. Please feel free to share and/or respond with comment.

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