

SD#79 Finance Committee Votes 'No' To Cuts!!

On April 14th the School District 79 Finance Committee passed a motion identifying elements of our public education system which must be protected from cuts during budget talks. Committee members supporting the motion include partners representing teachers, support workers, parents and Hwulmuhw (Aboriginal) communities as well as 4 trustees (Hannah Seymour, Di Gunderson, Deb Foster, Eden Haythornthwaite).

The motion read:

That no cuts will be considered in this process which will negatively impact the following areas of district needs:

- **Equality/Access**
- **Classroom conditions**
- **Aboriginal Education**
- **Instruction Time**
- **Vulnerable Students**
- **Care of Facilities**
- **Transportation**
- **Health and Safety**

The majority of the areas being reviewed for cuts fell within the parameters of the list included in the motion. This is extremely sobering.

By supporting this motion, education partners are driving home the message they will not participate in fighting among themselves to save one program at the expense of another and are unwilling to be tasked with dismantling public education.

A motion was then tendered indicating the Finance Committee would be unable to build a compliance budget for the 2010-2011 year.

Finance Committee representatives of the Cowichan District Teachers Association (CDTA) , Lake Cowichan Teachers Association (LCTA), CUPE 606, USW 1-80 and the Hwulmuhw Mustimuhw Education Council call on the Board of Education to continue building the budget in the open and to welcome the views of community. We expect the Board will soon confirm a revised date for the public session on the draft final budget originally scheduled for April 26th.

For Further Information Please Contact

Richard Nelson/CDTA: 250 -748-2251

Shona Moore/LCTA: 250 -715-6507

Rob Zver/CUPE: 250-729-0842

Duncan Brown/USW 1-80: 250-709-0527

Judy Dallin/Cowichan Valley Métis Nation 250-746-6146

Gabe Haythornthwaite/Hwulmuhw Mustimuhw Education Council – 250-715-1022

SD79 Board of Education Trustees: e-mail: Trustees@sd79.bc.ca or Tel: 250-748-0321 / 2557 Beverly Street, Duncan, BC V9L 2X3

