

PLEASE POST



Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 606

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MEMO

TO: CUPE Local 606 Members (Cowichan Region)
FROM: Rob Zver, President
DATE: April 19, 2010
RE: School District Budget Update

Since mid March, the start of the budget process, a great many of the partner groups representing the Cowichan District Teachers Association (CDTA), Lake Cowichan Teachers Association (LCTA), CUPE Local 606, USW 1-80, the Hwulmuhw Mustimuhw Education Council, as well as, 4 trustees (Hannah Seymour, Di Gunderson, Deb Foster, Eden Haythornthwaite) asked the Board of Education (Cowichan Valley) School District to put in a deficit budget that would represent the needs of the district.

CUPE has taken the stand to oppose further cuts which includes the two week spring break. At the last meeting held on April 14, 2010, a motion was passed to build a student success budget (needs budget) and a further motion was passed for the Finance Committee to turn over the building of the compliance budget (balanced budget) to senior staff and trustees. The parties could not agree on how to proceed in making the cuts necessary to build a compliance budget (balance budget).

CUPE Local 606 encourages all members to attend the public Board meetings being held at the School District Board Room at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

We also encourage you to lobby the other Trustees on the importance of defending public education!

RZ/dm

Attachment – Partner Group Statement

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

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